



Bad Feminist: Essays

By Roxane Gay

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New York Times Bestseller

A collection of essays spanning politics, criticism, and feminism from one of the most-watched young cultural observers of her generation, Roxane Gay.

“Pink is my favorite color. I used to say my favorite color was black to be *cool*, but it is pink—all shades of pink. If I have an accessory, it is probably pink. I read *Vogue*, and I’m not doing it ironically, though it might seem that way. I once live-tweeted the September issue.”

In these funny and insightful essays, Roxane Gay takes us through the journey of her evolution as a woman (*Sweet Valley High*) of color (*The Help*) while also taking readers on a ride through culture of the last few years (*Girls*, *Django in Chains*) and commenting on the state of feminism today (abortion, Chris Brown). The portrait that emerges is not only one of an incredibly insightful woman continually growing to understand herself and our society, but also one of our culture.

Bad Feminist is a sharp, funny, and spot-on look at the ways in which the culture we consume becomes who we are, and an inspiring call-to-arms of all the ways we still need to do better.

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Bad Feminist: Essays By Roxane Gay Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, August 2014: "These essays are political and they are personal," Roxanne Gay announces in the introduction of *Bad Feminist*. "They are, like feminism, flawed, but they come from a genuine place." This place, as displayed throughout the course of her excellent essay collection, is also one of daring intelligence, imagination, and empathy. Gay leads by example. To combat the demeaning stereotype that feminists are humorless, Gay imbues her essays with levity. One of the best pieces comes early in the book when Gay competes in a Scrabble tournament and her success as a beginner angers her male opponents. It's smart and laugh-out-loud funny essay, and in a humbling turn, Gay herself finds a similar unwarranted frustration toward competitors when she begins losing. *Bad Feminist* represents Gay's body of personal essays and critical work over the past several years, and if the book has a slight misstep, it's that it sometimes feels like these are articles that have been published elsewhere. (For example, Gay's takedown of *The Help* is extraordinary, but the same arguments return repeatedly in pieces about other films.) Still, this is such a small complaint in a rare collection where each and every piece is vital and the book as a whole feels important. --Kevin Nguyen

Review

"A strikingly fresh cultural critic." (Ron Charles, *Washington Post*)

"Arresting and sensitive. . . . An author who filters every observation through her deep sense of the world as fractured, beautiful, and complex." (*Slate*)

"[A] touching and crucial essay collection. . . . If you're interested in critical thinking about culture, this book is a must." (*Newsweek*)

"Roxane Gay is the brilliant girl-next-door: your best friend and your sharpest critic. . . . She is by turns provocative, chilling, hilarious; she is also required reading." (*People*)

"Roxane Gay applies her discerning eye to everything from Paula Deen to *The Bachelor*." (*Marie Claire*)

"Feisty, whip-smart essays on gender, sexuality, and race." (*Entertainment Weekly*)

"One of our sharpest new culture critics plants her flag in topics ranging from trigger warnings to *Orange is the New Black* in this timely collection of essays." (*O, the Oprah Magazine*, 10 Titles to Pick Up Now)

"A trenchant collection. . . . Whatever her topic, Gay's provocative essays stand out for their bravery, wit, and emotional honesty." (*Publishers Weekly* (starred review))

"Toss Roxane Gay's collection of witty, thoughtful essays, *Bad Feminist* into your tote bag. With musings on everything from *Sweet Valley High* to the color pink, Gay explores the idea of being a feminist, even when you're full of contradictions." (*Self*, "Smart beach-read alert")

"Gay's essays are consistently smart and provocative. . . . Her essay collection will give you dinner-party conversation through September." (Jennifer Weiner's 10 best beach reads, *USA Today*)

“An assortment of comical, yet astute essays that touch on Gay’s personal evolution as a woman, popular culture throughout the recent past, and the state of feminism today.” (*Harper’s Bazaar*)

“Roxane Gay may call herself a bad feminist but she is a badass writer. . . . Reading *Bad Feminist* is like having a fascinating (one-way) conversation with an extremely smart, well-read, funny and thoughtful party guest. Here’s hoping we have another encounter soon.” (*Associated Press*)

“Roxane Gay is the gift that keeps on giving. . . . An entertaining and thought-provoking essay collection.” (*Time*)

“*Bad Feminist* collects the very good essays of ‘It girl’ culture critic Roxane Gay.” (*Vanity Fair*, Hot Type)

“Fascinating. . . . An important and pioneering contemporary writer . . . Readers will immediately understand the appeal of Gay’s intimate and down-to-earth voice. . . . An important contribution to the complicated terrain of gender politics.” (*Boston Globe*)

“Alternately friendly and provocative, wry and serious, her takes on everything from *Girls* to *Fifty Shades of Grey* help to recontextualize what feminism is--and what it can be.” (*Time Out New York*)

“Roxane Gay is so great at weaving the intimate and personal with what is most bewildering and upsetting at this moment in culture. She is always looking, always thinking, always passionate, always careful, always right there.” (Sheila Heti, author of *How Should a Person Be?*)

“With prodigious bravery and eviscerating humor, Roxane Gay takes on culture and politics in *Bad Feminist*--and gets it right, time and time again. We should all be lucky enough to be such a bad feminist.” (Ayelet Waldman, author of *Love and Treasure* and *Bad Mother*)

“Smart readers cannot afford to miss these essays, which range from socially significant art (*Girls*, *Django in Chains*) and feminist issues (abortion) to politics (Chris Brown) and why Gay likes pink.” (*Library Journal*)

“Pre-order it, put it on the library hold list, whatever. Just get ready to read it and quote it and share it and be challenged by it.” (Book Riot)

“There are writers who can show you the excellence of their brains and writers who show you the depths of their souls: I don’t know any writer who does both at the same time as brilliantly as Roxane Gay.” (Elizabeth McCracken, author of *Thunderstruck & Other Stories*)

“Trailblazing.” (*Salon*)

“Praise Roxane Gay for her big-hearted self-examining intelligence, for her inclusive and forgiving stance, for her courage and determination . . . for saying out loud the things we were thinking, for guiding us back to ourselves and returning to us what was ours all along.” (Pam Houston, author of *Contents May Have Shifted*)

“She had me at *Sweet Valley High*. Gay playfully crosses the borders between pop culture consumer and critic, between serious academic and lighthearted sister-girl, between despair and optimism, between good and bad. . . . How can you help but love her?” (Melissa Harris-Perry, Wake Forest Professor and MSNBC host)

“As *Bad Feminist* proves, Gay is a necessary and brave voice when it comes to figuring out all the crazy

mixed messages in our mixed-up world." ("20 New Nonfiction Books That Will Make You Smarter," Flavorwire)

"Gay writes with probing intelligence about pop-culture topics from the morality of Tyler Perry to how much the Sweet Valley High books mattered to her." (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*)

"*Bad Feminist* places pop culture under her sharp, often hilarious, always insightful microscope." (GQ.com)

"A collection of sharp, Sontag-ianly searing pieces on everything from *Orange Is the New Black* to likability in fiction to abortion legislation. . . . Her pieces manage to be at once conversational and full of pithy aphorisms." (*The L Magazine*)

"Gay is poised to hit the big time." (*Nylon Magazine*)

"As a feminist who has been around a while I have a message for these girls: it's okay — you can skip the rigors of Betty Friedan and Andrea Dworkin and go straight to Roxane Gay, where feminism is not just friendly, but more relevant than ever." (Erika Schickel, *Los Angeles Review of Books*)

"What's so special about this collection is its accessibility - Gay is nothing short of a critical genius, yet every essay is approachable and open while still being thorough. Her writing is rare, and at that, not to be missed." (*Bustle*)

"I'm pretty sure Gay is incapable of writing anything boring. . . . Even better: It's an essay collection, so you can parse it out, maybe save a couple for days when the Internet is particularly infuriating." (Jezebel)

"With trenchant thoughts on *Sweet Valley High*, *The Help*, abortion, and Chris Brown, Gay isn't really a bad feminist, just an uncommonly entertaining one." (Vulture, "8 Books You Need to Read This August")

"A meaty volume of personal essays and criticism from one of the great storytellers and smartest cultural observers out there. . . . Gay is as critical and as she is admiring. That balance is what actually makes these essays so enjoyable and honest." (Feministing.com)

"One of the liveliest, most joy-inducing books of the year. . . . *Bad Feminist* is a tour de force and Roxane Gay is a writer of considerable power, intelligence and moral acuity." (*Huffington Post*)

"*Bad Feminist* is a broad, compelling book. . . . It's a book that feels like it needed to be out in the world . . . a book that feels vital, alive, and engaged with the world, and we need more writers as passionate as Roxane Gay." (Flavorwire)

"Powerful, and its winsomeness is due entirely to Gay's fearless, inclusive and accessible prose." (*Shelf Awareness*)

"Read *Bad Feminist* to feel good about reading *Vogue*." (*New York Magazine*, "Approval Matrix: Highbrow and Brilliant")

"Gay's writing is thoughtful and funny, compassionate and bold, and she's just as likely to discuss Sweet Valley High as *Django Unchained* or *Judith Butler*." (Refinery29)

"Gay's essays expertly weld her personal experiences with broader gender trends occurring politically and in

popular culture.” (*Huffington Post*)

“What makes *Bad Feminist* such a good read isn’t only Gay’s ability to deftly weave razor-sharp pop cultural analysis and criticism with a voice that is both intimate and relatable. It’s that she’s incapable of blindly accepting any kind of orthodoxy.” (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

“Blunt and funny. . . . [Gay acknowledges] ‘I am a mass of contradictions.’ For Gay, though, these contradictions are less a condition to be remedied than a source of greater strength.” (*Washington Post*)

“A prolific and exceptionally insightful writer. . . . *Bad Feminist* doesn’t show us how Gay should be, but something much better: how Roxane Gay actually is. . . . Gay unquestionably succeeds at leading us in her way.” (*Globe and Mail* (Toronto))

“I know there are still four and a half months left, but I’m calling it now: 2014 is the year of Roxane Gay. I just devoured her book, *Bad Feminist* . . . Amazing.” (*Rookie*)

“Incisive, self-aware, risky, and often funny, the author’s writing is reminiscent of Nora Ephron’s 1975 collection of feminist essays, *Crazy Salad*. . . . Gay possesses a distinct perspective and singular voice.” (*Library Journal*)

“A thoughtful and often hilarious new collection of essays.” (*Chicago Tribune*)

“”[Gay’s] energetic and thought-provoking first essay collection will become as widely read as other generation-defining works, like Nora Ephron’s *Crazy Salad* and Joan Morgan’s *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost*.” (*Essence*)

“Roxane Gay delivers sermons that read like easy conversations. *Bad Feminist* is an important collection of prose—prose that matters to those still trying to find their voice.” (*Ebony*)

“Honest and warm. She takes a close, scathing look at modern music and film. . . . I believe her essay collection will open a lot of eyes and inspire women of all ages to stand and speak up.” (*SheKnows.com*)

“It’s no surprise that Roxane Gay - author, essayist and sharp observer of everything in pop culture we’re supposed to be too cool to like - has written such a winning book. . . . Perfectly imperfect, Gay is an unforgettable voice, coming at just the right time.” (NPR, Best Books of 2014)

“As a culture critic, Gay has X-ray eyes. Her writing is smart and trenchant . . . She’s disarming and one of us, only smarter. She has a tumblr and she writes about Internet dating. We love her, you know?” (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

“Above all, Gay disabuses the stereotype of a humorless feminist, writing in a voice that’s fresh, funny and always accessible.” (*Sacramento News Review*)

“Roxane Gay offers an unique (and often biting) perspective on pop culture.” (*Miami Herald*)

“Gay offers a complex and multifarious feminism to answer the movement’s ongoing PR issues, its flaws and its failures. . . . *Bad Feminist* surveys culture and politics from the perspective of one of the most astute critics writing today.” (*Boston Review*)

“Rip-roaringly funny and insightful essays.” (PureWow.com)

“Roxane Gay and her new book *Bad Feminist* are here to save us all. . . . It’s a swift read with some serious substance. . . . GET TO KNOW HER ALREADY.” (xoJane.com)

“Roxane Gay’s ability to write so clearly about complex issues is truly impressive. Her essays about feminism, race, and class are hilarious, moving, and yes, educational, but never in a way that feels tired or boring.” (*Cosmopolitan*, “28 Life-Changing Books Every Woman Should Read”)

“The book is powerful, and its winsomeness is due entirely to Gay’s fearless, inclusive and accessible prose.” (*Shelf Awareness*, Best Books of the Year)

“Gay’s writing is as accessible as it is sharp. . . . In the volume of essays, Gay mixes the personal, the political and the pop cultural with unashamed acknowledgement that the three are interrelated and often inseparable.” (*Indianapolis Business Journal*)

“[Gay is] hilarious. But she also confronts more difficult issues of race, sexual assault, body image, and the immigrant experience. She makes herself vulnerable and it’s refreshing.” (Tanvi Misra, *Atlantic*, “The Best Book I Read This Year”)

“*Bad Feminist* is often LOL funny but continuously ruthless.” (*San Antonio Express-News*)

“Gay’s insightful exploration of this topic makes readers worry less about their occasional shortcomings and more comfortable with being human.” (BookPage)

“Entertaining and enlightening. . . . *Bad Feminist* is an outtake of her wisdom, and we would all do well to take heed.” (*Bitch Magazine*)

“There has never been a book quite like *Bad Feminist*—a sometimes funny, sometimes serious pop-culture-literary-nonfiction-social-commentary hybrid written by a black woman in America.” (*The Root*)

“Gay, who has become one of our most provocative essayists, leaves nothing off the table in her debut collection . . . Taken in whole, *Bad Feminist* is a brave affirmation of selfhood: I am a woman, this is my story, and there is power in its telling.” (Gawker, “The Best Books to Give This Holiday Season: A Bookseller’s Guide”)

“Roxane Gay’s *Bad Feminist* hardly needs more praise, but no other book speaks more eloquently, or more directly, about today’s most crucial issues. . . . Gay’s essays are intimate and accessible, but broad in scope and deep in insight.” (Celeste Ng, “Writers’ favorite books of 2014,” *San Francisco Gate*)

“If you’re in the mood to read wonderful, thought-provoking essays that feel like they’re written by your best friend, check out *Bad Feminist*. . . . Gay puts you at ease as she shakes the foundations of what you believe.” (*Buzzfeed*, Sami Main, “28 Best Books by Women in 2014”)

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Johnson:

This book untitled Bad Feminist: Essays to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by using online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

Gail Kennedy:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the ability about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write on their book. One of them is this Bad Feminist: Essays.

Clara Gay:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because this all time you only find reserve that need more time to be learn. Bad Feminist: Essays can be your answer given it can be read by a person who have those short spare time problems.

Matthew Sewell:

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