



Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal

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The bestselling author of *Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life* returns with a literary experience that is unprecedented, unforgettable, and explosively human.

In the ten years since the publication of her beloved, groundbreaking *Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life*, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Amy Krouse Rosenthal has been quietly tinkering away. Using her distinct blend of nonlinear narrative, wistful reflections, and insightful wit, she has created a modest but mighty new work.

Why the title *Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal*??

- Because the book is organized into chapters with classic subject headings such as Social Studies, Music, Language Arts, Math, etc.
- Because textbook is an expression meaning “quintessential,” as in, Oh, that wordplay and unconventional format is so typical of her, so textbook Amy.
- Because for the first time ever, readers can further engage with a book via text messaging.
- Because if an author’s previous book has *Encyclopedia* in the title, following it up with a *Textbook* would be rather nice.

Not exactly a memoir, not just a collection of observations, *Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal* is an exploration into the many ways we are connected on this planet and speaks to the awe, bewilderment, and poignancy of being alive.

Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal Details

Date : Published August 9th 2016 by Dutton

ISBN : 9781101984543

Author : Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Format : Hardcover 368 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction, Humor, Adult, Writing, Essays, Biography, Biography
Memoir, Poetry, Language

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From Reader Review Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal for online ebook

Janssen says

I just really enjoyed this one. Full review coming.

Julie says

I don't think I can adequately describe how and why I loved this memoir so much. I cried about a billion times and it was worth every tissue. You can text with Amy (from heaven?). She was remarkable and kind and all I want is to rewind time and know her. Or maybe be her. At a time when I had just had long talks with my friend, Kate, about serendipity and coincidence, Amy KR spoke to me about it, too. I finished the book last night and, after climbing back out of bed to go kiss my babies good night, lay in my bed thinking about her and my place in this world. This morning at work, our request list included two of her picture books: Friendshape and Uni the Unicorn and the Dream Come True. Serendipity, indeed.

Janis says

How to describe this entirely delightful and lovely book? I guess I'll call it an interactive memoir. The author shares thoughts and vignettes from her life, sometimes using diagrams and drawings, and invites the reader to participate with texts. She made me laugh and think, and broke my heart a little, and made me glad that the world has Amy Krouse Rosenthal in it. Look for it on its publication date of 8/9/16.

Rebekah O'Dell says

This book is utterly magical. I was even more charmed by this than Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life. And her death has made this book even more heartbreaking -- and also life giving. A must read, and one I will joyfully return to again and again and again.

Peter Derk says

As a reading experience, it's pretty unusual. It's highly interactive, and more than that, it's a memoir that's more interested in connecting readers to each other than it is in connecting readers to the author.

If for no other reason, you should check it out because there aren't a lot of reading experiences that are different from the left to right, ordered text arranged chronologically. Which is weird, right?

I mean, you've got your Houses of Leaves, which is different. You've got your Ships of Theseus. There are a handful of books that do something a little different with the book as an object, that mess with the experience

of reading a little bit, but not a whole hell of a lot of 'em are out there, and only a handful of those works.

This one works. It's different. You'll never read anything else like it. And I hope there will be more stuff like this in the future.

Jen says

Sometimes you mean to read a book. You've heard a few friends and even some patrons mention it, but it just keeps slipping beneath your radar until one day you finally pick it up off the shelf and dig in.

Why did I wait so long to read this? It may be the best book I have ever read, ever. It's a quick read but I found it best to savor each entry. I, of course, am reading it after Amy's death but can FEEL her on every page. I never met her, but I'll be damned if reading this isn't a glimpse into her soul, and what an amazing soul.

Part memoir, part musings, this book is absolutely engrossing. I've never read anything like it. It's set up like a textbook, and the chapters are arranged as "units" and categorized into subjects. It also has an interactive text component so you can receive digital content as you are making your way through each unit. It makes me want to be a better person. To live each day to it's fullest. To give strangers compliments and tell my loved ones just how much I value them. To appreciate each moment, each day for exactly what they are at the exact moment they happen. Look, I know I'm gushing here. It's been a tough year, and this book found me and punched me square in the heart when I needed it the most. It restored a bit of faith in humanity for me. That's a giant assertion, I realize.

There's also a lovely companion website that has extra content on it, most of which is supplied by readers, including a live rainbow feed, readers' self portraits, and serendipitous stories. I dare you to spend a few moments there and not feel a universal connection. Bittersweet, is the fact that the author died in March 2017. Perhaps this was her way of living on in the hearts and minds of her readers.

I hope this book finds its way to you when you need it most. I know it did for me.

Honestly it deserves six stars. It deserves its own rating scale.

Catherine says

Much like Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life, this book is sweet & quirky. It feels like chatting with a friend you don't see very often, but always remember how much you like her when you do bump into her.

I mean, look at the author with her dog:

Who wouldn't want to hang out with this woman?

But notice all that white space? That's not unusual in this book. It's heavy on the cute quirkiness & pretty

light on the actual content.*

Organized into "subjects" (Geography, Social Studies, Art, Science, Romance Language, History, Music, Math, Language Arts) with a Pre-assessment, Mid-term, and Final Review, like a textbook, this is also an interactive TEXT book, allowing you to text the author on various topics, like voting for your favorite bracket style {curly} or [straight], or contributing a self-portrait to be shared on textbookamykr.com

You get funny little moments from AKR's life:

From Geography:

From Social Studies:

Contemplations:

Also from Social Studies:

From Final Review:

There's an interesting section under Social Studies about her year-long experiment in wardrobe simplification. (She stuck with it, but didn't enjoy it.)

And then this truth bomb that I had to show my husband:

(This also applies to ice cream bars in the freezer. **THROW AWAY THE EMPTY BOX, CHILDREN!**)

Overall, it's an optimistic little book that's fun to read, but not life-changing.

*There are longer passages scattered throughout, but on average, I would say (not based on any actual calculations, just my overall impression) this book is 75% blank. If I had paid the \$27 retail, instead of checking this out from the library, I would have been a bit peeved.

Jill Pickle says

I have no idea how to describe this book, but I know it made me very, very happy.

I was trying to read, text the author, and hold the straps on the train so I don't fall down which meant

that...well, fall down it is.

Please don't deny yourself the opportunity to text a self-portrait to the author or vote on the curly/straight bracket game.

Some of my favorite stories were the ones about serendipity. And the purple flower moments--wow. It's so heart squeezey to see an author's interactions with her readers played out in little photo essays and pie charts. So cool. I ♥? AKR.

ILYTY

Marilyn says

I received a message from a friend to whom I had given a copy of Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life several years ago--I think I had multiple copies of it. She informed me of the death of Ms. Krouse Rosenthal. I spent some time watching her alive and well on youtube--TedTalks etc., read her poignant posting in a recent New York Times, then downloaded this on my Kindle, and spent the afternoon reading it. It seemed the least I could do to honor her name. Pure delight. Oh how she will be missed--not only by her family, but by a plethora of complete strangers.

Linda Hart says

I LOVED this quirky, fun, sweet, optimistic, highly relatable book. An "experimental memoir," it is a wonderful glimpse into a woman's life and feels like chatting with a best friend. It is an interactive book that contains a pre-test, midterm, and post-test for the reader. It can be read in just a few hours, but if you are like I, you will want to get your own copy, reread it, and give it as a gift to people you love. It is whimsical, poetic and unlike anything I've ever read. It will make you smile, ponder, laugh, and perhaps shed a tear or two. It contains lots of good visuals...photos, diagrams, drawings, illustrations. Don't wait to read this one!

Gretchen Alice says

This should have been just another volume in the Amy Krouse Rosenthal collection. Instead, a month after the release of this book, Amy was diagnosed with cancer. She published the article "You May Want To Marry My Husband" at the beginning of March and when it went viral, I avoided it for a while because 1) it sounded depressing as hell and 2) I didn't realize it was written by one of my favorite writers. Then someone made the connection and, well, cut to me clicking on the article in the middle of the night with tears streaming down my face in bed. I ordered this book the next day because my library didn't have it and a few days after that, she was gone.

Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life was one of my favorite reads from a few years back and then I discovered her picture books, all of which are in heavy use at my toddler story time. I kind of can't handle the fact that she died so young. *Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal* is especially poignant as her ultimate work since it's really a retrospective on her life to date. It's broken down into typical class topics, like Geography and Art and Language Arts. Vignettes, observations, math equations, charts, and so much more make up the bulk of

the book. It's not quite like anything I've ever read before. There's an interactive element where you can text keywords to a number and send in photos or clues or read an Easter egg story from John Green. She had readers send in suggestions for a tattoo that they would both get--and that really happened! The reader and Amy each got the word "more" tattooed on their arms. The whole experience is fascinating.

The worst/best part is the Midterm Essay, where Amy ruminates on how much time she has left on Earth. "Tell me: How many more times do I get to cut an apple? How many more times will I put on my shoes? Kiss my mother? Use an ATM?" The answer, of course, is not enough. But just as Amy found joy in the ordinariness of regular life, part of finding joy is making peace with the utterly unfair and random cruelty that life sometimes brings. It sucks that she's gone and I'm just some random person, not even a family member or friend. On the flip side, it's miraculous and splendid that I even got to know this radiant human being from her words alone. So, Amy, as you end your book, so I'll end my review.

Bye, Amy.

I love you.

Thank you.

Devin says

If I could write a book like this, I would be happy. It's a perfect memoir/collection of snippets of life. And like my friend said, "small snippets > big stories." I think AKR and I would be friends. I HONESTLY cannot believe there is another soul who looks at boxes of Qtips the same way I do. Very quick read.

Melanie says

I read this library book in a day and then promptly got on Amazon and ordered a copy to keep on my bookshelf. This is one of those books that I'll want to read every year. Amy has such a talent for enjoying the moment, for connecting with people. This book is a smattering of thoughts and ideas. There are poems and pictures and interactive portions in which you can text a message or upload a picture. The title Textbook is, in part, a literal description: a book that instructs you to text. One of the things that makes this book so powerful is that Amy died shortly after it was published. She may have even had her cancer diagnosis while she was writing (I'm not sure). To me this makes her messages of noticing things around you and finding joy in the simple, everyday things in life even more poignant.

Thom says

FTC Compliance - this review of of Textbook Amy Krouse Rosenthal is for an Advanced Reader Copy received from the author.

This author is a textbook case of positivism, and this book is her latest attempt to reach out and touch her audience, making their lives better.

I enjoyed the layout much more than her previous book, Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life. The various anecdotes and experiences are categorized into "subjects", which could allow the reader to set their own course curriculum. I read it in the presented way, mostly smiling and occasionally laughing out loud.

Similar to earlier projects of Amy Krouse Rosenthal, she wants you to be a part of the fun. Interactive text messages and a website complement the text in an excellent way.

I read this book entirely within the scope of a vacation with friends (of more than 30 years) in Nelson BC. The quirkiness of this town and its scenic environs complemented the text well for me. A reader could easily finish this book in a day, though they may come back to it many times afterwards - I know I will. Highly recommended!

Michael says

This book is very short, when you consider the amount of white space. But it contains so much. So much love, so many thought-provoking passages, so much of all of our lives.

In retrospect, the white space is there to allow you time to think, and to soak it all in.
