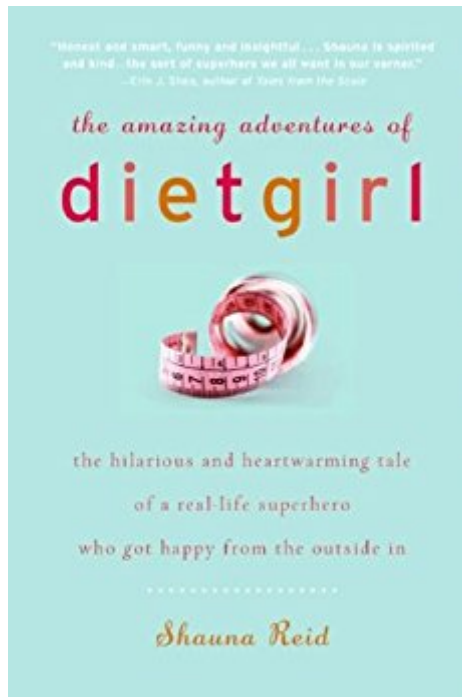


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The Amazing Adventures Of Dietgirl



Synopsis

At just twenty-three years old, Shauna Reid weighed 351 pounds. Spurred into action by the sight of her enormous white knickers billowing on the clothesline, she created the hugely successful blog "The Amazing Adventures of Dietgirl." Hiding behind her Lycra-clad, roly-poly alter-ego, her transformation from couch potato to svelte goddess began. Today, eight thousand miles, seven years, and 175 pounds later, the gloriously gorgeous Shauna is literally half the woman she used to be. Hysterically funny and heart-wrenchingly honest, The Amazing Adventures of Dietgirl includes travel tales from Australia to Paris to Red Square, plus romance when she meets the man of her dreams in a Scottish pub. This is the uplifting true story of a young woman who defeated her demons and conquered her cravings to become a real-life superhero to inspire us all.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a read-cover-to-cover-in-one-sitting book. While it is nominally about weight-loss, it's really a story about getting your priorities right and how to live life well. Indeed this presents as one of the keys to weight loss. It is therefore invaluable in that it implicitly exposes the futile, depressing and exploitative nature of fad diets while simultaneously showing you something far more positive. This book lingers with you long after reading, nudging you into asking yourself some powerful questions

about the decisions you make everyday. The amazing thing is this is all done very subtly, and therefore generously. Unusual within weight-loss genres, Shauna is far from didactic, nor does she condescend to offer advice. In fact she is very humble, and you get the impression that she's got a lot going on. While the narrative travels smoothly and lightly, it should not fool readers into thinking that Shauna's journey was quick or easy. In reality readers will relate to some deep core issues about self-worth, body image, family, love, the self and other, change, self-knowledge and self-development. This is a moving story which causes you to reflect on your own values and has the potential to help you develop an enriched understanding of your place in the world. It affords a sense of clarity and determination that is addictive. Thankfully Shauna's blog of the same name means the narrative progresses online, where you can continue to follow the story of this remarkable woman.

I started following the Dietgirl blog a few months ago, and I've read through a number of the archives. "Dang!" I thought to myself. "This girl is *funny*!" I preordered the US book awhile back, happily received it on New Year's Eve, and spent the evening (and a few days after...only because of family/job demands, otherwise it would have been devoured in one sitting) reading this book. Totally missed tuning in for the 9 p.m. (PST) dropping of the ball in Times Square, which usually marks the high point of our personal festivities. (We're such the party animals.) This book is brilliant! (And not, I'm not just gushing about it because I was desperate for a read at all, let alone a good one.) Remarkably insightful observations of things I loved about the book:- Numerous laugh-out-loud funny parts- Parts that made me feel sympathetic, that I could relate to, and that made me ponder my own quest for fitness- It's *true*!- The themes: Fitness is not *only* about the scale or a pant size. Don't wait until you're at the "ideal" weight to do the things you really want to do. Don't let fear stop you. It's a message that a lot of people need to hear. (Like Oprah, for example. Girlfriend, pull your head out of Hollywood and plunk it into this book!) The drawbacks?- Being irritated at what or whom ever pulled me away during reading- Potential financial ruin from buying copies for family (especially the nieces) and friends- Having to *wait* until Shauna Reid (hope! hope! hope!) publishes another book! (Don't wait as long as that OTHER Edinburgh author, please!)

You might think that if someone wrote the truth about living through the process of weight-loss, the book would be so much of a downer that you couldn't bear to both live that life AND read about it at the same time. Think again! Shauna Reid has been "lard-busting" for years and years with amazing success: not only has she lost half of her starting weight, but she's kept her sanity and her raucous

sense of humor throughout. It's rare to find someone who is up-front and honest about the godawful process of weightloss AND who can still laugh about it. This is a book that covers Shauna's "transition years" between the day she reached her breaking point and started lard-busting in earnest, and the day that she found herself happy and comfortable in her own skin. We get to see huge life-changing events-- large amounts of weight lost! moving across the world! touring Europe! re-learning romance! hashing out last-minute ways to stay in her new home!-- complete with all the embarrassing details that make it both human and hilarious, as Shauna grins and shakes her head wryly at the whole ridiculous process of life. Read it. You won't be disappointed.

Mothers can do much emotional damage to daughters from their own insecurities and this book is an example. I totally get the critical mom always harping on appearance and how it affected Shauna. Am happy that the author finally found how to be her own best friend like so many of us struggle to do. Her journey through fatdom was descriptive and cleverly written. Enjoyed this book a lot.

I purchased this book on a whim in the train station before a 7-hour train trip, intrigued by the concept of a book based on blog entries. Because of the title, I thought this book would basically be a "how I lost a lot of weight" story, but in the end, it was so much more. The author's blogs tie together her life's journey from an overweight and unhappy woman living in Australia, to a vibrant adventurer living in Europe and travelling throughout the world. The transformation journey is craftily described by the author, who is thoughtful and witty. For those hoping to lose weight, this book is inspirational. Shauna lost half her body weight over the course of several years, using various methods described in the book. Ultimately, however, what I took away from the book is that to become the people we want to be, we must be willing to take risks, work hard, and accept ourselves - regardless of our size. 5 stars - a wonderful read.

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