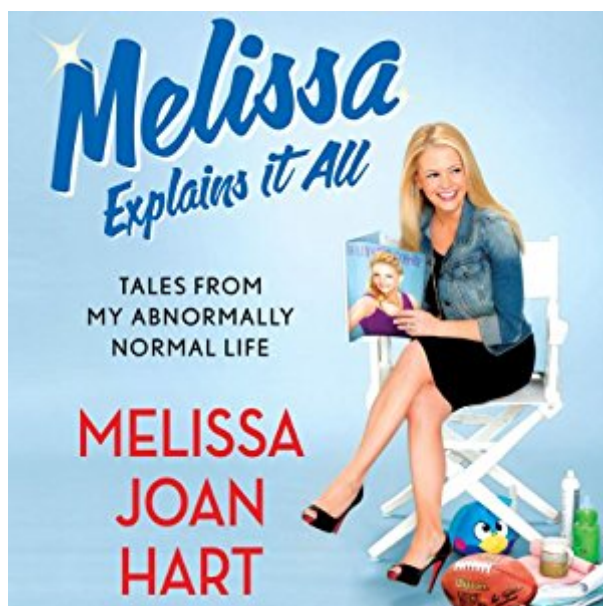


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# Melissa Explains It All: Tales From My Abnormally Normal Life



## Synopsis

Melissa has been entertaining audiences most of her life; when there were no girls named Melissa on her favorite show, the forceful four year old decided she'd get on TV her way. From that moment on, Melissa has shown a singular determination and focus whether it's for booking three national commercials so her dad would build her a tree house or for nailing the audition for Clarissa. From her first commercial to her current starring role in ABC Family's hit *Melissa and Joey*, Hart never let fame go to her head. She always had one foot in Hollywood and one foot in reality - and still does. Melissa makes us laugh along with her as she talks about: guest appearances in shows like *Saturday Night Live* and *The Equalizer* auditioning for *Punky Brewster* and *Clarissa* her early Broadway days wacky parties she's thrown and attended the actors who influenced her and whom she befriended, worked with and competed against her experiences both on and off-set - with *Sabrina's Salem the Cat* and *Elvis the Alligator on Clarissa* how she met the love of her life at the Kentucky Derby Melissa Joan Hart explains all that she's learned along the way - what's kept her grounded, normal and working when others have not been so fortunate - and that she's the approachable, hilarious girl-next-door her fans have always thought she'd be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I finished reading *Melissa Explains It All* by Melissa Joan Hart. I have been trying to finish this for quite some time, but much like my last autobiography, there was something that kept me from completing it. I must have instinctively known it was going to be bad, otherwise I would have had a

hard time putting it down. I don't want to delay the inevitable, so I will just come out and say it in one word. Disappointing. My exposure to Ms. Hart was purely through her show Sabrina. I really loved her in those episodes. Guess I failed to realize is that I loved her character. I don't even know the woman behind the character so how can I "love" her. I thought the book would be entertaining, but what I found was boring stories about her partying and drinking. What I once thought as a cute and gifted actress, after reading this book, I see her as arrogant and pretentious. It's sad really. There was no "heart" from Hart. There were areas where she just droned on and on, but others where she didn't go into enough detail. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the book was when she met her husband and started on down that path of serious dating, engagement, wedding and marriage. And why not write more about her other relationships outside of the "guys" she used to date. If she was expecting her readers to feel sorry for her poor choices in men, it didn't happen with this reader. Luckily I spent Saturday baking cookies, so I could read through the last half of this as quickly as possible. Usually, I can find a kernel of interest that will draw me in to a book. Not with this one. I never wanted to be more "over" something than I did wanting to be over reading Melissa Explains It All. No recommendation on this one. My cookies were better than this book. Rating:

I watched 'Clarissa Explains It All' as a kid, then I enjoyed 'Sabrina the Teenage Witch' as a teenager, and now that I'm an adult I love 'Melissa and Joey'. To be honest this book wasn't one of my favorites. I wanted to love it as much as I love Hart. But there was just something about the connection that dropped the ball on this one. While I enjoyed the behind the scenes and everything television I also found other parts to be a tedious read. "Melissa Explains It All: Tales from My Abnormally Normal Life" is not written in a traditional chronological way. In fact this book shares quirky stories and lessons from Hart's life. The absence of chronology makes the storytelling choppy and creates big voids in the book that you'd rather skim more than read. I didn't expect to read about Hart being "normal." What I did hope to read was a relatable book by a 90s star who did not get eaten by fame. And that's exactly what this book was. She has achieved a lot, and I will give credit where it's due. She is an overall normal celebrity who worked hard and got put in the time. Hart's passion is clear and her experience is inspiring, resulting in a readable memoir. Plus, Hart mixes in her personal stories versus focusing on them causing a mature versus gossipy feel. On the other hand, there are moments when Hart doesn't dive deep enough, skimming on details and rushing through certain stories I would have wanted to know a little bit more about. I thought Melissa came

off as Melissa. It was easy to see her sitting in the interview like scenario talking me through this book. Some moments were funny, some moments were skim-able. If you want to read this in your down time. It would probably be a good on the train read or on a plane read. Not something I'd drink a glass of wine with or read over my cereal bowl.

2.5 stars. Overall, I was disappointed with this book. I picked it up because I was a big fan of Sabrina and Clarissa growing up, and I definitely would not recommend the book to people who aren't fans of Hart's shows. Even as a fan, I had a lot of issues with the book. Something about the tone of Hart's writing just made the book seem very self-serving to me. Hart didn't come off as particularly likable - rather, she seemed a bit braggy. I also thought the organization was a bit weird - it started out chronologically, but then jumped around topically, which sometimes made it confusing because you weren't sure how old she was during certain anecdotes. Finally, I took issue with a lot of the attitudes she expressed during the chapter on football. It's fine not to like sports, but the way she wrote the chapter seemed to really give in to outdated stereotypes about women and sports.

Melissa Joan Hart made commercials when she was a little kid, performed on stage as a pre-teen, was the title character on Clarissa Explains It All in her teens, Sabrina on Sabrina the Teenage Witch in her 20s, and Mel on Melissa and Joey in her 30s, and in between all that made some TV movies and started a production company with her mom, too. In her memoir, Melissa Explains It All, she is quite forthcoming about guys and drugs and partying and admits that while she probably wasn't much different from many 20-somethings she really only made it to adulthood with her squeaky clean image because she never got caught doing naughty things. Now, she's settled down as a wife and mother, the role she is most proud of in her life. The book is enjoyable and her sarcastic sense of humor comes through in her writing. I highly recommend it to anyone who is a fan of Melissa Joan Hart!

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