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# I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons



## Synopsis

Superstar comedian and Hollywood box-office star Kevin Hart turns his immense talent to the written word by writing some words. Some of those words include: the, a, for, above, and even even. Put them together and you have the funniest, most heartfelt, and most inspirational memoir on survival, success, and the importance of believing in yourself since *Old Yeller*. It begins in North Philadelphia. He was born an accident, unwanted by his parents. His father was a drug addict who was in and out of jail. His brother was a crack dealer and petty thief. And his mother was overwhelmingly strict, beating him with belts, frying pans, and his own toys. The odds, in short, were stacked against our young hero, just like the odds that are stacked against the release of a new book in this era of social media (where Hart has a following of over 100 million, by the way). But Kevin Hart, like Ernest Hemingway, J.K. Rowling, and *Chocolate Droppa* before him, was able to defy the odds and turn it around. In his literary debut, he takes the listener on a journey through what his life was, what it is today, and how he's overcome each challenge to become the man he is today. And that man happens to be the biggest comedian in the world, with tours that sell out football stadiums and films that have collectively grossed over \$3.5 billion. He achieved this not just through hard work, determination, and talent: It was through his unique way of looking at the world. Because just like a book has chapters, Hart sees life as a collection of chapters that each person gets to write for himself or herself. "Not only do you get to choose how you interpret each chapter, but your interpretation writes the next chapter," he says. "So why not choose the interpretation that serves your life the best?"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I expected this book to be funny, but what I didn't expect it to be was Profound. You can picture the story of how Kevin Hart grew up as ending in any number of ways, but Comedic Mega-Star wouldn't seem to be a likely outcome. With a father who was a criminal with substance abuse problems and a mother who was basically raising him on her own in a tough Philadelphia neighborhood, Kevin could have been a bitter, resentful victim of the system. Instead, he chose a classical Stoic path and realized that most things were out of his control. Having reached this conclusion, he also determined that the only aspect of his life that he could reliably control was how he chose to respond to his circumstances. He responded by finding humor in difficult experiences, and working harder than anyone else in the face of setbacks. Don't get me wrong, this book is laugh out loud funny, but what kept me reading through the night were the amazing insights and the overwhelming sense of gratitude exuded by Mr. Hart. Being the child of an alcoholic father myself, I strongly identified with his experiences and his reflections on the decision points that came up as he matured. I really enjoyed this book and I'm going to recommend it to my kids as an excellent example of how circumstances can't keep a strong person down for the count. I would give it 6 stars if I could.

I love memoirs. I read them. I write them. If I had to choose a single genre of literature to read for the rest of my life, memoirs would be it. So I had high expectations of this work because I expected (and was correct in thinking) that Kevin Hart has a hell of a story to tell. But I also care about the technicalities of writing because a good story can go terribly wrong if it is disorganized, under-thought, poorly written, rushed, you name it. *I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons* delivered on every level for me. First, I LOVE the unconventionality of the book. The disclaimer: hilarious and simultaneously perfectly legal and binding. Who knew such a routine blurb could be so fun to read!? (Kevin knew.) The hilarious chapter headings: again, so fun and innovative. They completely echo the run-on hashtag trend that Kevin Hart himself started. The chapters: numerous but short, direct to the point and plot, and complementary to the story as a whole. And finally, the story: thorough, interesting, free of indulgent self-flattery, brutally honest, raw (by "raw" I mean without frivolous embellishment--what you see is what you get), inspiring, and it may or may not go without saying: hysterically funny despite consistently challenging--even devastating--life circumstances. I particularly applaud Mr. Hart on putting into words his introspective learning process of mending old relationships and being successful in new ones. The example he sets in accepting his downfalls, righting his wrongs, transforming his approach to relationships and life, and moving forward with his

"grind" with life lessons in tow is commendable. Thank you, Kevin Heart, for endeavoring to write this book. More than anything, you have demonstrated that we are all human: subject to unexpected challenges and capable of great triumph as well as moral defeat. And irrespective of the cards we are dealt or the circumstances that result from our own doing, we have the power to redirect our course and aspire to heights heretofore unnavigated. Bravo!

I've known of Kevin Hart's work from his comedy specials. I remember Laugh at My Pain being gut-busting hilarious. Who would think most of the material from his comic routines were actually true? For starters, the writing in 'I Can't Make This Up' is impeccable, feels like conversation with Kevin Hart, himself. There were several instances throughout the early reading that I felt myself wishing that I could reach through a time portal and give that kid a hug. I soon found myself simultaneously laughing and feeling sorry for Kevin Hart. Then feeling a wave of disappointment at the realization that he too, comedy's latest golden child, is human. I applaud his level of honesty and often felt conflicted at laughing at the stuff that I was laughing at. This book showed me that his coping skills are almost incredulous. In my humble opinion, the only thing bested by his gift of self-motivation is his resilience. I love how he chose to pull readers into his circle, his process, and his thought process. Likewise, I find it courageous and at times, unsettling that he chose to disclose his entire truth, including the ugly parts. But aside from the hilarity and all the reflections of his journey, this is a motivational book for any aspirant feeling stagnant or frustrated. Very few are willing to tap one's shoulder and whisper advice. Here, Kevin Hart is presenting a blueprint. One showing how sacrifices, his own and those made for him, eventually lead to unimaginable spoils. But 'I Can't Make This Up' definitely goes to show that everything happens for a reason, and there is a bountiful blessing waiting when we stay the course.

a phenomenal job by Kevin Hart! as a big fan of kev Hart, I've watched all his standups and I'm a die hard fan of his style of humor. finding humor in life's difficult circumstances is what Kevin does the best job of in this book. unbelievably hilarious, yet blunt and on point when it comes to the lessons and message he's trying to send out to readers. kudos kev! keep up the good work!

I really enjoyed reading this book! Of course there were a lot of funny and entertaining moments, but it was also a great story about Kevin Hart's life and life lessons that I thought were unique and heartwarming. I didn't want this book to end and I hope there will be more! There's a lot of good things I could go on about, but I'll just say I highly recommend it and I think you'll love it too.

We got the audio cd and Kevin Hart reads it. Hilarious!!! The writing just keeps you listening and they way he tells all the stories and life's experiences you feel like he is doing stand up. Full of LIFE GEMS. His Mom and Dad and brother are all teachers and students. Highly recommend this audio cd, and it arrived quickly and perfect condition.

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