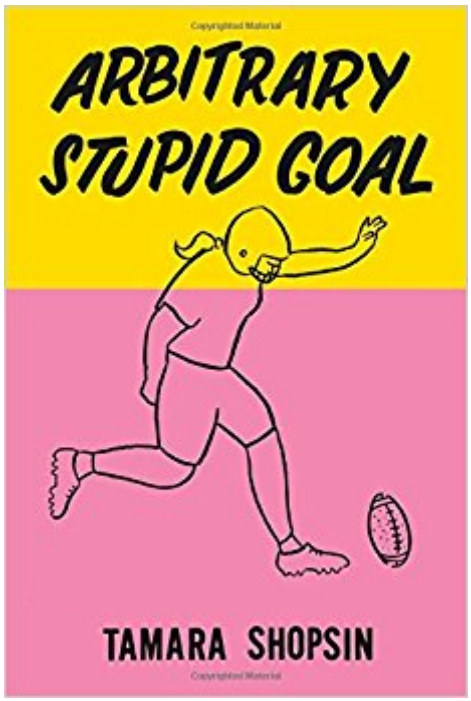
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Arbitrary Stupid Goal



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Arbitrary Stupid Goal is a completely riveting worldÃ¢â ¬â ¢when I looked up from its pages regular life seemed boring and safe and modern like one big iPhone. This book captures not just a lost New York but a whole lost way of life.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Miranda JulyIn Arbitrary Stupid Goal, Tamara Shopsin takes the reader on a pointillist time-travel trip to the Greenwich Village of her bohemian 1970s childhood, a funky, tight-knit small town in the big city, long before Sex and the City tours and luxury condos. The center of TamaraÃ¢â ¬â„¢s universe is ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s, her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legendary greasy spoon, aka Ã¢â ¬Å“The Store,Ã¢â ¬Â• run by her inimitable dad, KennyÃ¢â ¬â ¢a loquacious, contrary, huge-hearted man who, aside from dishing up New YorkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s best egg salad on rye, is Village sheriff, philosopher, and fixer all at once. All comers find a place at ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s table and feast on KennyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tall tales and trenchant advice along with the incomparable chili con carne. Filled with clever illustrations and witty, nostalgic photographs and graphics, and told in a sly, elliptical narrative that is both hilarious and endearing, Arbitrary Stupid Goal is an offbeat memory-book mosaic about the secrets of living an unconventional life, which is becoming a forgotten art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Tamara Shopsin’s illustrations are instantly recognizable: economical, seemingly simple and straightforward, but always working on a few different levels. Tamara the person is similar: quiet but charming and warm and tough and determined. Now it turns out her prose is the same way:

funny and playful but revealing, and making us see the world we thought we knew with fresh eyes.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Christoph Niemann, author of I Lego N.Y.Ã¢â ¬Å“Tamara ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new memoir is hilarious. Just in like the West Village itself, you zigzag along on a fun adventure, never knowing who you are going to meet. What a fun read!Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Amy SedarisÃ¢â ¬Å“Arbitrary Stupid Goal is a completely riveting world?when I looked up from its pages, regular life seemed boring and safe and modern like one big iPhone. This book captures not just a lost New York but a whole lost way of life.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Miranda JulyÃ¢â ¬Å“Tamara ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memoir is a funny and absorbing portrait of the city in a grubbier, less corporate incarnation. If you believe, as she doesÃ¢â ¬â ¢and I doÃ¢â ¬â ¢that New York is, Ã¢â ¬Ëœmatter-of-fact, the best place on earth,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ then read this book. And if you donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t believe that, after you read this book, you will.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Roz ChastÃ¢â ¬Å“Tamara ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new book, Arbitrary Stupid Goal, is a little like a meal at ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s, her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s restaurant. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s got a bit of everything, in a way that shouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t rightly work but does. . . . [Arbitary Stupid Goal] is the consummate insiderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s account, a treasure trove of lore, legend, and anecdote, the closest thing to an official history that The Store is likely to get . . . Arbitrary Stupid Goal doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t wallow, and it doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t sulk. It is full of the spry, witty spirit of the old Village, the neighborhoodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s magical realness.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Alexandra Schwartz, The New YorkerÃ¢â ¬Å“Arbitrary Stupid Goal is a scrapbook of a memoir, littered with ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s illustrations and her husband and frequent collaborator Jason FulfordÃ¢â ¬â„¢s photography, a labyrinth of memories, bits of family lore, scraps of trivial knowledge, interludes about Shopsin and FulfordÃ¢â ¬â„¢s travels, cameos from The StoreÃ¢â ¬â„¢s many notable customers: Jeff Goldblum, John Belushi, Joseph Brodsky. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s one of those meandering, difficult-to-pin-down books thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s all the more charming for being so stubbornly resistant to genre or traditional expectations of narrative.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Julia Felsenthal, Vogue"Refreshingly quirky . . . Rest assured that Arbitrary Stupid Goal is actually neither arbitrary nor stupid." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Heller McAlpin, NPR "Tamara Shopsin grew up in Shopsin's, and Arbitrary Stupid Goal is her new, 'no-muss memoir,' is at once charming and sorrowing, a magnificent time-capsule containing the soul of a drowned city." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Cory Doctorow, Boing Boing"Shopsin is Bukowski-esque in her blunt yet poetic language, in her ability to build a world that you can feel in your bones, in her depiction of its characters." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Amanda Kludt, Eater"A taut, warm, fully immersive plunge into the West Village of the Ã¢â ¬â„¢80s and Ã¢â ¬â„¢90s" Ã¢â ¬â ¢Jeff Johnson, The Awl"Shopsin's mom and dad, proprietors of a beloved Greenwich Village market, gave the key to regulars for after-hours shopping

emergencies. Here their author-cook-designer daughter shares memories of those days, accompanying her stories with charming illustrations that conjure a bygone New York." Ã¢â ¬â ¢People"[Shopsin] weaves a marvelous patchwork quilt of stories about a Manhattan that doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t exist anymore . . [Arbitrary Stupid Goal is] an artistic ode to a way of life that people now living in New York City might never experience." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly (Pick of the Week, Starred Review)"A warm evocation of a quirky life and exuberant times." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus

Tamara Shopsin is a well-known cook at the distinctly New York City eatery ShopsinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s, a New York Times and New Yorker illustrator, and the author of 5 Year Diary and What Is This?, as well as the coauthor of This Equals That and Mumbai New York Scranton. She lives in New York City with her husband.

This newest book by Tamara Shopsin again showcases what makes her work distinctive and interesting - spare but suggestive prose, an attractive design sense for the book and its original dust jacket, and absorbing original illustrations and photography.Arbitrary Stupid Goal is especially useful and worthwhile for people already familiar with the Shopsin family and its presence in New York’s Greenwich Village for over forty years. For everyone, the vivid glimpses of a world before "the one percent" in the now posh and exclusive residential areas of The Village should be major eye openers.The collection of inventive hustlers, musicians, artists, cooks, waiters, and rent regulation aristocrats the author describes is a treasure. The Prime Mover, the author’s father Kenneth Shopsin is ever present in this volume, whether in anecdotes about his life or his always memorable impact on family, friends, and customers.

I have left maybe three book reviews in my whole life, so this endorsement is meaningful! "Stupid Arbitrary Goal" is funny and philosophical and page-turning and totally new. I’ve never read a book like it. I would recommend it to anyone.

Having grown up in the West Village, and being a fan of The Store, this book felt like home.So vivid.

Funny and insightful, author is so witty and funny. Would love to try her family restaurantif I’m lucky enough to get to NY.

Memory is fuzzy and sharp simultaneously. This book is full of beautiful paradoxes that take the

form of people and their philosophies on life. An astounding book!

It was a witty and funny book, offering raw honesty, the kind of honesty I crave along with wonderful insights about the art of being.Arbitrary Stupid Goal

i liked it it was funny inputs which made for an enjoyable read

Brilliant book, completely captures what downtown NY was like then.

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