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Suggestion



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Synopsis

"Hey, would you like to make a suggestion?"With that simple question and an enormous white suggestion box, the New York Citybased collaborative Illegal Art canvassed the five boroughs, collecting suggestions from passersby of every stripethe young, the old, the filthy rich, the homeless, the mouthy, and the shy. "Love each other or perish." "Take breath mints when offered." "Give me a break!" In true New York style, the suggestions are by turns hilarious, nonsensical, angering, and heartwarming. Some people held the suggestion box prisoner while they wrote suggestion after suggestion; others ignored the box, but then came scrambling back with a sudden idea. One woman scribbled as she walked down Wall Street: "More time in the day." One man in Harlem, when asked if he would like to make a suggestion, said, "Isn’t it obvious? World peace." Or at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge, a woman sadly wrote her misspelled suggestion and then held it up for all to read: "Never brake up with someone on a bridge." With over 350 entries and 50 photos of the suggestion box in action, Suggestion is authentic, honest, and totally appealinga testiment to the the public’s innermost desire, whether it’s free beer, free daycare, or free pumpkin pie every Thursday.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Illegal Art, co-founded by Otis Kriegel and Michael McDevitt, is a collective of artists whose goal is to create interactive public art to inspire self-reflection, thought, and human connection. Both Kriegel, a public school teacher, and McDevitt, the foun

I ordered this book for senior quote ideas. The only "issue" I had was that there was a large crease in the cover of the book, as well as small written initials on the front. When I purchased the book, the condition did not say new, so I knew what I was getting! Great seller, and super-fast delivery.

I LOVE this book! I want everyone to read it, including Congress; I want to go out with my own box and get suggestions; I want to move to NY and join Illegal Art; I want to hear a suggestion from every single person in America. This book is the basis of democracy - everyone has a chance to speak, even the person who crossed out what s/he said and then put it in the box anyway. The Wall St. section is not given more play than the subway ride to Yankee Stadium. Wealthy white males are not over-represented. People say absolutely ridiculous things, and profound, moving things, and idiotic things. There's a feeling of truth in the book that is enormously powerful for me. Maybe because contributors were allowed their anonymity. But in seeing their handwriting (suggestions were reproduced directly, not transcribed), and what they say, I got such a feeling of humanity! It made me happy to be an American, which very few things do these days. Suggestion somehow gets under all the hype and dross and grandstanding and gives us a taste of ordinary freedom. I think this book can change the world.

This book leaks out pure amazingness. The editors spared no one's beliefs, thoughts, or feelings while compiling this book-- and that's a good thing. Along with the funny things (i.e. "I suggest you give me the box"), there's whimsical advice, heartfelt thoughts, religious and political suggestions or observations, and truly thought provoking statements.This book gives you a glimpse into the minds of strangers, and, no pun intended, pulls you out of your own box. It opens your mind to things you might not have ever even considered.It's thoroughly enjoyable to read, and doesn't take long, so why not give it a try?

This book is a great collection of what those around you might be thinking at the time.If you were sitting on the subway and could put a bubble with one sentance over everyone's head representing what they were thinking or feeling, this is what you'd come up with. The guy next to you might be saying "beer flavored nipples" and the woman across from you suggesting "Dave should stop wasting my precious time" Humorous, thoughtprovoking and entertaining, this collection of suggestions, thoughts and opinions of your fellow humans walking by you on the street and sitting next to you on the subway is worth the read and a fun experience.

I’m a huge fan of art projects that encourage public interaction, and especially of works that use words - so I think this is great. The book is a thought provoking read - you get to see what other people are thinking; you get to think about if you agree; and you get to think about the suggestions you’d like to make. Good job Illegal Art folks... Bravo!

Very few art books make you open your mind and think like this one does; yes there are some expected suggestions but there are also some really weird no-one-person-could-make-this-stuff-up suggestions. There is a breadth, scope, emotion and imagination that couldn’t come from fiction or conventional art. It really makes you think, laugh and wonder. A truly inspiring book, that is really good for angry New Yorkers, but I think the ideas will resonate wherever you are in the world.

Thank you Illegal Art for giving voice to the people of New York City and beyond. The Suggestion Box is not only a mobile polling machine thatsamples peoples views, it is a monitor for the state of various urban conditions.Keep it Public.Malachi Connolly

I love this book. It gives you a unique snap shot into the five boroughs. From the mundane to the profound. Great for the coffee table and toilet. Good gift book.

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