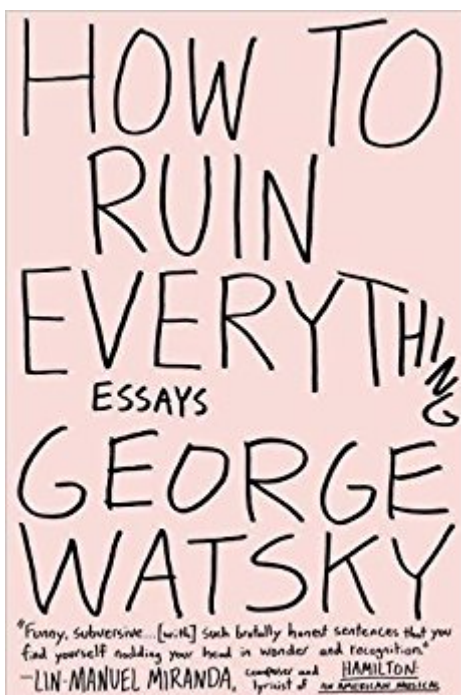


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# How To Ruin Everything: Essays



## Synopsis

"A New York Times Bestseller" Funny, subversive, and able to excavate such brutally honest sentences that you find yourself nodding your head in wonder and recognition." —Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer and lyricist of *In the Heights* and *Hamilton: An American Musical* Are you a sensible, universally competent individual? Are you tired of the crushing monotony of leaping gracefully from one lily pad of success to the next? Are you sick of doing everything right? In this brutally honest and humorous debut, musician and artist George Watsky chronicles the small triumphs over humiliation that make life bearable and how he has come to accept defeat as necessary to personal progress. The essays in *How to Ruin Everything* range from the absurd (how he became an international ivory smuggler) to the comical (his middle-school rap battle dominance) to the revelatory (his experiences with epilepsy), yet all are delivered with the type of linguistic dexterity and self-awareness that has won Watsky devoted fans across the globe. Alternately ribald and emotionally resonant, *How to Ruin Everything* announces a versatile writer with a promising career ahead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Whether you're a fan of Watsky's poetry or hip-hop or a total newcomer, you will find joy in the words contained herein. Watsky in prose form is just like Watsky on a track — funny, subversive, and able to excavate such brutally honest sentences that you find yourself nodding your head in wonder and recognition." —Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer and lyricist of *Hamilton: An American Musical* and *In the Heights* "George's essays will lift you and light you up." —John Green, #1 New York

Times bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars* — Watsky is a skillful lyricist who has successfully transferred his wit, humor and humility into a smartly written collection of essays. *How to Ruin Everything* shows off his versatility as a writer and proves that the nerdy guys can also be part of the cool crowd.

• "Russell Simmons — George Watsky is a lyrical mastermind. Unflinchingly honest, sincere, and gut-wrenchingly funny, *How to Ruin Everything* is one of the best books I've read this year. Watsky effortlessly translates his razor sharp wit from the stage to the page. This will be the first of many amazing books in the life of a tireless artist.

• "Hasan Minhaj, *The Daily Show* correspondent — "In *How To Ruin Everything*, George Watsky sets off around the world to find out why nothing ever explodes the way it should — not fireworks, spicy foods, hip-hop, sex with middle-aged women, or minor criminal activities. Along the way he captures how it feels to be young, in beautiful writing that is compulsively readable, gut-clutchingly funny, and deeply humane. Don't miss it."

• "Jeff Chang, author *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, *Who We Be*, and *We Gon' Be Alright* — "At their best, these essays are incisive and soulful, suffused with scorching wit, careful observation, and probing self-awareness. And at their worst, they're still funnier than anything you're likely to hear at your city's most entertaining bar, even if you drink there every night for a month. Which you might have to, in order to process the fact that a guy who looks like he's twelve just wrote the best debut essay collection of the year."

• "Adam Mansbach #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Go the Fuck to Sleep*" "He reminds me of myself, only a better writer than I can."

• "Rhys Darby, *Flight of the Conchords* — "When George Watsky raps, the quantity and quality of his words and concepts often flow so quickly that you can only hope to let them wash over your consciousness and bathe in their essence, because it's impossible to stop time and live appreciatively in each individual moment. Thankfully though, in this collection of his writings, you can do just that, because that's how reading works. You can examine every drop of Watsky's kindness, thoughtfulness, self-awareness, curiosity, and adventurousness, seeing how he is continually and/or continuously growing as an artist and a human, and you will too."

• "Myq Kaplan, comic featured on *Conan*, *Last Comic Standing*, and *The Late Show with David Letterman*" "How to Ruin Everything is laugh-out-loud funny, painfully honest, and subversively sincere. Watsky speaks boundlessly and insightfully about the life of a creative person. It is instantly relatable, clever, sharp and observant.

• "Jonny Sun, creator of the popular @jomnysun Twitter comedy account and MIT doctoral candidate "George Watsky does again what he does best: attaches disarming, unparalleled wit to the mundane, making meditation of the routine and human. Everything you've come to expect from Watsky the rapper and George the poet is housed in this brilliant and unmatched collection of essays. His unique approach to rhythm is buoyed by his precision of idea

and economy of languageâ |An instant classic." â "Chinaka Hodge, author of Dated Emcees

George Watsky is a writer and musician from San Francisco, California. After getting his start as a teenager in competitive poetry slam, winning both the Youth Speaks Slam and Brave New Voices National Poetry Slam at the Apollo Theater, he has since branched out into hip hop and long-form writing. Watsky has performed on HBOâ™s Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry, the Ellen Show, the NAACP Image Awards, and his online videos have received hundreds of millions of YouTube hits. A committed live performer, heâ™s played hundreds of shows, both with his band and solo, across the North America, Europe, Australia, and India, including festival slots at San Franciscoâ™s Outside Lands, Just for Laughs in Montreal, Rock the Bells, Soundset, Warped Tour, and released numerous music albums and mixtapes, including his most recent projects, a track on âœThe Hamilton Mixtapeâ• in 2016, 2013â™s âœCardboard Castlesâ• and 2014â™s âœAll You Can Do." He graduated from Emerson College with a degree in acting and dramatic writing, where he received the Rod Parker playwriting fellowship, and released a poetry collection, âœUndisputed Backtalk Champion,â• on First Word Press way back in 2006. And although he was forced to write a lot essays in school, he considers this his first attempt at prose.

Amazing compilation of essays written about George Watskys experiences and how he got to be where he is today as a well known rap and spoken word artist. Watskys sentences possess a structure that stands in a class of it's own. The book clearly shows how much potential he has and where he could delve into after his rap career finishes. Good: The book delivers harshly true lines with no sugar coating really proclaiming to us his past encounters with life. He keeps audience's on the edge of their seat through witty sentences that want you wanting more and more and to really understand him. The book changes subject so rapidly that there really is no time to be bored of any story but instead you get lost into the book as a whole wishing each story didn't end as quickly. Bad: On the contrary, you sometimes wish the stories somehow connected and you weren't reading a bunch of short stories but one whole complete novel with all the same characters who you could come accustomed to. All in all the book is unbelievably good and proves that his success in arranging words is valid.

I'm a huge fan of George Watsky!!!!!! Carboard Castles and xInfinity are excellent CDs (and he has amazing videos he produces for and pays for himself) so I was excited to learn he had a book. Just like his songs, these short stories are somewhat self deprecating and teasing about the

stereotypical skinny white Jewish rapper (who spouts off so fast you can't hardly keep up!!!!)

If you've seen Watsky before, this is the book you've been waiting for. If you haven't seen Watsky, his hilarious quips and brutally honest personality will have you laughing and wanting more. The only gripe with the book I have is that the chapters don't seem to follow any order meaning from chapter to chapter you can find yourself lost. The chapters have no basis between each other so if you stop in the middle of a chapter it is difficult to continue where you left off. All in all a great book leaving me in tears, from laughing to crying to everything in between. I would recommend this to anyone that needs a break from the difficulties of real life and wants to remember how fun reading is.

I stumbled on Watson's music which led to watching his web series show thing, and his YouTube videos...he's talented and highly amusing. So when suggested this to me based on my interests I pre ordered the book right away. Excellent read. Amusing, well written...you connect with him and his decisions, mistakes and amusing stories. Great book. If you like Watsky and his quirky lyrics I think you will enjoy this book. I know I did...now can we get Watsky over to Hawaii to play or read please?! Lol ;-p

I blew through this book in just a day because it was such a good read. Watsky is a genius and he's relatable to a white educated suburban guy like me (unlike most hip-hop). I definitely recommend. It's a very humanizing portrait of a very intelligent, complex individual. There are quite a few laughs mixed in with the more-serious human experience stuff. Dude is a master of his craft, no matter what the medium it would seem...If you do decide to pick up this (you should!), I definitely suggest the Kindle version because it has "bonus" photos/videos that relate to many of the stories. Unless you have a paper fetish, spring the couple extra bucks for the digital version...

As an avid fan of Watsky's music & poetry & artistry, I was eager to get my hands on this book to see how he would tackle this new medium. And I wasn't disappointed. These real life stories are an awesome collection that give a different kind of view into George's life and mind. It's a funny and exciting book. And I'm certainly looking forward to more publishings from Watsky!"I wasn't really so interested in the question of what made a man a man anymore - more curious about what made a human a human. Money, recklessness, T levels? A couple of less-manly-sounding words came to mind: intention, serenity, compassion." - George Watsky

George Watsky continually puts out incredible works of art. Going into this, I was expecting comedy much like a lot of his music with mostly play on words and puns. But I forgot that a lot of his work is incredibly serious (i.e. any of his poetry or Sarajevo, Stick To Your Guns, etc) and this book just shows his range as an artist. I read it in about three days and was captivated the entire time.

It's funny, but I never finished it, so I'm giving it 4 stars. 5 stars is for books that push me to plow through them quickly--this one was funny and entertaining but not enough for me to make time for it.

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