



# This Is a Book

By Demetri Martin

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## This Is a Book By Demetri Martin

From the renowned comedian, creator and star of Comedy Central's *Important Things with Demetri Martin* comes the paperback debut of his bold, original, *New York Times* best-selling humor book.

**THIS IS A BOOK** was an instant and long-lasting *New York Times* best seller, and is the renowned comedian's hilarious foray into prose comedy. In these pages, Martin expands on the sensibility he's developed on stage as an award-winning stand-up comedian and on television as a writer-performer on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and his own Comedy Central series, *Important Things with Demetri Martin*.

Featuring narrative essays, short stories, and conceptual pieces (such as "Protagonists' Hospital," where doctors treat only the shoulder wounds of Hollywood action heroes) as well as Martin's signature drawings, absurdities, and one-liners, **THIS IS A BOOK** delivers sharp jokes, colorful characters, and interesting surprises.

Martin takes readers to places as far-off as Ancient Greece ("Socrates's Publicist") and the distant future ("Robot Test," where everyone must take a test to prove that they are not robots). He recounts a lonely man's visit to a strip club in the form of a five-hundred-word palindrome ("Palindromes for Specific Occasions"). And he examines the human condition ("Human Cannonball Occupational Hazards") and the competing world-views of divergent groups ("Optimist, Pessimist, Contortionist").

Martin's material is varied, but his unique voice and brilliant mind will keep readers in stitches from beginning to end.

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## This Is a Book By Demetri Martin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #66440 in Books
- Brand: Grand Central Publishing
- Published on: 2012-04-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .75" w x 5.50" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this collection of essays, musings, and drawings, Comedy Central host Martin (*Important Things with Demetri Martin*) gently skewers contemporary social trends, conventions, and insecurities, taking on topics from social hotlines to family and relationships. With a gift for describing awkward situations, Martin challenges readers to recognize the human need for connection and recognition. The theme is seen in a panel in which a limousine displaying two flags on its hood is labeled "important"; another displaying seven flags is "very important." He also answers the big questions with essays like "Who I Am" in which he declares: "I am bravery. I am courage. I am valor. I am daring. I am holding a thesaurus." Throughout, Martin jokes in many guises, silly one moment, barbed the next, and he achieves a satirical brilliance that moves easily among surprising topics, like philosophy, to easy targets, like healthy lifestyles. (Apr.)

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Review

"This book embodies the essence of Demetri's comedy to perfection, which is a good thing since he wrote it. Silly but incredibly smart, it's exactly what puts me in awe of his work."

**-Will Ferrell**

"When I first saw *Important Things With Demetri Martin*, I said to myself, "this is the funniest thing ever." I was wrong. *This Is A Book* is better." **-Malcolm Gladwell**, author of *Outliers: The Story of Success*

"This book is so funny I forgot to laugh. I know that sounds like a childish criticism, but I mean it literally: This book is so funny, I forgot a whole bunch of things--who I am, what I stand for, large chunks of my childhood, my sense of equilibrium, how to fall asleep, and when I'm supposed to laugh at things." **-Chuck Klosterman**

"Demetri Martin has a very funny and original mind. If I could draw a graph explaining how funny and original he is, I would. But I don't do that. Demetri does that." **-Conan O'Brien**

"Throughout, Martin jokes in many guises, silly one moment, barbed the next, and he achieves a satirical brilliance." **-Publishers Weekly**

"The best [material] would be at home in one of Woody Allen's classic books...Martin has energy to burn." **-Kirkus**

About the Author

Demetri Martin rose to relative obscurity when he started doing stand-up comedy in New York City at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Later he became a writer at *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and then a regular performer on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. In 2003, Demetri won the Perrier Award at the International Fringe Festival for his first one-man show, *If I*. He released a comedy album called *These Are Jokes* and then created and starred in his own television series called *Important Things with Demetri Martin*. His first stand-up comedy special, *Demetri Martin. Person* is considered by many to be his longest and only hour-long stand-up comedy special. Martin has appeared in movies as an actor, most recently in Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion* and most lengthily in Ang Lee's *Taking Woodstock*. His first book, *This Is a Book by Demetri Martin* is a *New York Times* Bestseller. Demetri has brown hair, and he is allergic to peanuts. You can find him at [www.demetrimartin.com](http://www.demetrimartin.com), at [www.facebook.com/demetrimartin](http://www.facebook.com/demetrimartin), on Twitter @demetrimartin, and in various places in the actual physical world.

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