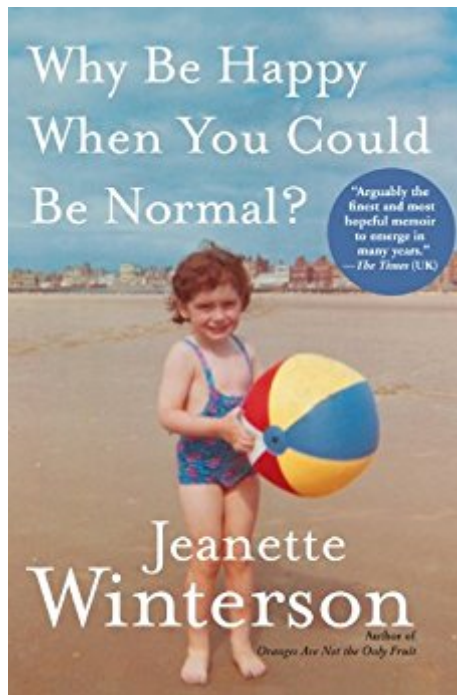


The book was found

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?



Synopsis

Jeanette Winterson's novels have establishing her as a major figure in world literature. She has written some of the most admired books of the past few decades, including her internationally bestselling first novel, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, the story of a young girl adopted by Pentecostal parents that is now often required reading in contemporary fiction. *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* is a memoir about a life's work to find happiness. It's a book full of stories: about a girl locked out of her home, sitting on the doorstep all night; about a religious zealot disguised as a mother who has two sets of false teeth and a revolver in the dresser, waiting for Armageddon; about growing up in an north England industrial town now changed beyond recognition; about the Universe as Cosmic Dustbin. It is the story of how a painful past that Jeanette thought she'd written over and repainted rose to haunt her, sending her on a journey into madness and out again, in search of her biological mother. Witty, acute, fierce, and celebratory, *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* is a tough-minded search for belonging; for love, identity, home, and a mother.

Book Information

File Size: 604 KB

Print Length: 242 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0307401243

Publisher: Grove Press; Reprint edition (March 6, 2012)

Publication Date: March 6, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B007D6EW8U

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #209,725 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #29

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > LGBT Studies > Lesbian Studies #48 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families #318 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT

Customer Reviews

In the October 28th Guardian, Jeanette has an essay which retells the opening of *Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal?* The retelling is as riveting as the original. In essay and book, Winterson portrays herself as a survivor. Her childhood reads like the darker parts of some Grimms fairytale, even if her telling of the story is often lightened by empathy. Here, for instance, is a description of her often abusive, book-burning, adoptive mother. "She filled the phone box. She was out of scale, larger than life. She was like a fairy story where size is approximate and unstable. She loomed up. She expanded. Only later, much later, too late, did I understand how small she was to herself. The baby nobody picked up. The uncarried child still inside her." A later passage reads: "Babies are frightening - raw tyrants whose only kingdom is their own body. My new mother had a lot of problems with the body - her own, my dad's, their bodies together, and mine. She had muffled her own body in flesh and clothes, suppressed its appetites with a fearful mixture of nicotine and Jesus, dosed it with purgatives that made her vomit, submitted it to doctors, who administered enemas and pelvic rings, subdued its desires for ordinary touch and comfort. Then suddenly, not out of her own body, and with no preparation, she had a thing that was all body. A burping, vomiting, sprawling faecal thing blasting the house with rude life." Jeanette makes it hard not to feel some sympathy, even for twisted Mrs. Winterson. Like many patremoirs, Winterson's matremoir is as much about the power of storytelling as it is about the parent.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? The Other Side of Normal: How Biology Is Providing the Clues to Unlock the Secrets of Normal and Abnormal Behavior Obstetrics: Normal and Problem Pregnancies (Obstetrics Normal and Problem Pregnancies) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: Break Through Depression, Free Yourself From Anxiety, And Understand Why You Don't "Feel Normal" - UNLEASH YOUR INNER GREATNESS Why Do I Still Have Thyroid Symptoms? when My Lab Tests Are Normal: a Revolutionary Breakthrough in Understanding Hashimoto's Disease and Hypothyroidism I Could Tell You But Then You Would Have to Be Destroyed By Me: Emblems from the Pentagon's Black World Why Can't My Child Behave?: Why Can't She Cope? Why Can't He Learn? The Feingold Diet updated for today's busy families IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola A Short and Happy Guide to Contracts (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Bankruptcy (Short and Happy Series) Short and Happy Guide to Business Organizations (Short and Happy Series) Epstein, Markell and Ponoroff's A Short and Happy Guide to Contracts (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Property (Short and Happy Series) Schechter's A Short and Happy Guide to

Torts (Short and Happy Series) MINDFULNESS: The Bullshit Free Guide To Living a Ridiculously Happy Life - How To Be Present, Peaceful & Content (Transcendental Meditation, Yoga Poses, ... Stress Reduction, How to be Happy) A Short and Happy Guide to Elder Law (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to the MPRE (Short and Happy Series) A Short and Happy Guide to Civil Procedure (Short and Happy Series) Happy Homicides 4: Fall Into Crime: plus Happy Homicides 3: Summertime Crimes How to Love Yourself: How to Have More Self- Confidence & Start Living Your Life to Be Happy Again (How to Love Yourself, Feel Confident and Be Happy Book 2)

[Dmca](#)