



It's a Wonderful Lie: 26 Truths about Life in Your Twenties

Emily Franklin , Jill Kargman , Megan Crane , Anna Maxted , Melissa Senate , Shannon O'Keefe , Beth Lisick , Rebecca Traister , more... Jennifer O'Connell , Pamela Ribon , Leah Stewart , Caprice Crane , Leanne Shear , Deanna Kizis , Hollis Gillespie , Kristin Harmel , Laurie Graff , Heather Swain , Anna Jane Grossman , Julianna Baggott , Giselle Zado Wasfie , Tracey Toomey , Megan McCafferty , Alison Pace , Donna Freitas , Cara Lockwood , Laura Caldwell , Erica Kennedy ...less

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In this original collection, critically acclaimed female writers pull back the curtain on being twenty-something. Entertaining and enlightening, this anthology speaks honestly about that unique time in life when expectations are not always realized, yet surprises are plentiful and thrilling.

It's a Wonderful Lie: 26 Truths about Life in Your Twenties Details

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Author : Emily Franklin , Jill Kargman , Megan Crane , Anna Maxted , Melissa Senate , Shannon O'Keefe , Beth Lisick , Rebecca Traister , more... Jennifer O'Connell , Pamela Ribon , Leah Stewart , Caprice Crane , Leanne Shear , Deanna Kizis , Hollis Gillespie , Kristin Harmel , Laurie Graff , Heather Swain , Anna Jane Grossman , Julianna Baggott , Giselle Zado Wasfie , Tracey Toomey , Megan McCafferty , Alison Pace , Donna Freitas , Cara Lockwood , Laura Caldwell , Erica Kennedy ...less

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From Reader Review *It's a Wonderful Lie: 26 Truths about Life in Your Twenties* for online ebook

Regina says

I wanted to wait a day before writing my review on this and I'm glad I did. I think I needed some time to reflect on the various stories and life lessons this book had to offer. I'm at the age where 1) a quarter-life crisis seems totally possible to me, 2) most of my friends seem to have their shit together on a level I find difficult to comprehend, and 3) I've made a lot of life-altering decisions in the last few years ranging from boyfriends to crosscountry moves that very few of my acquaintances seem to be able to relate to, but yet somehow the strangers in this book could verbalize so eloquently.

I think that's why I loved this book. These were women that have done (and lived through) a lot of the crazy things I have. They took jobs on a whim, dated and broke up with people that fit the bill of The One but just weren't, moved from place to place, dealt with vermin in their apartment and basically just continually questioned the direction they were going with their life. What I really enjoyed is that these women were now at varying places in their life- some married with kids in their dream job, some still figuring it out but thoroughly satisfied with life as it is, and so on.

If for no other reason that to know that others have totally been in my shoes, I think this was a great read.

Mira Domsy says

I admit I didn't read the entire book cover to cover, but it's a collection of essays, so I figured I could get away with it. Each essay tells of the trials and tribulations of being a recent college grad in today's world. It was a little one sided as all the essays were written by female authors. Despite the biased perspective, I still found it comforting to read about how disappointing it was for other people to graduate from college and find out that no one cares. Even twenty-somethings with degrees struggle in today's job market, and find that the success that both they and their parents expected is unrealistic. Adult relationships are hard, managing money, housing, and finding a career is harder. And happiness? Let's not even go there. It's not just me, and there is an entire generation out there that feels misled and lost. The women who wrote these essays are more or less satisfied with where they are now, and that's encouraging. But they're mostly in their thirties now, which means I've got at least four years to go...

Heather says

This was a relatively low ** for me. There were a few moments I really enjoyed when I would have considered a 3, but more that I was bored or annoyed and considered a 1.

First of all, there are not 26 truths, but something like 5 "myths" and then short stories that fall into the myth "categories" that do not have clear-cut "truths." For some reason that was really annoying to me - I felt like it was false advertising before I even started the book.

As I said above, there were a few moments where I felt connected or felt bolstered by something in one of

the stories, but overall I found it to be cliché, condescending ("Don't worry, I'm older than you, and I know it will be okay"), and not even very well written. (Each story was written by a different author so each one was different, but overall I was not impressed.)

I wouldn't spend time on this unless you are SERIOUSLY desperate to do some thinking about your 20s (and if you are that desperate, I'd recommend another book, anyway - *The Go Girl Guide*, which is more of a reference/how-to book), or you want to read something that's not very well written!

lisa says

some of these stories were wonderful and inspiring and made me feel less alone in the world, and some of these stories were about how people were JUST LIKE Carrie Bradshaw. I did not read the second type. I also did not read the one that was about how men and women can't be friends (fuck you, I am not defined by my vagina) and stopped reading a few more that were just about how the writer needed a man in her life.

Sierra says

This was a terrible book, for me anyway. It should be called "26 Truths About Life In Your Twenties if You Live In New York City and You Want to be a Writer" because all the authors wrote about was city life and how they finally ended up realizing their dreams of being writers. There was absolutely no advice or comfort in here for me.

Joséphine (Word Revel) says

This book contains a healthy dose of realism with a hearty dash of hope. I enjoyed reading this collection of essays because I fit the demographic to a large extent. I'm in my twenties, on the verge (half a year from now) of going out there into the Real World. As with many of the lovely authors, I'd be ecstatic if my future job would allow me to read and write as my whims and fancy strikes me. But I know life doesn't always pan out how we wish, so it's great reading about women who experienced what I still have ahead of me.

What the title and cover of the book don't reveal though is that most of these authors were aspiring writers, trying to make it big in New York City. This resulted with a very limited scope on the "truths about life in your twenties" because clearly, they didn't have a great variety of goals. Their actual experiences may have varied but eventually, most of them became respected authors. Plus, they were women. I'm not sure how applicable then these essays may be to men per se. This slight misrepresentation led me to dock one star at least.

I recommend reading an essay here and another there. They're good for those short spans during the day that call for quick fillers. 10 minutes reading an essay or two surely will satisfy a reader looking to remind herself that while life may not be easy, there are ways to find fulfillment in what she does. This especially when very little is yet cast in stone, as in her twenties when she is still trying to figure things out. When reading everything in one shot though, it does get a little tiring to plough through essays telling you you have the whole time right before you and your worries may not be as life-consuming as you think. Clichés like these do come across a little more concentrated than ever thought possible in a collection like this. Nonetheless,

there are nuggets to be appreciated:

"You can't plan for the truly significant moments in life. They're moments. They happen. They creep up unexpectedly and defy reason." —Shannon O'Keefe in *Twenty-eight is the New Eighteen*

Bethany says

I don't generally like books in this format. A friend had a copy of it and gave it to me to read when she moved. This one was fun, didn't feel like a self-help book, but offered reassurance that whatever path you are on in life is probably just fine. There were a few chapters that spoke directly to me, credit card debt, having male friends, being a nomad.... And I feel like there is enough variety that there will be essays for every girl in this book. Especially living in the midwest, where the pressure to settle down early is overwhelming, this book could be inspiring to anyone trying to break the cycle. I'm already well on my way to being settled at 26, but I think that is just the path I'm supposed to be on. I've always been a nester, I just never found the place and people with whom I wanted to nest until now. The stories offered by the contributing authors reassures me though that the two engagements, numerous moves, and countless bad decisions that got me here are what made me who I am today and I wouldn't take them back for anything.

Reader says

I love the idea of a "quarter-life crisis" and related to a lot of these essays, though also recognize they speak to a certain demographic. I couldn't stomach a few of them because of the writers' sense of privilege. That said, it was a quick, fun read and I'm very glad to have found it (literally, in a little free library).

Some favorite quotes include:

"I charmed him by naming all the Harlequin romance euphemisms for 'penis' and vagina." ~Melissa Senate, "The One Who Got Away" (p112)

"Saying yes is like having a perpetual date with the world." ~Beth Lisick, "A Thousand Times Yes" (p135) [an essay on how saying yes is not always a good thing]

"My memorable 'sex talk' with my father concluded with him telling me that men don't know the difference between a vagina, a hand with some lubricant, or a rubber doll." ~Pamela Ribon, "I Can't Have Sex With You" (p161)

"Later on that same year, the marital problems in my family entered the realm of legend: My great-grandpa Simon became the oldest man in the world ever to get divorced." ~Anna Jane Grossman, "The Road Almost Taken" (p241)

Elizabeth says

While mostly cliché, there are some nuggets here--especially the interesting concept of our generation suffering from a quarter-life crises as opposed to the traditional mid-life one. Comparatively, it makes sense. Generation Y (or whatever bracket I fall into) suffers from the luxury of abundance (affluenza, if you will) and have too many options in front of us. Whereas our grandparents worked with the same company for fifty some odd years and got the golden watch retirement package, we flit from company to company (if we're lucky to have a job in this tanking economy).

Anecdotal at best, but the emotions are universal and resonate with just about anyone with the blues associated with that painful decade known as your twenties.

Nanaz says

Honest, funny. These women are not afraid of admitting their mistakes and how life is messy.

Rose says

This was an uncomplicated read that adapted well to snatched sessions of reading-as-distraction during lunch at work and racking up the minutes of cardio in the gym. Many of the contributors are very deeply annoying, but it's a fun read, especially if you're able to be amused by others' self-obsession. I can't really say that any were really truths about my "life in your twenties", and I don't really think I'd identify with the essays more as I experience more of life in my twenties. Nonetheless, reading about life from others' perspectives never hurts.

Anna says

The first couple of sections were great, but the ones on love and friendship got really upsetting. Some of the essays were just miserably heteronormative and very hard to relate to, as someone whose romantic life and friendships have always been non-standard. Frequent references to the sorts of people who you just don't consider partners (almost never based on personality), or "every girl needs a gay guy friend," or "men and women can't relate without men wanting sex," or...any number of things that we just desperately need to get over as a society. Not to mention several instances of the writers using "that's retarded," which is absolutely not ok with me.

If the second half of the book had been what the first half was, I'd have probably given this a four, but the later essays just ruined it for me.

Kim says

The danger of collecting a series of essays from people in their 30s about life in their 20s is that the tone walks a fine line between helpful and condescending. The people that concentrated more on the end result of living "the life" in New York City (where almost everyone in the book seemed to live) were less helpful. But there were some great nuggets in the book that I really related to, like:

"Making friends in a new town when you're twenty-four isn't the same as making friends in school. Unlike, say, college, where dorms are the platonic equivalent of single bars, where every freshman is looking for a friend, the people in your new town might already have filled their quota." - Leah Stewart

"I just wish I had a syllabus to follow for my life." - Megan McCafferty

Allison Arthur says

This book was recommended to me by a friend who is sick of listening to me question myself and my progress in life. She said "It's a Wonderful Lie" is insightful and makes you feel better about being a woman in your twenties. I'm not sure I agree. While the handful of authors do stress the fact that not having a solidified game plan in your 20's is okay, I am now terrified that I won't figure out my life until I turn the big 3-0. So, if you're a woman in your twenties and are looking for affirmation that you're not the only one out there floundering, this book is for you. Just don't go expecting answers.

Erin says

Very entertaining and insightful. I've heard the complaint that all the essays are from writers, and not just your average run-of-the-mill woman looking back on her 20's (or in her 20's), but of course writers are often more insightful than just your average chick and often funnier. I related to a lot of it, and it was a nice feeling to know I wasn't alone as I struggled to figure out what I've been doing for the last decade. I'm happily moving on to my next. That's right--I'm actually looking forward to 30!
