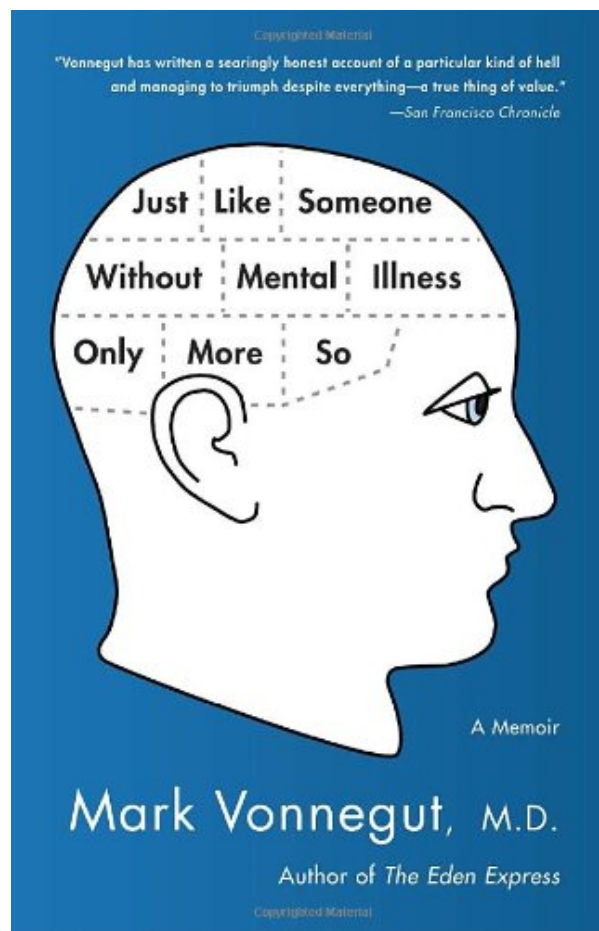


JUST LIKE SOMEONE WITHOUT MENTAL ILLNESS ONLY MORE SO: A MEMOIR BY MARK VONNEGUT M.D.



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"Vonnegut has written a searingly honest account of a particular kind of hell and managing to triumph despite everything—a true thing of value."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*



A Memoir

Mark Vonnegut, M.D.

Author of *The Eden Express*

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Amazon.com Review

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JUST LIKE SOMEONE WITHOUT MENTAL ILLNESS ONLY MORE SO: A MEMOIR BY MARK VONNEGUT M.D. PDF

More than thirty years after the publication of his acclaimed memoir *The Eden Express*, Mark Vonnegut continues his story in this searingly funny, iconoclastic account of coping with mental illness, finding his calling, and learning that willpower isn't nearly enough.

Here is Mark's life childhood as the son of a struggling writer, as well as the world after Mark was released from a mental hospital. At the late age of twenty-eight and after nineteen rejections, he is finally accepted to Harvard Medical School, where he gains purpose, a life, and some control over his condition. There are the manic episodes, during which he felt burdened with saving the world, juxtaposed against the real-world responsibilities of running a pediatric practice.

Ultimately a tribute to the small, daily, and positive parts of a life interrupted by bipolar disorder, *Just Like Someone Without Mental Illness Only More So* is a wise, unsentimental, and inspiring book that will resonate with generations of readers.

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Features

- Bantam

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Powerful and enlightening

By Lamplighter

Pretty much the sequel to "Eden ...", by the same author, and just as powerful. The impact comes from the matter-of-fact style of memoir writing of a "recovering" mental illness afflicted. I almost used the word

"victim", but that would only be appropriate if the afflicted had gone inescapably to his death. This is the first person story of a subject who fumbled and struggled through the baffling onslaught of images and impulses of a mind going off the rails, and with the imperfect help of friends and mental health professionals gained day-to-day control of a potentially crippling and deadly mental disease. Clearly he had the advantage of a favorable social and economic situation, but in my opinion he has done a laudable job of making a worthwhile career to this point in time, and I wish him continuing success. Dr. Vonnegut in his continuing role as a pediatrician devotes a considerable amount of exposition about his medical practice to describing the eccentricities of pediatrics as well as a discussion of the inefficiencies and obstructions of the current American healthcare system which is driven by insurance restrictions and complexity. This portion of the book alone is worthwhile reading as a candid chronicling of this controversial, costly and frustrating system we all must deal with.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This Vonnegut is My Clear Choice

By Robyn Alana Engel

What I like most about this book is Vonnegut's down-to-earth brilliance, which seems anything but brilliant. His gift with words makes it feel as though you're chatting with a good friend in a coffee shop. This friend is so reasonable and compassionate, you can't help but consume his every word, easily agreeing with it. You also can't help but wish he'd been your, or your children or grandchildren's, pediatrician. What I also like is that Mark is the Vonnegut whose reading I choose. It's more accessible, less insane to me, than his father's. {I'm giving it a 4 to leave room for Eden Express' ranking, and because I found some spots to be a bit choppy.} This one will change your thinking about mental health, the medical profession, and - perhaps - the world's greatest author whose son shines brightly under the radar.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Kurt Vonnegut's son, telling his own story of mental ...

By Jeannie L. Stuckey

Kurt Vonnegut's son, telling his own story of mental illness with bipolar disorder. He eventually goes on to Harvard Med, becomes a pediatrician, and finds purpose in his life. Interesting just because of the story, and his famous father, it holds the reader, but not because of the coherence of the writing. I bet you don't get a true sense of the burden of the illness, but you can get that in other books. Mark writes with an ironic tone, and nevertheless makes it through medical school and into a practice benefiting society. This is enough to give hope to others with bipolar, but his particular set of circumstances is his own. At some months after I read this, I have only a spotty sense of the book, so it didn't stick.

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