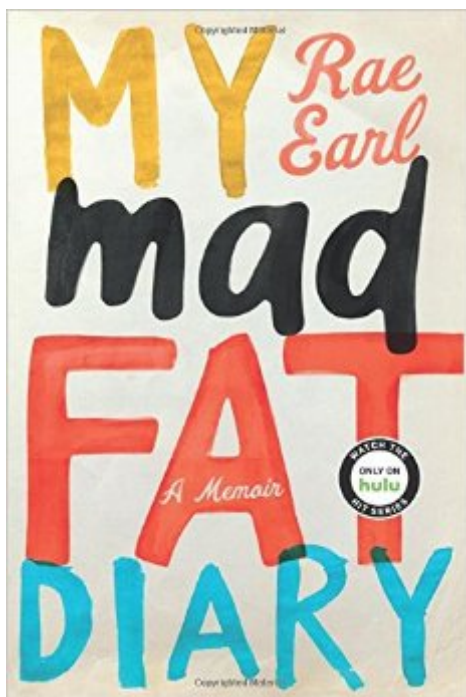


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# My Mad Fat Diary: A Memoir



## Synopsis

It's 1989 and Rae Earl is a fat, boy-mad 17-year-old girl, living in Stamford, Lincolnshire with her mum and their deaf white cat in a council house with a mint green bathroom and a refrigerator Rae can't keep away from. She's also just been released from a psychiatric ward. My Mad Fat Diary is the hilarious, harrowing and touching real-life diary Rae kept during that fateful year and the basis of the hit British television series of the same name now coming to HULU. Surrounded by people like her constantly dieting mum, her beautiful frenemy Bethany, her mates from the private school up the road (called 'Haddock', 'Battered Sausage' and 'Fig') and the handsome, unattainable boys Rae pines after (who sometimes end up with Bethany), My Mad Fat Diary is the story of an overweight young woman just hoping to be loved at a time when slim pop singers ruled the charts. Rae's chronicle of her world will strike a chord with anyone who's ever been a confused, lonely teenager clashing with her parents, sometimes overeating, hating her body, always taking herself VERY seriously, never knowing how positively brilliant she is and keeping a diary to record it all. My Mad Fat Diary is "365 days with one of the wisest and funniest girls in England."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley/the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I love books set in England, so I was very excited about the opportunity to read My Mad Fat Diary by Rae Earl. I usually prefer to read material set in the 19th century, and I am choosing to ignore the fact that a book set in 1989 is almost thirty years in the past, and might be conceivably classified as 'non-historical'. This book was originally published a few years ago in England, and Rae

has kindly included a glossary at the beginning for the American publication. The original English slang remains unchanged, so a glossary is very handy for readers who might not be as familiar with the slang words from England. When the diary begins, seventeen-year-old Rae has just been released from a psychiatric hospital. Rae lives in Stamford with her single mother. She has a stepfather, but he lives in Morocco- it's a long story. They live in public housing, but Rae has a scholarship to a posh girls' school. Rae does not have a lot of close friends at school, and her best friend is a bit of a viper who chips away at Rae's self-esteem. Rae feels self-conscious about her weight, and compensates with humor. She's very sarcastic (sarcastic) and funny. She has a lovely group of friends who she hangs out with at the pub, including some of the boys from the school up the road. Over the course of the year, Rae puts all of her feelings down on paper. She shares her fights with her mother, her feelings about her weight, and the boys she secretly loves. Rae is very intelligent, but she also likes to have a good time. She's creative, and I especially her descriptions of choreographing a version of The Wizard of Oz with 1980s pop music. I loved My Mad Fat Diary. Rae is very funny, and I love her writing style. She's just absolutely brilliant. While preparing to write my review, I've discovered that they made this book into a TV series. It didn't air here in America, but it's available on Hulu. Curiously enough, it's set in 1996-which is just about when I was seventeen- rather than the 1989 like the book. I'm looking forward to watching the series because I can't get enough of Rae. I would absolutely recommend My Mad Fat Diary. Whether you were a teenager in 1989 or whether you're a teenager twenty years before that or twenty years after, there are some commonalities about the awkwardness that is adolescence. Rae is sweet, and earnest, and I am looking forward to reading more of Rae Earl's books, including the sequel to this diary!

I came to read My Mad Fat Diary after seeing the brilliant British television series (now available on Hulu in the US). I could really relate to the series and when I saw that the real diary that the show was based on had been published, I knew I had to read it. Initially, I had a hard time because I was trying to match the characters in the book to the ones on the show. Once I was able to separate the two, the book became more enjoyable. If you've ever been the fat girl, the funny one, or just a teenaged girl, this book will resonate. I'm a few years older than Rae Earl but this could have been my diary, right down to the unending passages about Haddock, her crush, that really don't say anything at all. Everything Rae wrote about in her diary are things that I wrote about in mine. Getting crushes on boys, having self doubt, low self esteem. Covering up your insecurities and learning to cope by being the funny, biting one. All things that I know well. Well

done Rae Earl! I'm happy you shared a little bit of your life with me.

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I really enjoyed this one. I thought it was honest and raw -- which, obviously, because it is edited versions of Rae Earl's actual teenage diaries. Kudos to Rae Earl for publishing those because my teenage diaries are never going to see the light of day ever again. I have lots of good things to say about this one. It was so truthful and it transported me back to when I was a teenager. I liked that no punches were pulled and while some of this may have been edited, it didn't feel like it. I felt like I was really reading the thoughts of a 17 year old. I also liked that I could live vicariously through Rae in her life as a teen in the UK. It sounds just as boring as life as a teenager in Canada. The only thing was that because it is only a year, it doesn't feel complete. It doesn't really feel like anything actually ~happened~ per say because it ends abruptly. And a lot of this was "filler" in a sense. I think I would have liked to been able to read all the volumes at once so that I could get the "full" story in completion rather than just a little snippet here. But I have high hopes for the rest and can't wait to get my hands on them! If you have ever felt alone and unsure of whether your friends or that cute boy likes you, this is one for you. It is a quick and easy read and so so relatable! I highly recommend checking it out.

The voice is compelling - funny and poignant. But it's a lost-lose compromise between fictionalized memoir and non-fiction; these seem like the actual diary entries they are, and the pace become monotonous after awhile. Simply put, there's not enough story. I'd love to read a Bridget Jones-type fake diary written by Earl, or to browse her actual diary through blog entries. As a narrative, it doesn't hold up. (N.B., I root for the real-life person who wrote it. Like, a lot!)

The basis for the wildly popular BBC series, Rae Earl is a 17 year old girl in Lincolnshire, England in 1989. She wants to look like her MTV music idols, skinny and gorgeous, all the better to get her hands (and other body parts) on the boys she lusts after. The truth is, she couldn't be farther from those skinny singers if she tried. She's just a tad overweight, or as she bluntly says, fat, and she's just been released from a psych ward. Anyone who lived through the eighties will recognize the sheer weirdness of the times. Earl's black humor is sharp and entertaining

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