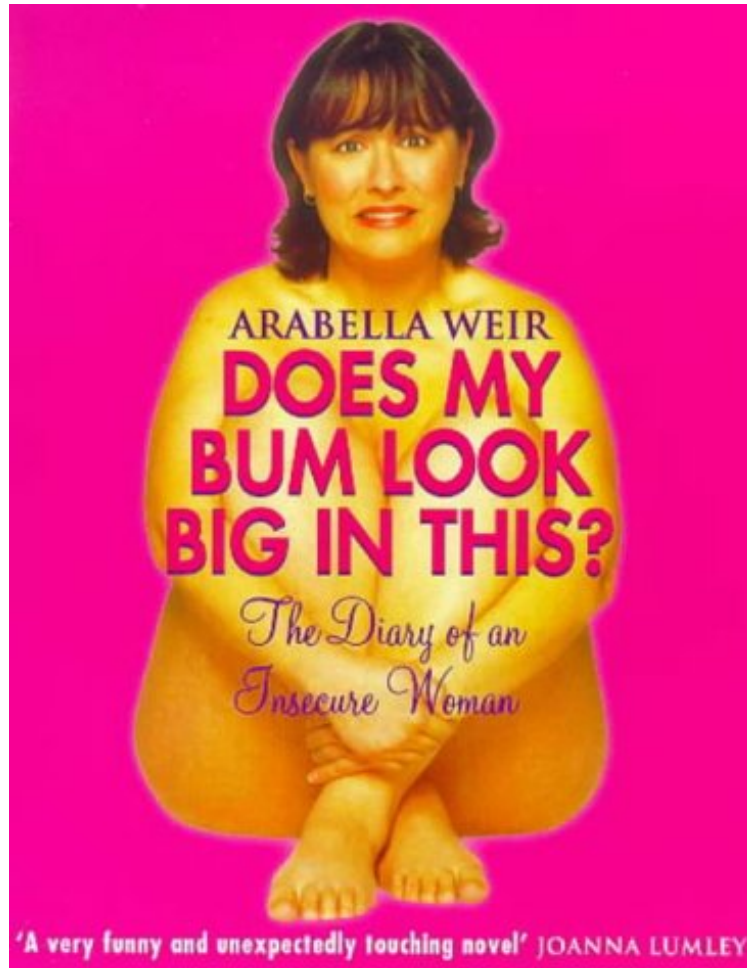


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Does My Bum Look Big in This

Arabella Weir

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Arabella Weir : Does My Bum Look Big in This before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Does My Bum Look Big in This:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not a very funny read
By Elisa
I bought this book because the title reminded me of me. Women all have their "oh my god, I look awful today" moments, I think, and I know that I have them pretty often, so I thought a book that looked at it with irony could be a good remedy. Perhaps I was right, but this book isn't exactly it. First of all, this is an imitation of Bridget Jones' Diary. Aside from the book being a diary, we have the age of the main character (in her 30s), the fact that she is single and her family gives her a hard time at it, her obnoxious mother, her best friend, whom she calls at any time of the day and night to ask for comfort and help, the fact that she's an assiduous reader of self-help books, and that she's constantly alternating bingeing with a very strict diet; all these points she has in common with Bridget. That said, the similarity ends here. Jaqueline, the main character of this book, doesn't have Bridget's humor nor her self-irony, instead she obsessively analyzes everything people say

and do around her, and concludes each time that there was an implicit message about her being overweight, and having a big bum; she also goes on starvation for days at a time, as preparation for big events. The description of these disturbing behaviours is not filled with irony or made fun of, which make the reader realize that she is slightly paranoid and has an eating disorder - who would want to read the diary of a person like that? Sure not a cheer-up reading. The constant worrying about how fat she is and so on, that is true, it occurs, but here it's taken way too far, and with that it stops being funny and normal and becomes somewhat... crazy. So this was not a very funny read to me, though it did give me food for thought - how far can we go in our worrying about our less-than-perfect body? How do we stop before that starts influencing the way we see things and we stop having fun and enjoying company because of it? 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ok, but Bridget Jones is better. By Ms Diva I could relate to Jackie's angst about her weight, and her quirky relationship with her mother. I think the book has something to say about the way our society puts so much emphasis on physical attractiveness. But Helen Fielding covered that particular issue far more effectively than Weir. That said, Weir does have skill as a writer; she made the relationships between the characters interesting and believable. I could relate to Jackie's self-consciousness. The problem is Weir took it too far. I got tired of Jackie's constant whinging and obsessing. She just was not someone I could empathize with in the end, because her perpetual victimhood was just too much to take. I wanted to smack her. The character came as shallow, self-centred, immature and two dimensional. I, too, struggle with weight issues, so I respect the pressure women are under to meet the ideal. But most of us, while we have moments of insecurity, don't let our weight rule our entire lives. What was especially bad was Jackie wasn't even all that overweight. The satire fell flat there. I just couldn't relate. This book is somewhat funny, but not as funny as Helen Fielding. Weir actually borrows some of Fielding's literary techniques, like the diary format and the New Years Resolutions. The novel suffers in that Weir is no Helen Fielding, and Jacqueline is no Bridget Jones. She doesn't have Bridget's wit, or self-awareness. Although imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the original still can't be beat. Re-read Bridget instead. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thanks Ian for buying me this wonder book. By A Customer I was in London when I first saw this book. Ian has this book bought for his only sister and me. This book is about a very insecure (and quite attractive, I suppose) woman and her life, both private and work. I think most women are like this: too concerned of how people think of them, think too much (especially why do and why don't people say such and such), always think of how nice their ex-boyfriends are, how bad their parents treated them when they were young etc. By doing so, in fact, they lose themselves. Most of us do not treasure much about what do we have in the present and do not trust others. Read this book and you can find yourself in there. Actually, it's amazing to see there's (or there are) people think and act like me at the other side of the world. Now I feel very delighted, knowing that I am not the only one. This book is actually a very touching book if you read right through the end. I would like to recommend this book to you, not only female readers but also male, because you can understand women better! Thank you, Ian again and again for buying me this book; I wish I can see you again.

Jacqueline M. Pane is an ordinary woman in her 30s and she knows her life would be perfect if only she had a small bum, sticky-up bosoms, and a Prada handbag. She has fine-tuned paranoia and applies it to every area of her life, from her earrings, cellulite and job, to the men in her life.

A hyper-active stream-of-consciousness confession which is both very funny and unexpectedly touching! Joanna Lumley DOES MY BUM LOOK BIG IN THIS? This was a question that had to be asked and thank God someone has had the courage to answer it. This is Weir's first, and in my view by far her best, work to date. Angus Deayton Interestingly, Arabella herself doesn't have a big bum at all, it's really quite small. In fact, we're happy to tell the whole world about just how small it is, honestly, we are, just as soon as she stops sitting on us. Paul Whitehouse Charlie Higson This book does for bums what Cyrano de Bergerac did for noses. Alexei Sayle About the Author Arabella Weir is a writer and performer who started her career as the gladioli wiper for Dame Edna Everage. She appears regularly on television in various guises - in all of Alexei Sayle's TV series, HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS and THE LENNY HENRY SHOW. She is one of the regular cast of THE FAST SHOW for which she created and performs 'Different with Boys' and 'Insecure Woman'. This is her first book.