



Should You Judge This Book by Its Cover?: 100 Fresh Takes on Familiar Sayings and Quotations

By Julian Baggini

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“Life is not a dress rehearsal.” — Rose Tremain

“It’s easy saying what things are not. Life is not a bed of roses, God is not an old man sitting in a cloud, winning isn’t everything. Some negations, however, are more informative than others. Thinking about why an egg is not an elephant won’t get you very far, whereas realizing life is not a dress rehearsal might. It’s a reminder that this life is a one-shot deal, and if you mess it up, there’s no second try.”

In *Should You Judge This Book by Its Cover* philosopher Julian Baggini examines the meanings behind a host of everyday expressions. Is it really always better to practice what you preach? To do as the Romans do? To be safe, not sorry?

In his quest for clarity in everyday language, Baggini leaves no saying behind as he considers such expressions as “You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink” and “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Far from a reference book, this entertaining collection is full of short, stimulating capsules of defiantly clear thinking that are meant to fuel thought and conversation.

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Praise for *What’s It All About?*

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“Looking for a clear guide to what contemporary philosophy has to say about the meaning of life? Baggini takes us through all the plausible answers, weaving together Kierkegaard, John Stuart Mill, Monty Python, and Funkadelic in an entertaining but always carefully reasoned discussion.” —Peter Singer, author of *How Are We To Live*

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“Informative, thought-provoking, and entertaining in the process. The book takes a refreshingly personal approach and offers an encounter with a vigorous mind at work, puzzling through the issues in a trenchantly argued but subtly reasoned way.” —*New Humanist*

About the Author

Julian Baggini is the editor and co-founder of *The Philosophers' Magazine*. His books include *Do You Think What You Think You Think?* (with Jeremy Stangroom), *What's It All About? - Philosophy and the Meaning of Life*, the bestselling *The Pig That Wants to be Eaten*, and *The Duck that Won the Lottery*, all published by Granta Books.

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