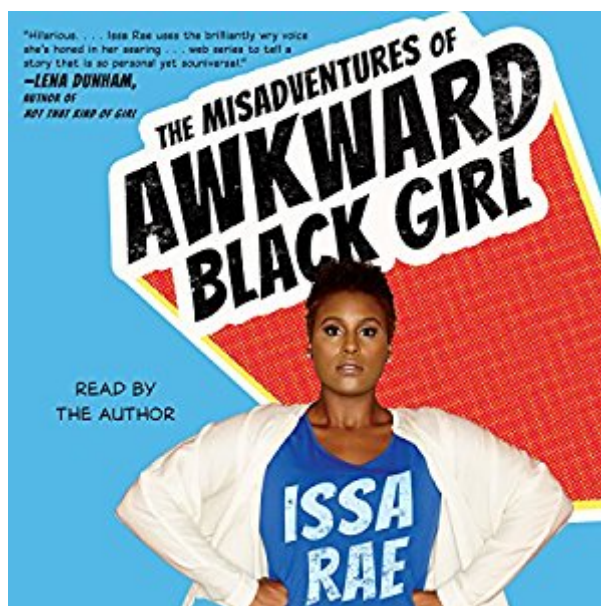


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# The Misadventures Of Awkward Black Girl



## Synopsis

In the best-selling tradition of Sloan Crosley's *I Was Told There'd Be Cake* and Mindy Kaling's *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*, here is a collection of humorous essays on what it's like to be unabashedly awkward in a world that regards introverts as hapless misfits and black as cool. "My name is 'J' and I'm awkward--and black. Someone once told me those were the two worst things anyone could be. That someone was right. Where do I start?" Being an introvert in a world that glorifies cool isn't easy. But when Issa Rae, the creator of the Shorty Award-winning hit series *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, is that introvert--whether she's navigating love, work, friendships, or rapping-- it sure is entertaining. Now, in this debut collection of essays written in her witty and self-deprecating voice, Rae covers everything from cybersexing in the early days of the Internet to deflecting unsolicited comments on weight gain, from navigating the perils of eating out alone and public displays of affection to learning to accept yourself --natural hair and all. A reflection on her own unique experiences as a cyber pioneer yet universally appealing, *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl* is a book no one--awkward or cool, black, white, or other--will want to miss.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I adore Issa! There were moments that made me laugh until I cried because I couldn't believe someone else had gone through some of the exact same things as me! I cried, laughed, and was mortified with her the whole way through. The only negative feedback I have isn't about the content or Issa at all. The book was missing a few pages in the middle. At first it looked like they were just

skipped but on closer inspection, I saw that they were ripped out. I hate that it happened at that point because it was the climax of the chapter I'll have to snag a copy from a friend to find out what happens.

"Being an introvert in a world that glorifies cool isn't easy." I remember sitting in an airport a few months ago while waiting to board a flight to Houston and I decided to start this book and I am so happy that I did. In the past I watched a few episodes of Issa's show on YouTube so I was quite interested in learning more about her as a woman. I will say without a doubt that she is one of the few humans living on this planet that is completely honest with her self-esteem issues and it is all done with humor. "Food is my destination, my journey, my reward, my friend - if only my metabolism matched that of the skinny, crackhead-bodied girls of my high school. How lucky they were!" See, what she just did here??? We all love food, but we are brainwashed by the media that we shouldn't admit it. Issa has no problem admitting just how much she loved to eat but she infused some humor in there as well. This is pretty much the tone of the book. While most of the book has humorous undertones, there are sections that are quite serious. As a black woman, here is my favorite passage from the book: "I love being black; that's not a problem. The problem is that I don't want to always talk about it because honestly, talking about being "black" is extremely tiring. I don't know how Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson do it. I know why Cornel West and Tavis Smiley do it. They love the attention and the groupies. But the rest of these people who talk, think and breathe race every single day - how? Just how? Aren't they exhausted?" I swear it is like Issa knows some of my innermost thoughts! And, with her not being afraid to share her perspective on things such as food, lotion, hair, and black leaders it allows some of us to know we aren't alone in what goes through our brain. *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl* is nothing short of brilliant. It will make you laugh out loud, it will make you think, and it will help make you feel more comfortable sharing your innermost thoughts because you now know you are not alone!

I enjoyed Issa Rae's book. We were born around the same time and it was really cool reading about her internet days. That's how my fast \*ss got my start. In the yahoo chat rooms. I completely died laughing. Reading about the different style of black people was very interesting too. I loved her honesty and I went to her website and watched a few of her videos. I didn't know that's how she got her start. Hope to see and hear more from this young woman.

My middle school students and 10 year old daughter probably think I have lost my mind, because

this book has made me chuckle out loud. I have been "that girl" and I have known plenty of "those girls", yet I have not seen them in print or on television. I have already marked a few essays that I will be integrating into the curriculum, next year. Issa Rae's collection of essays (which can be read in isolation) are so colorfully written and you are almost in the room with her. She also sprinkles her observations on: identity, family, culture, race in America, media representations of people of color and women, stereotypes, etc. After following her and appreciating her content, online, this book offered some insight into her comedic sensibility. Many of the references, humor, and tone carry over from her web series and other online projects. If you are not familiar with her body of work or follow her on social media, I would imagine that the context of some of the essays would be lost. Issa Rae is undefinable, creative, and continues to evolve. I am looking forward to her future projects.

I found myself laughing-- even gasping-- throughout this hilarious book. Issa she's made a collection of embarrassing moments we've all had (many stories from middle school), but instead of reliving them as uncomfortable as they were in the moment, she shines a light of charm on them. It takes tremendous courage to show yourself the way Issa has. I loved reading the perspective from someone who grew up in LA, but didn't fit the mold (there are many of us here!). I would give it six stars if I could.

Its a "not-so-typical" biography and despite the title being "awkward black girl" I believe that anyone who's grown up in an area that didn't necessarily match their racial stereotypes will find this book to be a pleasure. She told stories about her childhood and her transitions through life as well as stories about family. I thought this book was very amusing

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