

# The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual Matt Besser

Sick in the Head Cinderella and the Glass Ceiling A Bad Idea I'm about to Do Not Quite a Genius Year of No Clutter Spaceman Carry This Book The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual Strong Female Protagonist: Book One Long-Form Improv Gutenberg! the Musical! You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up Surrender, White People! Everything Is Horrible and Wonderful Yes Please Improvise. Scene from the Inside Out The Improv Handbook Long Story Short Deep Dark Blue Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy How Not to Get Shot Trust Improv Nonsense I AM BRIDE Group Improvisation The Dead Moms Club Improv Nation Improvisation at the Speed of Life Improv Comedy Causing a Scene This Is Why You're Single The Kellyanne Conway Technique Worst Laid Plans Song Lyrics in Chart Form (in Book Form) Improvisation for Actors and Writers Art by Committee I Don't Care About Your Band How to Win at Feminism Pirate Robot Ninja How to be the Greatest Improviser on Earth

## Sick in the Head

"Jagodowski and Pasquesi, award-winning master improvisers from Chicago's legendary comedy scene, are internationally known for their acclaimed, two-man longform show, TJ & Dave. [This is] their authoritative and entertaining look at techniques, principles, theory, and ideas behind their approach"--Cover.

## Cinderella and the Glass Ceiling

A collection of all six years of posts from the hit (?) blog about long-form improv, Improv Nonsense.

## A Bad Idea I'm about to Do

The space between life and death is a moment. But it will remain alive in me for hundreds of thousands of future moments. One phone call. That's all it took to change Stephanie Wittels Wachs' life forever.. Her younger brother Harris, a star in the comedy world known for his work on shows like Parks and Recreation, had died of a heroin overdose. How do you make sense of such a tragic end to a life of so much hilarious brilliance? In beautiful, unsentimental, and surprisingly funny prose, Stephanie Wittels Wachs alternates between her brother's struggle with addiction, which she learned about three days before her wedding, and the first year after his death, in all its emotional devastation. This compelling portrait of a comedic genius and a profound exploration of the love between siblings is A Year of Magical Thinking for a new generation of readers. A heartbreaking but hopeful memoir of addiction, grief, and family, Everything is Horrible and Wonderful will make

you laugh, cry, and wonder if that possum on the fence is really your brother's spirit animal.

## **Not Quite a Genius**

"A YA memoir of sexual abuse in the Air Force academy, and the author's survival and healing."--Provided by publisher.

## **Year of No Clutter**

A humorous and heartfelt memoir about weathering the loss of a parent, offering advice and tips on surviving grief. Kate Spencer lost her mom to cancer when she was 27. In *The Dead Moms Club*, she walks readers through her experience of stumbling through grief and loss, and helps them to get through it, too. This isn't a weepy, sentimental story, but rather a frank look at what it means to go through gruesome grief and come out on the other side. *The Dead Moms Club* covers how losing her mother changed nearly everything in Spencer's life. And it offers cheeky but useful tip for readers throughout -- like the "It's None of Your Business Card," to copy and hand out to nosy strangers. Anyone who has lost a parent or loved one will be comforted and consoled by this empathetic book.

## **Spaceman**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Do you want to get to know the woman we first came to love on Comedy Central's Upright Citizens Brigade? Do you want to spend some time with the lady who made you howl with laughter on Saturday Night Live, and in movies like *Baby Mama*, *Blades of Glory*, and *They Came Together*? Do you find yourself daydreaming about hanging out with the actor behind the brilliant Leslie Knope on *Parks and Recreation*? Did you wish you were in the audience at the last two Golden Globes ceremonies, so you could bask in the hilarity of Amy's one-liners? If your answer to these questions is "Yes Please!" then you are in luck. In her first book, one of our most beloved funny folk delivers a smart, pointed, and ultimately inspirational read. Full of the comedic skill that makes us all love Amy, *Yes Please* is a rich and varied collection of stories, lists, poetry (Plastic Surgery Haiku, to be specific), photographs, mantras and advice. With chapters like "Treat Your Career Like a Bad Boyfriend," "Plain Girl Versus the Demon" and "The Robots Will Kill Us All" *Yes Please* will make you think as much as it will make you laugh. Honest, personal, real, and righteous, *Yes Please* is full of words to live by.

## **Carry This Book**

The author recounts awkward encounters and embarrassing experiences that he had both while growing up in New Jersey

and as an adult.

## **The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual**

The only thing Americans want to read more than Trump's tax returns. Constantly late to work? Caught cheating on your spouse again? Can't stop tweeting unhinged rants against your political enemies at three in the morning? Then The Kellyanne Conway Technique is the book you need. Preeminent spin expert and University of Phoenix Online alumnus, Jarret Berenstein, brings you the world's only comprehensive analysis of the tricks, distractions, and outright lies utilized daily by White House advisor Kellyanne Conway and distills her special brand of verbal jujitsu into a spin Bible for the common man. Filled with real transcripts from the esteemed spin-ster herself, The Kellyanne Conway Technique takes the invaluable lessons from her verbal boxing matches with the mainstream media and breaks down, step by step, the mental and rhetorical aerobatics she performs as the talking piece for a president who once wrestled Vince McMahon on the WWE. From alternative facts to the Bowling Green Massacre, take lessons from Kellyanne's greatest hits. The Kellyanne Conway Technique is the perfect guide to outsmarting the Jake Tappers in your own life: whether that is your boss, your husband, or a special hearing of the congressional oversight committee. Never again be held accountable for anything you do with a little help from Kellyanne!

## **Strong Female Protagonist: Book One**

Full Length, Musical Comedy Characters: 2 male In this two-man musical spoof, a pair of aspiring playwrights perform a backers' audition for their new project - a big, splashy musical about printing press inventor Johann Gutenberg. With an unending supply of enthusiasm, Bud and Doug sing all the songs and play all the parts in their crass historical epic, with the hope that one of the producers in attendance will give them a Broadway contract - fulfilling their ill-advised dreams. Gutenberg! The Musical was nominated for the 2007 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical and the 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical; and its authors were nominated for the 2007 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical. "A smashing success!" -The New York Times. "Brilliantly realized and side-splitting!"-New York Magazine. "There are lots of genuine laughs in GUTENBERG!" - New York Post

## **Long-Form Improv**

A handbook of essential comedy skills, useful for all performers!

## **Gutenberg! the Musical!**

Renowned improv instructor and award-winning director Mick Napier has been at the heart of the professional improvisation community for more than 25 years. The first edition of *Improvise* quickly earned its position as necessary reading for improv students across the country and around the world and gave birth to a new generation of performers who questioned "The Rules" of improvisation. This expanded and revised edition has a new foreword by The Late Show host Stephen Colbert, additional advice and tips for success, and a full reproduction of Mick Napier's web journal from his time directing the famous show *Paradigm Lost* for The Second City that included Tina Fey, Rachel Dratch, and Kevin Dorff. In this entertaining and incredibly informative book, Napier will teach you the essentials of --Why "The Rules" don't matter --How to take care of yourself in a scene --Using context to your advantage --Effective two-person scenes --Balanced large-cast scenes --Successful auditioning --Solo exercises you can practice at home

### **You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up**

The Upright Citizens Brigade Comedy Improvisation Manual is a comprehensive guide to the UCB style of long form comedy improvisation. Written by UCB founding members Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, and Matt Walsh, the manual covers everything from the basics of two person scene work (with a heavy emphasis on finding "the game" of the scene), to the complexities of working within an ensemble to perform long form structures, such as "The Harold" and "The Movie". A practical "how to" book, the guide provides exercises throughout to help the reader master each new concept and technique introduced. While the manual is written to be understood by beginners with no previous exposure to improvisational comedy, experienced improvisors will find it to be an excellent resource for honing their skills, clarifying concepts, and generally taking their work to a higher level.

### **Surrender, White People!**

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to find yourself strapped to a giant rocket that's about to go from zero to 17,500 miles per hour? Or to look back on Earth from outer space and see the surprisingly precise line between day and night? Or to stand in front of the Hubble Space Telescope, wondering if the emergency repair you're about to make will inadvertently ruin humankind's chance to unlock the universe's secrets? Mike Massimino has been there, and in *Spaceman* he puts you inside the suit, with all the zip and buoyancy of life in microgravity. Massimino's childhood space dreams were born the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. Growing up in a working-class Long Island family, he catapulted himself to Columbia and then MIT, only to flunk his first doctoral exam and be rejected three times by NASA before making it through the final round of astronaut selection. Taking us through the surreal wonder and beauty of his first spacewalk, the tragedy of losing friends in the Columbia shuttle accident, and the development of his enduring love for the Hubble Telescope—which he and his fellow astronauts were tasked with saving on his final mission—Massimino has written an ode

to never giving up and the power of teamwork to make anything possible. Spaceman invites us into a rare, wonderful world where science meets the most thrilling adventure, revealing just what having “the right stuff” really means.

## **Everything Is Horrible and Wonderful**

This wickedly wise (and wisecracking) parody of classic fairy tales redefines happily ever after for the modern feminist era. You know what? It's super creepy to kiss a woman who is unconscious. And you know what else? The way out of poverty isn't by marrying a rich dude -- or by wearing fragile footwear, for that matter. And while we're at it, why is the only woman who lives with seven men expected to do the cooking, cleaning, and laundry? Fairytales need a reboot, and comedy queens Laura Lane and Ellen Haun are the women to do it. In Cinderella and the Glass Ceiling, they offer a rollicking parody of classic (read: patriarchal) tales that turns sweet, submissive princesses into women who are perfectly capable of being the heroes of their own stories. Mulan climbs the ranks in the army but wages a different war when she finds out she's getting paid less than her fellow male captains, Wendy learns never to trust a man-boy stalking her window, Sleeping Beauty's prince gets a lesson in consent, and more. Busting with laugh-out-loud, razor-sharp twists to these outdated tales, Cinderella and the Glass Ceiling is fun, magical, necessary, and totally woke.

## **Yes Please**

Based on the popular blog, Song Lyrics in Chart Form (in Book Form) gathers the funniest charts and graphs analyzing song lyrics in a scientific manner.

## **Improvise. Scene from the Inside Out**

Read Julie Klausner's posts on the Penguin Blog In the tradition of Cynthia Heimel and Chelsea Handler, and with the boisterous iconoclasm of Amy Sedaris, Julie Klausner's candid and funny debut I Don't Care About Your Band sheds light on the humiliations we endure to find love--and the lessons that can be culled from the wreckage. I Don't Care About Your Band posits that lately the worst guys to date are the ones who seem sensitive. It's the jerks in nice guy clothing, not the players in Ed Hardy, who break the hearts of modern girls who grew up in the shadow of feminism, thinking they could have everything, but end up compromising constantly. The cowards, the kidults, the critics, and the contenders: these are the stars of Klausner's memoir about how hard it is to find a man--good or otherwise--when you're a cynical grown-up exiled in the dregs of Guyville. Off the popularity of her New York Times "Modern Love" piece about getting the brush-off from an indie rock musician, I Don't care About Your Band is marbled with the wry strains of Julie Klausner's precocious curmudgeonry and brimming with truths that anyone who's ever been on a date will relate to. Klausner is an expert at

landing herself waist-deep in crazy, time and time again, in part because her experience as a comedy writer (Best Week Ever, TV Funhouse on SNL) and sketch comedian from NYC's Upright Citizens Brigade fuels her philosophy of how any scene should unfold, which is, "What? That sounds crazy? Okay, I'll do it." *I Don't Care About Your Band* charts a distinctly human journey of a strong-willed but vulnerable protagonist who loves men like it's her job, but who's done with guys who know more about love songs than love. Klausner's is a new outlook on dating in a time of pop culture obsession, and she spent her 20's doing personal field research to back up her philosophies. This is the girl's version of *High Fidelity*. By turns explicit, funny and moving, Klausner's debut shows the evolution of a young woman who endured myriad encounters with the wrong guys, to emerge with real-world wisdom on matters of the heart. *I Don't Care About Your Band* is Julie Klausner's manifesto, and every one of us can relate.

## The Improv Handbook

"When bad sex happens to good people, there is no recourse like full disclosure," is the motto of *Worst Laid Plans*, a collection of forty probably-too-intimate, but shockingly funny, true-life tales of lust gone wrong. The stories are divided into themed sections including Foreign Affairs ("When bad sex goes abroad"), Self-Help ("Love thyself...but do it carefully"), On the Rebound ("The art of getting back in-and-out-there"), Mob Mentality (People will do things in groups they would never do alone"), and The End of Innocence ("A memorial to virginity") among others. The book evolved out of a storytelling event originally staged at Upright Citizen Brigade, the highly influential comedy organization co-founded by Amy Poehler, who along with Janeane Garofalo and SNL's Casey Wilson, performed at the show that continues today. Part Vagina Monologues, part car crash, and wholly hilarious, the volume features contributions from shameless actors, comedians, and writers who will shamelessly spread the word via blogs, on-line videos, tweets, on-going WLP performances, film/TV/media contacts, and further sexual conquests. "[A] hilarious testimonial to the vast array of consequences we face after having ignored that little voice inside that says: 'Don't.' 'This isn't a good idea.' 'Leave now.'" —Laraine Newman (*Saturday Night Live*, *The Groundlings*) "Irrefutable evidence that one should wait until marriage to have sex." —Joel McHale (*The Soup*, *Community*) "This book will make you laugh, scream, and want to be a lesbian." —Whitney Cummings (*Chelsea Lately*, *Comedy Central*) "This is the best kind of comedy; that which makes you both laugh and erect." —Rob Corddry (*The Daily Show*)

## Long Story Short

Drama Harold Pinter Characters: 4 male, 2 female Interior Set In a small house at a coastal resort live a man, his mentally wayward wife and their boarder who has been with them for a year. He is a strange chap, unkempt and in flight from we know not what. Enter an even stranger sleek Jewish man and his muscle bound Irish henchman. The mentally immature wife accommodates them with a room and then decides that it is time for the boarder to have a birthday. At the pa

## **Deep Dark Blue**

Who would have thought that participating in group improv could be so enlightening and rewarding? Peter Gwinn and his colleagues at the i.O. Theatre in Chicago developed The Group Mind to create a new awareness in the mind and spirit of any group or team. The Group Mind, the Holy Grail of improvisation, is created by a synergy among improv participants. It's like ESP. It's the feeling of being part of a greater entity, a sense of excitement, belonging, importance that takes teamwork to a new level. Over forty improv games are included for developing group chemistry: creation, bonding, dynamics, energy, focus and more. Techniques are discussed for breaking the ice, agreement, listening and support, teamwork, quick thinking and having fun! Sample chapters: An Introduction to Mind Reading. The Morale Majority. The Games and Their Explanations, Bonding, Focus, Awareness, Creation, Energy, Dynamics, Party Games and more.

## **Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy**

The first book from Upright Citizens Brigade comedian Laura Willcox, I AM BRIDE is a hysterical spoof of all the lavish, ridiculous, and stressful things a bride deals with when planning her BIG DAY. \*\*As seen on The New Yorker SHOUTS and Refinery29!\*\* In this bridal gag gift, Laura Willcox writes in the voice of an overbearing, outrageous wedding planner, covering all aspects of a wedding—from the moment of engagement (hopefully with the ring you've been not so subtly emailing him about for months), all the way through the final minutes of the big day. Accompanied by Jason O'Malley's humorous illustrations, Willcox offers tongue-in-cheek advice for every wedding-planning moment, whether it's dreaming up the perfect wedding-weekend hashtag, planning a gift registry to make everyone jealous of your fabulous lifestyle, or figuring out how to distance yourself from the poor, unfortunate souls who didn't make the cut for your guest list. Laura Willcox's refreshing take on all things bride will turn tradition on its head, and have you rolling your eyes and reading passages out loud to your engaged (and married) friends. This funny book is a perfect gift for the friend who can't stop pinning to her dream wedding board, bridezilla-to-be, or any bride who would benefit from a much-needed break from the stress and madness of wedding planning.

## **How Not to Get Shot**

With superstrength and invulnerability, Alison Green used to be one of the most powerful superheroes around. Fighting crime with other teenagers under the alter ego Mega Girl was fun until an encounter with Menace, her mind reading arch enemy. He showed her evidence of a sinister conspiracy, and suddenly battling giant robots didn't seem so important. Now Alison is going to college and trying to find ways to help the world while still getting to class on time. It's impossible to escape the past, however, and everyone has their own idea of what it means to be a hero. Strong Female Protagonist has

been published online since 2012, where it attracted a large fan base, and earned positive reviews on sites such as io9, ComicsAlliance, The Beat, and ThinkProgress. After a successful Kickstarter, Brennan and Molly now bring their series to print, with a book collecting the first four chapters and bonus material, self-published by the authors and distributed by Top Shelf.

## **Trust**

This is a practical storytelling guide from comedian, winner of multiple Moth storytelling competitions, and founder of the Upright Citizens Brigade storytelling program, Margot Leitman. Did you ever wish you could tell a story that leaves others spellbound? Storytelling teacher and champion Margot Leitman will show you how! With a fun, irreverent, and infographic approach, this guide breaks a story into concrete components with ways to improve content, structure, emotional impact, and delivery through personal anecdotes, relatable examples, and practical exercises.

## **Improv Nonsense**

Be the best feminist you can be—or at least look like one—with this definitive manual, from the satirical creators of the wildly popular "feminist Onion" humor website, Reductress. From hot feminist sex to a trendy feminist up-do, the bold and brilliant minds behind Reductress reveal the secrets to being super progressive—and cool, hip, and pretty. Feminism today means demanding gender equality—and a fabulous manicure. After all, we're not wearing girdles and cleaning the house anymore. We're wearing Spanx and hiring a cleaning lady. That's feminism! How to Win at Feminism defines what's feminist and what isn't, shows you how to take up space (but not too much space), identifies which clothes and products to be offended by, and offers funny insight, knowledge, tips, and advice every fourth-wave feminist needs, including: How to Love Your Body Even Though Hers is Better The 9 Circles of Hell for Women Who Don't Help Other Women Designer Handbags to Hold All Your Feminism How to Apologize for Having it All Finding Your Spirit Feminist Rebranding Your Relationship Issues as Feminist Issues How to Do More With 33 Cents Less With this ultimate guide—complete with four-color sidebars and illustrations—you can femsplain feminism to basic friends, and and learn how to battle the patriarchy while maintaining a dependable moisturizing routine. We may have come a long way, baby, but we have a long way to go. How to Win at Feminism is the road map to get there!

## **I AM BRIDE**

Far more than simply an overview of improv comedy, this book helps actors, writers and comedians learn the basics as taught in all the major comedy schools. Successful improv requires the skill of the actor, the talent of the comedian and the

ideas of the writer rolled into one. This book tells how it can all be done for performers or teachers.

## **Group Improvisation**

As an improv comedian: are you a pirate, robot or ninja? Know your type so you can appreciate your strengths while also focusing on what you have left to learn. This book is 200 pages of lessons, exercises and metaphors designed by two teachers and performers from the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatres in New York and Los Angeles. Also, it's written as a fable where you are an "improv seeker" in an mysterious dojo hidden in the mountains. That's pretty fun! "Billy and Will love to do the 'make'em ups' and they're quite good at it as well. I would read this book if I could read." - Rob Riggle (Daily Show, US Marine Corps)

## **The Dead Moms Club**

The television host and author of *Fired!* and a television writer for such shows as *Curb Your Enthusiasm* document the whimsical roles of complaining, codependence and wine in keeping their marriage and sanity intact.

## **Improv Nation**

The *Improv Handbook* is the most comprehensive, smart, helpful and inspiring guide to improv available today. Applicable to comedians, actors, public speakers and anyone who needs to think on their toes, it features a range of games, interviews, descriptions and exercises that illuminate and illustrate the exciting world of improvised performance. First published in 2008, this second edition features a new foreword by comedian Mike McShane, as well as new exercises on endings, managing blind offers and master-servant games, plus new and expanded interviews with Keith Johnstone, Neil Mullarkey, Jeffrey Sweet and Paul Rogan. The *Improv Handbook* is a one-stop guide to the exciting world of improvisation. Whether you're a beginner, an expert, or would just love to try it if you weren't too scared, *The Improv Handbook* will guide you every step of the way.

## **Improvisation at the Speed of Life**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER From the mind of *Broad City*'s Abbi Jacobson, author of *I Might Regret This*, a wonderfully weird and weirdly wonderful illustrated look at the world around us—all through the framework of what we carry. "Jacobson's art is warm, textured, and carefully composed, a little bit Maira Kalman and a little bit Roz Chast. It's also genuinely funny." —Vox With bright, quirky, and colorful line drawings, Jacobson brings to life actual and imagined items

found in the pockets and purses, bags and glove compartments of real and fantastical people—whether it's the contents of Oprah's favorite purse, Amelia Earhart's pencil case, or Bernie Madoff's suitcase. How many self-tanning lotions are in Donald Trump's weekender? What's inside Martha Stewart's hand-knit fanny pack? What kind of protein bars does Michelle Obama hide in her tiny clutch at the White House Correspondents' Dinner? An instant New York Times bestseller, *Carry This Book* provides a humorous and insightful look into how the things we carry around every day make up who we are.

## Improv Comedy

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE A.V. CLUB • Includes new interviews! From the writer and director of *Knocked Up* and the producer of *Freaks and Geeks* comes a collection of intimate, hilarious conversations with the biggest names in comedy from the past thirty years—including Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Jon Stewart, Roseanne Barr, Harold Ramis, Louis C.K., Chris Rock, and Lena Dunham. Before becoming one of the most successful filmmakers in Hollywood, Judd Apatow was the original comedy nerd. At fifteen, he took a job washing dishes in a local comedy club—just so he could watch endless stand-up for free. At sixteen, he was hosting a show for his local high school radio station in Syosset, Long Island—a show that consisted of Q&As with his comedy heroes, from Garry Shandling to Jerry Seinfeld. They talked about their careers, the science of a good joke, and their dreams of future glory (turns out, Shandling was interested in having his own TV show one day and Steve Allen had already invented everything). Thirty years later, Apatow is still that same comedy nerd—and he's still interviewing funny people about why they do what they do. *Sick in the Head* gathers Apatow's most memorable and revealing conversations into one hilarious, wide-ranging, and incredibly candid collection that spans not only his career but his entire adult life. Here are the comedy legends who inspired and shaped him, from Mel Brooks to Steve Martin. Here are the contemporaries he grew up with in Hollywood, from Spike Jonze to Sarah Silverman. And here, finally, are the brightest stars in comedy today, many of whom Apatow has been fortunate to work with, from Seth Rogen to Amy Schumer. And along the way, something kind of magical happens: What started as a lifetime's worth of conversations about comedy becomes something else entirely. It becomes an exploration of creativity, ambition, neediness, generosity, spirituality, and the joy that comes from making people laugh. Loaded with the kind of back-of-the-club stories that comics tell one another when no one else is watching, this fascinating, personal (and borderline-obsessive) book is Judd Apatow's gift to comedy nerds everywhere. Praise for *Sick in the Head* "I can't stop reading it. . . . I don't want this book to end."—Jimmy Fallon "An essential for any comedy geek."—Entertainment Weekly "Fascinating . . . a collection of interviews with many of the great figures of comedy in the latter half of the twentieth century."—The Washington Post "Open this book anywhere, and you're bound to find some interesting nugget from someone who has had you in stitches many, many times."—Janet Maslin, The New York Times "An amazing read, full of insights and connections both creative and interpersonal."—The New Yorker "Fascinating and revelatory."—Chicago Tribune "These are wonderful, expansive interviews—at times brutal, at times breathtaking—with artists whose wit, intelligence,

gaze, and insights are all sharp enough to draw blood.”—Michael Chabon “Anyone even remotely interested in comedy or humanity should own this book. It is hilarious and informative and it contains insightful interviews with the greatest comics, comedians, and comediennes of our time. My representatives assure me I will appear in a future edition.”—Will Ferrell From the Trade Paperback edition.

## **Causing a Scene**

"From Funny Or Die senior writer and former artistic director at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre comes a collection of absurdist, hilarious stories and essays on relationships, technology, and contemporary society. A brave archaeologist journeys into a suburban man cave. Leif Eriksson writes Christopher Columbus a long overdue letter. A corporate flack admonishes a room of marijuana sales people to get their revenues up. A young man's penis turns into a lobster. Walt Whitman even teaches a spin class. With humor, originality, and narrative guile, Nate Dern examines man buns, dating apps, Wi-Fi terms and conditions, juicing crazes, vegetarianism, and so much more, all while plumbing his own life and a series of fantastical scenarios for a truth that's both revelatory and beautiful."--Jacket.

## **This Is Why You're Single**

A fake U2 concert. A deranged hypnotist. A book signing by a dead author. Welcome to the wild world of Improv Everywhere. From the infamous No Pants! Subway Ride to the legendary Grand Central Freeze, Improv Everywhere has been responsible for some of the most original and subversive pranks of the Internet age. In *Causing a Scene*, the group's agents provide a hilarious firsthand account of their mischievous antics. Learn how they created a time loop in a Starbucks and gave Best Buy eighty extra employees. Join in on the fun with this irreverent, behind-the-scenes look at Improv Everywhere's world-famous missions, and get inspired to create your own memorable mayhem.

## **The Kellyanne Conway Technique**

THE STORY: This is a contemporary dramatic comedy set against a backdrop of the rock music scene. In a world ruled by love, lust and lying, a spiral unwinds. Cody is a rising star musician. Becca is his fiancée. Gretchen is a dressmaker, fitting Be

## **Worst Laid Plans**

THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER "Hughley uses his trademark humor to address the stark divisions in society that stem from

centuries of white supremacy." —People Surrender, white people! After 400 years of white supremacy in America, a reckoning is here. These are the terms of peace—and they are unconditional. Hope you brought a sense of humor, because this is gonna sting. After centuries of oppressing others, white people are in for a surprise: You're about to be a minority yourself. Yes, the face of America is getting a lot browner—and a reckoning is coming. Black and brown folk are not going to take a back seat anymore. It's time to surrender your unjust privileges and sue for peace while the getting's still good. Lucky for America, D.L. Hughley has a plan. On the eve of America becoming a majority-minority nation, Hughley warns, the only way for America to move forward peacefully is if Whites face their history, put aside all their visions of superiority, and open up their institutions so they benefit everyone in this nation. But we can still have fun with this right? Surrender, White People! hilariously holds America account for its wrongs and offers D.L.'s satirical terms for reparations and reconciliation. But it's not all bad news, white folks. The upside is that if you put D.L.'s plan into effect, you can FINALLY get black people to stop talking about oppression, discrimination, and their place in America. Now, that's something we ALL can get behind.

## **Song Lyrics in Chart Form (in Book Form)**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A GOODREADS CHOICE AWARDS FINALIST "Hilarious yet soul-shaking." —Black Enterprise, a "Must Read Book" The fearless comedy legend—one of the "Original Kings of Comedy"—hilariously breaks down the wisdom of white people, advice that has been killing black folks in America for four hundred years and counting. 200 years ago, white people told black folks, "I suggest you pick the cotton if you don't like getting whipped." Today, it's "comply with police orders if you don't want to get shot." Now comedian/activist D. L. Hughley—one the Original Kings of Comedy—confronts and remixes white people's "advice" in this "hilarious examination of the current state of race relations in the United States" (Publishers Weekly). In America, a black man is three times more likely to be killed in encounters with police than a white guy. If only he had complied with the cop, he might be alive today, pundits say in the aftermath of the latest shooting of an unarmed black man. Or, Maybe he shouldn't have worn that hoodie ... or, moved more slowly ... not been out so late ... Wait, why are black people allowed to drive, anyway? This isn't a new phenomenon. White people have been giving "advice" to black folks for as long as anyone can remember, telling them how to pick cotton, where to sit on a bus, what neighborhood to live in, when they can vote, and how to wear our pants. Despite centuries of whites' advice, it seems black people still aren't listening, and the results are tragic. Now, at last, activist, comedian, and New York Times bestselling author D. L. Hughley offers *How Not to Get Shot*, an illustrated how-to guide for black people, full of insight from white people, translated by one of the funniest black dudes on the planet. In these pages you will learn how to act, dress, speak, walk, and drive in the safest manner possible. You also will finally understand the white mind. It is a book that can save lives. Or at least laugh through the pain. Black people: Are you ready to not get shot! White people: Do you want to learn how to help the cause? Let's go!

## **Improvisation for Actors and Writers**

Presents insights into the use of interns in a variety of firms and organizations, discussing the economic impact of internships, their effect on business practices, and the ethical problems associated with them.

## **Art by Committee**

Eve has a problem with clutter. Too much stuff and too easily acquired, it confronts her in every corner and on every surface in her house. When she pledges to tackle the worst offender, her horror of a "Hell Room," she anticipates finally being able to throw away all of the unnecessary things she can't bring herself to part with: her fifth-grade report card, dried-up art supplies, an old vinyl raincoat. But what Eve discovers isn't just old CDs and outdated clothing, but a fierce desire within herself to hold on to her identity. Our things represent our memories, our history, a million tiny reference points in our lives. If we throw our stuff in the trash, where does that leave us? And if we don't how do we know what's really important? Everyone has their own Hell Room, and Eve's battle with her clutter, along with her eventual self-clarity, encourages everyone to dig into their past to declutter their future. Year of No Clutter is a deeply inspiring—and frequently hilarious — examination of why we keep stuff in the first place, and how to let it all go.

## **I Don't Care About Your Band**

This new guidebook for the best in improvisation performance is a sequel to the best-selling book, "Truth in Comedy." It tells how to empower improvisation using the "yes" concept with improv performers.

## **How to Win at Feminism**

Whether you're falling for that man child for the fifty-seventh time or text messaging your way to stalker status, dating can make you want to find a nice roomy hermitage on Airbnb and live a solitary, monk-like life. Luckily, that frustration ends now. This Is Why You're Single breaks away from your typical dating guide by taking a page from Aesop's playbook with hilarious modern-day dating fables paired with advice, entertaining quizzes, graphs, and illustrations. Dating will feel a whole lot more doable, a little less weird, and, well, actually pretty fun.

## **Pirate Robot Ninja**

Advice for performing long-form improv from a longtime teacher and performer.

## **How to be the Greatest Improviser on Earth**

“Like the best of his subjects, which include Stephen Colbert, Bill Murray and Tina Fey, Wasson has perfect timing.”—Minneapolis Star-Tribune Finalist for the 2017 George Freedley Memorial Award In this richly reported, scene-driven narrative, Sam Wasson charts the meteoric rise of improv from its unlikely beginnings in McCarthy-era Chicago. We witness the chance meeting between Mike Nichols and Elaine May, hang out at the after-hours bar where Dan Aykroyd hosted friends like John Belushi, Bill Murray, and Gilda Radner, and go behind the scenes of cultural landmarks from *The Graduate* to *The Colbert Report*. Along the way, we befriend pioneers such as Harold Ramis, Chevy Chase, Steve Carell, Amy Poehler, Alan Arkin, Tina Fey, Judd Apatow, and many others. “Compelling, absolutely unputdownable...And, in case you’re wondering, yes, the book is funny. In places, very funny. A remarkable story, magnificently told.”—Booklist “One of the most important stories in American popular culture...Wasson may be the first author to explain [improv’s] entire history...a valuable book.”—The New York Times Book Review “Improv Nation masterfully tells a new history of American comedy...It holds the element of surprise—true to the spirit of its subject.”—Entertainment Weekly

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