



Little Me: My Life from A-Z

Matt Lucas

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The hilarious, heart-warming and tear-jerking memoir from one of Britain's best-loved comedians and actors, Matt Lucas.

Hello there. Welcome to my autobiography.

Throughout this book I talk about my life and work, including Little Britain, Come Fly With Me, Bridesmaids, Les Miserables, Alice In Wonderland and, of course, Shooting Stars.

The thing is, this is a bit different to most memoirs you may have read, because it comes in the form of an A-Z.

For instance, B is for Baldy! - which is what people used to shout at me in the playground (not much fun), G is for Gay (because I'm an actual real life gay) and T is for the TARDIS (because I'm a companion in Doctor Who now). You get the sort of thing.

Anyway I hope you buy it at least twice. Thank you.

Little Me: My Life from A-Z Details

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From Reader Review Little Me: My Life from A-Z for online ebook

Mary Thomas says

Thanks to Netgalley for my copy.

This is a charming and witty rather choppy story of growing up as an overweight shy boy with Alopecia trying to find his way in the world. The chapters jump around and you get the feeling this is probably true of Matt himself. He discusses everything from his eating habits to meeting the love of his life.

It is funny, sad and quite negative in parts, however it is very entertaining.

Chris says

Disclaimer: I received a copy via Librarything

This book is so morditorial.

I didn't know when I started watching Little Britain that I had actually seen Matt Lucas in something before. He had a brief cameo in Plunkett and MacLean. But when I first started watching Little Britain, I didn't know that. I know that it just made me laugh.

Lucas' alphabetized memoir will make you laugh (the Jackie Collins story) and make you cry (a story about his father). That's right, it isn't in chronological order but alphabetical order. There is even, as the book's back notes, a song in the middle.

It is entirely possible that the book isn't as personal as some fans might wish. The details about his marriage to Kevin John McGee are too personal to fully share according to Lucas' introduction. Yet, in many ways, it makes the book feel more honest.

Well, that and Kimberly.

Kimberly is very important.

There is of course, quite a bit about Little Britain, including not only the creative process but also whether Walliams and Lucas would do anything different and pushes back against some of the criticism that has been leveled at the show.

But the bulk of the memoir isn't about the television series. There is more focus on family, feelings, views, and coming to terms with one's own sexuality. There is grief in the memoir but also much hope. It is one of those quiet books that actually heals the reader.

Jo-Ann Duff (Duffy The Writer) says

When Little Britain first smacked comedy in the face in 2003, I was immediately on board. A little bit rude, a little bit near the mark, a weeny bit uncomfortable, and very bloody funny. You know when you're scrolling through the TV channels looking for something to watch and always settle on your classics? Well, mine would be Little Britain, Only Fools and Horses and Seinfeld. That level of comedy just doesn't age.

So when I had the opportunity to read Little Me, My Life From A-Z by Matt Lucas I snapped it up. I had absolutely no idea what kind of person he was, after all, I only know him like millions of others; Vicky Pollard (probably my most favourite), the ruthless Marjorie Dawes, and from before Little Britain the Big Baby from Shooting Stars.

The book isn't chronological; it's put together as an A-Z. B for Baldy! N is for Nearest and Dearest, T is for TARDIS etc. At Matt's own admission he's a bit crap with dates, and so this way works just perfectly for both writer and reader. Reading how little Matt lost his hair, how he made and lost friends, and his one true love was incredibly touching in places. Although Matt is very careful not to divulge too much of his personal life, I felt his writing style changed at these points, and I wanted to reach into the pages with a Cadbury's selection box and give him a big old hug.

<http://dai.ly/x4n0wn>. my all time favourite Little Britain clip

Duffy's thoughts on Little Me, From A-Z

Little Me, My Life From A-Z, is not all 'Tears Of A Clown' as Matt's mother remarked after reading the first draft though, so if you are looking for wit old Matty has it in spades. Every now and then a little line appeared which I read in one of his characters voices and I found it incredibly interesting to find out how Matt Lucas and David Walliams came together, their writing process, the harsh old world of the stand-up circuit, and how they broke into the mainstream.

Don't buy this book if you want juicy details on Rebel Wilson or David Walliams. Do buy this book if you want to read about the life of an exceptional comedy writer, and a person full of love, insecurities, and social awkwardness, just like the rest of us.

If you love comedy, good writing and memoirs, get it!

Leore says

4.5/5 stars!

I really really enjoyed this! I only really know Matt Lucas off of a few things he's done, mainly Doctor Who but also Little Britain and plenty of live comedy shows he's been on. And I thought his memoir would be a great way to know more about how he became as popular as he is today.

I loved this book. From his troubles growing up; his life-long illness, coping with his body-image, accepting being gay etc. to successfully becoming a co-creator of a major British Comedy and taking part in lots of popular shows involving some of his childhood idols who are comedians, this book continually became more

interesting. (As well as also being very funny.)

Oh, and I shed a tear at the very end of Chapter 12 (I think that's the one?) Things do get a bit emotional in certain parts.

Shirley Bateman says

Thoroughly enjoyable. The audiobook version, narrated and performed by Matt himself, is fabulous.

Just one quibble. The device detailing his life from A-Z sometimes felt a bit contrived. It also meant that the narrative went backwards and forwards and was sometimes a bit repetitious. That's minor though. By the end, I felt I knew Matt a lot better, as he was very open about his insecurities, inadequacies and failings. I like him a lot and admire his achievements.

Brooklyn Tayla says

Thank you to the publishers via NetGalley for an eCopy of this book to read and review, this in no way impacts my thoughts on the book.

However, as soon as I learnt I was approved for this book, I couldn't wait to dive in! I've always been a huge fan of Matt's, Little Britain had always been one of my favourite sitcoms and his Nardole in Doctor Who is honestly just one of my latest favourite companions.

Whether it was the format of this book, being broken down into sub-headings (following the alphabet), I felt like this was such an intimate autobiography, and yet it felt as casual as catching up with a friend for chips (or crisps, as Matt Lucas says). I mean, it's awesome, he has a chapter devoted to his favourite foods, which I found fascinating to read about and amusing, he gives such passion talking about his favourite foods and flavors of say, chips and chocolates.

I loved the chapters focused on Doctor Who, though I wish it were longer! I bet he and Pearl got up to all sorts of mischief whilst Peter was memorizing those epic monologues that Twelve performed! He speaks so fondly of his co stars, and I'd definitely love to see Nardole back again if that were possible.

The chapters that focused on his early life were so heart wrenching! I had no idea that Matt Lucas was told about that condition which caused him to lose all his hair, at such a young age, and how much he was bullied at a young age, and how he struggled with coming out to his family and friends, which is sad in itself! But these chapters were written with such heart, it was perfection.

Also loved the chapters where Little Britain was discussed, and even in early chapters, there were snippets of how he got inspiration for some characters, eg, a weight loss coach with a loud and shrill tone, wondering if they have "any nooooo members." (For those of you who enjoy Little Britain, you'll definitely appreciate this too.

Filled with anecdotes about being famous and getting recognized whilst out and about with family, and talking about other famous faces and friends, this autobiography is sure to please anyone who's enjoyed Matt Lucas's career, or anyone that loves a great autobiography!

Victoria says

It's okay.

The best thing about this book was getting it as an audiobook on Borrowbox and listening to Matt's voice. I find it strangely comforting... probably because of Little Britain and Dr Who, which are comfort TV for me, so hearing him takes me to that place...

As for the book itself, it's a different approach, working through the alphabet and one that I'm not struck with. It ends on xylophone and zzzzz (are you asleep yet) and he actually manages to continue talking under these headings, which feels forced. This alphabetic, non-linear approach meant jumping about his life quite a bit, to find a story he could link to a letter. I like a linear structure, what's wrong with a normal chronological approach, why make your autobiography link to letters of the alphabet rather than good old date order to make sure we are all on track with where you are in your life. And how can you be sure all the important bits are covered when you work alphabetically.... and there's only 26 things to talk about and one of those is xylophone and another is "zzz".

Mine and Matt's brains are clearly wired very very differently.

I was looking forward to hearing about Little Britain and Dr Who. The former got a reasonable coverage, the latter very little. I think Shooting Stars got most coverage and because of the creative, non-linear approach, we went back to the Shooting Stars days, Vic and Bob, dressing as a baby, about five times over the duration of the book.

I'm struggling to remember much of his story if I'm honest because of the hopping around but something that did come across very much is the "luvviness" with a lot of self congratulatory language..

There's a section dedicated to listing his top 10 foods. Interestingly chips aren't in there because you can't be sure of the quality you'll be given when eating out.. that section took up about 20 minutes.

In seriousness there are a couple of events that he talks about that are deeper, the most significant being the death of someone close to him, which is extremely sad in the way it came about. He's wary of how much to share and quickly moves on. but comes back to this period of his life two more times at different points of the book. Perhaps writing the book this way made it easier for him to open up, as every now and again, in the midst of silliness and luvviness he'd briefly drop in something serious and would then be off into talking about something frivolous again, like the different ways to eat maltesers. I think there's a lot of depth to Matt, that we see glimpses of in this book but he doesn't share much of himself really.

All in all. a recommended read / listen for those who aren't too worried about jumping around timelines, back and forth to the same points - and who generally want a lighter read, not a meaty autobiography.

Lolly K Dandeneau says

via my blog: <https://bookstalkerblog.wordpress.com/>

'I was born a berk. I probably even stubbed my toe on the way out.'

Many Americans recognize Matt Lucas as Rebel Wilson's brother in the movie Bridesmaids (wildly funny), I personally loved him in Little Britain and Little Britain USA when I still lived in the UK myself. This book isn't all laughs, it's an intimate autobiography about Matt's struggles through his awkward childhood, memories of his family, revelations about his love life (including his coming out gay) and his rise to fame. People like to think comedians are all laughs, but they're not. They suffer and struggle just like so many of us, and guess what, fame isn't the key to eternal happiness and perfection.

Though in A to Z order, don't expect too much structure, which may bother some people. For me, memories

are devious and don't play by the rules in our own heads, one minute you're 12 then the next minute a stray thought intrudes and off you go, 25 now. Matt goes back and forth between youth and the present, from his humbling incidents such as with wigs, to his deep sorrows over his father's imprisonment, and death. There had been love too, and the devastation of watching his beloved self-destruct. This book is both humorous and sad.

He is confident and self-deprecating, insecure and courageous. In fact, some of his less than stellar confessions just make him all the more relatable, human. Who knows why we do the crappy things we do to hide our own shame? Not everyone admits to that side though, do they? While his homosexuality shouldn't be a 'theme' of course he touches on it, what it meant to be gay when he was coming up, the shame of it. I am old enough at 42 to know that when I was growing up being called gay was the 'worst thing' you could call someone. Imagine how that felt for people who actually were (are) gay, it's not like it is today, there weren't a ton of stars 'out', not yet. Sure, there were rumours but most adamantly denied it. Add that to his wild allergies, alopecia and you know his childhood had to come with a lot of insecurities and harassment without facing his burgeoning sexuality and yearnings. With a child that suffered through hellish skin struggles (trust me it's not just about appearance, it is painful) my heart sinks with his. Autoimmune diseases are horrid!

Many of the stories are a chronicle of his journey on the road to comedy. It is a reminder that nothing is easy, that behind every star who seems to suddenly get famous overnight, there are years of climbing up the ladder, all behind the scenes. Whether one is lucky enough to have support and mentors or not, it requires perfecting your craft, many failures as much as successes. Matt was acting and living for comedy in his youth, he worked hard for every success he attained. Don't expect any rotten gossip about other celebrities, he isn't trying to sell the book that way. This is like sitting with your friend over drinks in a cozy setting and talking about life, confessing your best moments and your worst. On a side note, I really enjoyed learning how some of the characters were created, like Bitty! My husband, kids and I quote Little Britain all the time! You either get it, or you don't.

USA Publication Date: Out tomorrow October 12, 2018

Canongate Books US

Christiane (Pages Unfolding) says

3.5 stars

First off, I don't really think this memoir was for me. I like autobiographies, interesting personalities, and Little Britain – which basically are the main ingredients of this book. But I think you really have to be a fan of Matt Lucas and know the British comedy scene very well to find it truly great. If you're not so familiar with either of these topics, it still makes for a good read, albeit not a fantastic one.

What's unusual about this book is that Lucas doesn't take a chronological approach, but covers essential points in his life in alphabetical order. I'm still not sure what to make of this. You do get an idea of his childhood, his beginnings as an aspiring comedian, and his subsequent successes. This is indeed intriguing as Lucas has to come up with a chapter for every letter from A-Z, so, for example, you have chapters titled B – Baldy! or E – Eating (a part that I found equally hilarious and disturbing, but I guess that sums up Lucas' personality pretty well). Who can write an inspiring life story that starts with X or Z? Not even Lucas, so these parts become nonsense chapters. Or M – Middle of the Book is a song which you can listen to and sing

along to Karaoke-style online. Granted, that's genius. I loved it! But sometimes the stories became kind of jumbled and repetitive. Also, Lucas likes to digress. A lot. I would say, this is a book that is best not read in one sitting. Enjoy a chapter or two, put the book away for a while, and return to it some other time, which might be another advantage of this non-linear narration. I found myself skipping some sections because the details of the UK comedy circuit or Hollywood life just don't interest me all that much – only to stumble across an anecdote I enjoyed immensely (yes, I did like the one about farting, even though it was disgusting).

As pointed out, I loved Little Britain but didn't know anything about the person behind Vicky Pollard or Andy. The impression I got though is that of a dedicated, self-deprecating, funny, honest, probably batshit crazy, and yet incredibly insecure man, who can be very childlike. Someone who uses comedy and acting to become anyone but himself. I also don't know what to think of the idolization of his ex-husband, who committed suicide a couple of months after their separation. It was heartbreaking to read how he still mourns the love of his life, and I sincerely hope that he will find love again in someone maybe more stable.

All in all, an excellent memoir for die-hard fans of Little Britain and British comedy, and an okay book for anyone else enjoying eccentric personalities and absurd humor.

Little Me is published by Canongate Books. Thank you for providing me with an ARC of this interesting book!

Gabriel Thomas says

really great read, full of heart and cheek

Tori says

4.5

I wish there were 50 more letters of the alphabet... felt like I was having a cuppa with a very interesting, charming friend and I didn't want it to ever end.

I will say for a first book, the writing is moving but the tone is a bit choppy... I am trying to only judge on content though. Would love a bit more opinion but it's all quite nice just the same.

Calzean says

Lucas writes in a whimsical style, a little cheeky, a little different. There's a lot about the English comedy scene, his early life struggling at a high-brow school, the life of a comic starting off, and then his various successes on radio, TV, film and stage. I gained a much better appreciation of the genius behind "Little Britain" and Lucas's many talents.

The best writing is when he writes about his love and the loss of his only long term partner.

Carolyn says

Matt Lucas has a warm, intimate writing style that makes you feel he is someone who you would love to sit down with and have an interesting chat. His autobiography touches all aspects of his life from the early childhood loss of his hair through to schools, university, his year selling Chelsea FC sports gear and his early stand up gigs. He mentions many of the people he has met who he has admired or who have helped him along the way. This is definitely ones for his fans as he relives from his early days with David Walliams on the radio version of *Little Britain* to the TV show and live tours. Mostly his book is filled with life and joy but he touches on the difficult times and loneliness he had at school due to his weight and loss of hair. He also briefly touches on his marriage, divorce and subsequent death of Kevin McGee and his very deep grieving for him. The A-Z format works very well in this memoir and allows Lucas to zip backwards and forwards to the important events in his life and allows him to riff on his favourite topics like eating. It's definitely going to be interesting to see where Matt Lucas pops up next!

With thanks to Netgalley and the publisher Canongate Books for an ARC to read

Laura says

Matt Lucas is most famous, in the United States, for doing *Little Britain* as well as being a companion to the 12th Doctor (Peter Capaldi), in *Doctor Who*. But if you don't watch British shows, you would never have heard of him, and that is a shame.

The British version of this book was called *Little Me: My life from A-Z*, which is a more accurate title for the book, because he does not tell his life in chronological order, but rather alphabetical order. So we go from finding out his first comedy gigs in the D chapter, which stood for doing the Circuit to jumping when he was a child, in the next chapter E, which stands for Eating. If you don't mind this jumping around, as he focuses on one this, it works.

It is kind of nice, that he writes in his voice, so you can hear him telling you the stories. And of course when he comes to G, he talks about "being the only gay in the village", which although he said he didn't create, he identified with quite well.

It is often what he says at the ends of the chapters which make the best points. On Eating, he said he had the tastes of a 9 year old, and on being Gay, he said that he wondered if in 25 years that gay authors would even devote a whole chapter to being gay. \

If you are looking to laugh throughout the book, you will be disappointed. Comedians typically have suffered to get to the state where they can make jokes about it. Matt lost his hair when he was a teenager, and in some of his early routines, he had fun playing about with a wig. He was able to make light of an unfortunate situation.

But if you want to find out what makes the man who he is, this is an excellent book for that.

Thanks to Cannon Gate for making this book available for an honest review.

Laura says

I am quite a fan of Matt Lucas as a performer, and assumed that his book would live up to a similar standard. I whizzed through this book in a day but found it pretty disappointing in terms of content. A fair few of the stories weren't that engaging and I found myself skim-reading some of the chapters. It's an interesting read for any serious Matt Lucas fan, but otherwise I wouldn't recommend this book.
