



A Day In The Life

Theodore Ficklestein

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A Day In The Life is Theodore Ficklestein's debut novel about Nickolas Cripp, a college student finding his way in the world. Although Nick won't admit it, he is the main focus to a young adult book that follows him from his home to college to the city, where he wants to attend an open mic.

Along his path, he encounters a teacher who asks about the apocalypse, a drunk on the train and two friends who feel writing isn't Nick's strong point, among others. Nick soon finds out that the funniest things in life aren't that funny at all, and the greatest comedians never go up on stage.

As he goes through his day, one oddball character at a time, Nick starts to question if the comedy club he dreams of being in, is really for him. Should he be who he wants to be? Or who the world thinks he should be? Neither of which, he is entirely sure about.

A personal journey of self-discovery through the eyes of a youth yearning for meaning in a meaningless world; Nick learns that in life, the joke is on you.

A Day In The Life Details

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From Reader Review A Day In The Life for online ebook

Whispering Stories says

Book Reviewed by Abby on www.whisperingstories.com

Theodore Ficklestein's A Day in the Life somewhat reluctantly follows teenager Nick through 24 hours of his existence, from home to school, back home and to the city.

Told in first person, Nick begins by announcing what he hopes we all know: 'Every story has a beginning, middle, and end.' Except, by following Nick's life in such a self-aware way, I'm not sure this particular story has...

He also uses the introduction to inform us that he's an 'inexperienced writer' and that he doesn't even read: 'I skim most of the time.' Then, we get the first funny: 'I skimmed somewhere that sarcasm is hard to understand in written form, so I suggest buying the audio of this so that you can catch it when it pops up'.

So, Nick is funny. He wants us to know he's funny. It's his thing. In a very self-reflexive way, he wants us to know he's going to be telling a very sarcastic version of events in his own story. Does that mean it's not accurate? As he continues, 'I think I am a pretty reliable narrator. I never lie. Then again, I may have lied there.'

And to the genre? Well, according to Nick, it's not your typical YA book, all romance and self-discovery. Instead, it's only a YA book 'because I am that age'.

Essentially, even just from the introduction, Nick throws us off the scent of your typical day-in-the-life narratives. You don't even know his name is Nick until much later in the story!

Writing isn't even his *raison d'être*, it's comedy. He wants to become a comedian. Once you learn this, A Day in the Life suddenly gets that much more interesting. The novel takes the mundane and seeks out the quirks. From the other comedians-in-training at comedy club The Scraper, to thoughts about himself – 'Most days I look like shit. Today wasn't much different' – to fellow teachers and students.

We follow Nick as he wakes up after a bad night's sleep, goes to school, returns home and eats leftover Chinese food, then gets the train to an open mic. The plot, however, doesn't seem the most important part of the novel. For me, it didn't feel like much actually happened, other than Nick's odd encounters with other people as he went through the day.

The parts I found most interesting were the reflections on himself, which feel very typically YA to me. Points include: 'I'll be honest with you; I don't even want to meet myself', and, the inexplicably funny: 'For some reason, my car is the cleanest thing in my life.'

It also turns out he lives in an area that isn't exactly the most thriving of places for teenagers to live. With his sarcastic mindset, hatred for school, bleak surroundings and awkwardness around others, his comedy career could be either boom or bust.

The last part of the story, 'City', helps us to find out more about the local comedy circuit that Nick finds himself in, as he takes the train to the open mic night in New York City. This is by far the most action-

packed part of the day as his route and his destination is not straightforward. We also witness an unexpected act of kindness from Nick here as he helps someone keep dry from the sudden downpour.

Overall, Nick is a very observant writer, from his descriptions of people and places, to exploring his own thought processes. This is essential in a novel that doesn't feel very pacey. His level of sarcasm is always dialled up to high too. The end of the novel is very satisfactorily Nick, but unexpected, since we're to expect, from the introduction, that there will be an end.

For fans of YA, *A Day in the Life* provides some relief from the well-worn coming of age, get the girl style stories. That doesn't mean to say there isn't a sense of development or journey in Nick's story; just that the tone set from the start means you're not sure what you're going to get until the very end. I'm sure many young adults can relate to aspects of Nick's journey – from not fitting in and self-doubt to moments of brilliance and kindness.

Jessica Bronder says

Nickolas Cripp is a college student that has a lot of ideas but no motivation to actually do them. He has decided that he wants to be a standup comedian. This story is about Nick at home, school, home again, and in the city. We follow him as he comes across several people with different out looks on life and questions that make him think. In the end he learns that the things he tough was funny really are not and comes to have a different outlook on life.

This book is simplicity at its best. You follow a college kid around in his day as he snarks about things that happen around him and to him. But he does learn and gets a different perspective and grows in his own life.

This is a pretty cut and dry story that had me laughing, agreeing with him, and cringing at the same time. I really enjoyed the story but I can easily see how this book might not be for everyone. But I think it is definitely worth checking out.

I received *A Day in the Life* from Sami at Roger Charlie for free. This has in no way influenced my opinion of this book.

Tierney says

Disclaimer: I've received a free digital copy for an honest review of this book.

Nick Kripp would say I don't understand him, which may or may not be true.

Nick is a college student who would rather not be the main character of, well, any book, much less a YA debut novel. He doesn't read beyond what he's ever been assigned, and, even then, he is a self-professed skimmer.

I don't like Nick. Matter of fact, I openly dislike Nick. Most of my amusement while reading came from how ridiculously terrible I thought Nick was for the entirety. I couldn't quite tell if this was the intention for his

character (which shouldn't matter when reading, but, boy, does it matter sometimes). That said, Nick has goals. He wants to perform at a comedy club. He's a journalism major who really loves comedy. Yearning to make witty observations, Nick... tries. Goodness, does he try.

The plot line is muddled, the cross-section of so many dichotomies. Home and college, story and narration attempts at being sage-but-funny. Hints of Carlinesque comedy routines peek through in little cracks of light, but most of the humor made me cringe. Nick reminds me of the actual men I knew in my early college years. The "I'm so great, all my aspirations are golden and everything you like is terrible" guys who want so badly to be cool, they start festering on how uncool everyone else is. (You know, except for the dream girl who is just so unlike other girls. Guh.)

As Nick says, "the verdict is still out on whether I'm funny or not," and now I've read through *A Day in the Life* almost twice and I'm still not exactly sure what to say about it. I have oodles of complaints, but don't I always? Really *A Day in the Life* is not a book for me. I could see why others might enjoy Nick and his humor, but I mostly found myself rolling my eyes in exasperation. That said, I did read through all of it, but that could just be I like being ready to bicker about my opinions.

If you like a second-person point of view, dry comedy, and just want a couple of hours to not worry about your own life, *A Day in the Life* might just be the book for you.

Tena says

I won this in a GOODREADS giveaway sponsored by the author, Theodore Ficklestein, on Fri, Oct 27 2017. I wanted to read it, but my 17 year old son (who also LOVED "This Book Needs a Title: Volume 2") swiped it to read & I haven't got it back yet!

Luanna Helena says

I could probably summarize my review of Theodore Ficklestein's *A Day In The Life* with 3 letters, "LOL". From the attention grabbing beginning, the sarcastic, sometimes near caustic, biting wit doesn't quit until the unexpected end. However, amidst the laughter, readers discover the highly opinionated, snarky narrator's views of life, love, learning, and so much more.

Grady says

'I'm too stupid to be a scientist. I don't know about pons or Kelvins. It's so boring. No wonder no one cares about global warming.'

Try researching the name Theodore Ficklestein on the Internet and all that comes up is a nebulous blog which when the 'About Me' is clicked the following comes out: 'I'm not really a person who likes to describe himself. I think that sums it up pretty well. Honestly I'm filling this out because I have to.' So give up on that angle, open his book titled *THIS BOOK NEEDS A TITLE*, kick back, and meet a person who has a pretty wise grip on the world as it is - senseless, out of order, dumbed down, self conscious about being so culturally out of it, and rather simple minded in the vague patterns we are adopting as comfortable substitutes

for thinking. Likely, if you are in touch with life as it is happening you will laugh yourself silly at this collection of little poems and drawings essentially about very little - except some things that matter.....

Theodore Ficklestein writes poetry (2 volumes) that addresses everything and nothing for all its worth. He inserts little quips, such as 'If you are looking for a summary here about what this book is about, then you have the wrong book' that make us feel as though we are being mocked, but the thing that is being 'mocked' (or better yet closely observed) is the absurd state in which we find ourselves. Afraid to laugh at our own foibles or take ridiculous things seriously (like, say, Donald Trump et al).

Now stepping into a more autobiographical stance Theodore treats us to A DAY IN THE LIFE – and in doing so he manages to implicitly (and frankly!) spin a spotlight on his own foibles as well as mirroring our own. The book takes us through Home 1, School, Home 2, and City. And a for instance is warranted here – from Home 1 – 'Most days I look like s**t. Today wasn't much different. I always tell myself lies about how I will work out more or look better. I'm great at making plans in my head, coordinating the steps I'd need to be successful, but I'm not that good at following them. In that moment, my plan is the best thing ever. The idea is revolutionary and will change the world. Until it sits in a pile on the floor in my room with other "great plans" I've come up with and one day I learn that the idea wasn't so original after all. Someone much smarter than me and more determined and organized created it. If this story is not found in a pile in my room, I'd be surprised. Yeah, even when I look good, I look bad. I have so much black under my eyes from lack of sleep you'd think that I was emo. I look like I am ready to kill someone when I'm exhausted (which is more often than not). It is funny to me since I'm not that pessimistic of a person but people who don't know me and only see my exhaustion may confuse it for anger. Oh no, that guy may blow up a school. He may shoot this place up. I swear I've never even thought about doing such crazy things. I just looked p***ed off when I'm tired. What makes my already appealing appearance even worse is that I hate getting haircuts. I never did like sitting in the barber chair as a stranger cuts my hair, using those absurd tools to be precise with my hair follicles. I sit there hoping the guy doesn't go all Van Gogh on me, and when it is over, I'm always asked how I think it looks. Like I know anything about that. Because now I'm an expert in fashionable hairstyles after sitting in a raised chair for five minutes. A few times I've gone in to get a haircut and told the guy it was awesome only to get home and realize it was awful. That was when I went a bunch. Now I will only get like two or three haircuts a year. That is how much I hate it.'

Or as the author's synopsis states, 'Meet a YA narrator who hates YA books. A Day In The Life is Theodore Ficklestein's debut novel about Nickolas Cripp, a college student finding his way in the world. Although Nick won't admit it, he is the main focus to a young adult book that follows him from his home to college to the city, where he wants to attend an open mic. Along his path, he encounters a teacher who asks about the apocalypse, a drunk on the train and two friends who feel writing isn't Nick's strong point, among others. Nick soon finds out that the funniest things in life aren't that funny at all, and the greatest comedians never go up on stage. As he goes through his day, one oddball character at a time, Nick starts to question if the comedy club he dreams of being in, is really for him. Should he be who he wants to be? Or who the world thinks he should be? Neither of which, he is entirely sure about. A personal journal of self-discovery through the eyes of a youth yearning for meaning in a meaningless world; Nick learns that in life, the joke is on you.'

Take that flavor and spread it around thought he entire book and the result is perhaps not enlightenment about Theodore Ficklestein, but an aching belly from laughing. And there are so many of these little one page observations cum comments cum frustrations that it is impossible to read this book and not look in the mirror with a different glance. Theodore Ficklestein is likely to one day be remembered as one of our more sensitive wits. Maybe tomorrow. Read him.

Sheila says

The protagonist wants to be a comic. He doesn't want to be the subject of a novel. He desires no beginning, middle or end though he realizes stories must have them. And he invites readers to spend a day in the sarcastic world of his inner monologue throughout one day.

I enjoyed the city section of this story best—the time after school, when the protagonist tries to explore the real comedy scene. Perhaps it was because I've not been there, and the descriptions, sarcastically funny, drew me in. The school and home world felt like school and home. The sarcasm felt comfortably familiar rather than cruel. But the day felt long.

A Day In The Life is not long, but it's a slow read, begging readers (too hard sometimes) to enjoy every joke, and pushing skim readers to the fringe. The protagonist would not like a reader to skim.

Aimed at young adults who are tired of endless dystopian female fantasies, I can't be sure, but I'd guess *A Day In The Life* would hit its mark.

Disclosure: I was given an ecopy and I offer my honest review.

Gayle Slagle says

Hmmmm, how to review *A Day in the Life* by Theodore Ficklestein?????? No damn way to do it, but here goes my feeble attempt. First off, I LOVED, LOVED this book but cannot for the life of me tell you why. It is offbeat, oddball, completely outside the box, and bizarre to say the least. It would be impossible to summarize the plot as there is no plot; it would also be impossible to discuss character development as the narrator neither understands himself or expects the reader to understand him. Theme.....well Ficklestein, or whatever his name is, would absolutely laugh his head off if I attempted to state a theme. OK, I'm done.....I cannot review this marvelous book (sorry, Theodore, but I had to throw in that descriptive word). However, if you are one of those people with whom society has problems of one kind or another, I am most certain that you will also LOVE LOVE this book.

Debbie says

This book was base on a personal journal through the eyes of a youth Nickolas Cripp, a college student finding his way in the world, I really enjoy the book it was funny and I found myself agreeing and laughing out loud, I would love to read more about this character like what happens to the rest of his life.
