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Newsfail: Climate Change, Feminism, Gun Control, And Other Fun Stuff We Talk About Because Nobody Else Will



Synopsis

A “feisty, literate, and uncompromising” (Publishers Weekly) primer on the most urgent issues of our day, from the creators and co-hosts of Citizen Radio, a listener-supported show whose slogan is “independent radio that won’t lead you to war.” #Newsfail is definitely not your grandmother’s comedic-memoir-slash-political-manifesto. From page one (in a preface titled “In Which the Authors Interview Ralph Nader in the Bathtub”), comedian Jamie Kilstein and journalist Allison Kilkenny pledge to give you the news like you’ve never gotten it before. On issues ranging from feminism to gun control, climate change to class war, foreign policy to net neutrality, they tell you how the mainstream media gets it left, right, and utterly, unforgivably, irresponsibly wrong—think Noam Chomsky as channeled by Fred and Carrie from Portlandia. #Newsfail is all this, plus the story of Allison and Jamie’s own DIY foray into independent media via their podcast, Citizen Radio, which has featured guests such as Jeremy Scahill, Sarah Silverman, Glenn Greenwald, and Neil deGrasse Tyson, and been downloaded millions of times by people all over the world. In #Newsfail, they “make a strong case that a greater range of voices needs to be part of the national media discussion, including theirs” (Kirkus Reviews). Their mission is truth-telling above brainwashing. All you have to do is listen.

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Customer Reviews

“Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny are a modern day social justice, non-violent, vegan,

punk, anti-war, feminist Bonnie and Clyde. Their weapons are simple: the pen, the airwaves, and a searing sense of humor. Their targets are the rich, the powerful, corporate media barons and basically any major league assholes. — (Jeremy Scahill, Academy Award nominee and author of *Blackwater* and *Dirty Wars*) — “Feisty, literate, and uncompromising, the work of Kilstein and Kilkenny stresses the role of a free and independent press as a powerful guardian of democracy. — (Publishers Weekly) — “[Kilstein and Kilkenny] make a strong case that a greater range of voices needs to be part of the national media discussion, including theirs. . . . A call to action for those who don’t like the news to make their own. — (Kirkus Reviews) — “[*Newsfail*] is one hell of a feisty, intelligent, and uncompromising read. This particular hybrid of memoir and truth-telling will make you rethink not only where you get your news, but how you get it, and what really matters when it comes to discussing the subjects humans should find vital to our existence. — (Bustle) — “Kilstein and Kilkenny sound so damn smart and exude an aura of cool that you find yourself nodding along — | they intersperse funny, personal anecdotes among the serious and often downright depressing facts and figures. Between the pages of political agitation is a self-deprecating, snarky love story. — (Red Eye) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jamie Kilstein is a stand-up comedian, who has been featured on *The Conan O’Brien Show*, *Showtime*, *Up With Chris*, *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*, and *NPR’s Weekend Edition*. One time, Glenn Beck called him a doofus, which is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to him. Allison Kilkenny has previously reported for *The Nation* and has appeared on *MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry Show* and *Up With Chris*, and *Democracy Now*. One time, G. Gordon Liddy told Allison that her writing — “makes him want to vomit, — which is the nicest thing anyone has ever said to her.

#newsfail is an excellent dystopian novel, detailing an alternate world where the news is not “fair and balanced”, but rather controlled by corporations whose duty to their shareholders outweighs their duty to present the facts. In this frightening world, the people are duped into acting against their best interests, whether it be by accepting school massacres as the price of freedom, or unending war, or that climate change is fake. Thank the nonexistent gods we don’t live in such a world. Crap. I hadn’t noticed the citations. This is real life?

Brilliantly written, informative, and incredibly funny. I find it impossible to not be inspired by Jamie

and Allison. This is the first time I've written an review for something. I've been propelled to not only help Jamie, Allison, and independent media by giving their amazing book a review, but to follow the inspiration that comes after finishing their book into working harder to be better informed and more active.

After finally getting to a computer to write a review, I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I love Citizen Radio to begin with and the book was just as funny and logical as the show. It's exactly what I'd expect out of these two. I thought the authors did a good job balancing facts with humor, while keeping a healthy dose of reality in the text. There were times I found myself laughing out loud while reading. Overall, it was an easy, informative read (read it in about a day). I would wholly encourage people to buy a copy for a friend to pass it on. It's a great intro to progressive politics without being preachy. Loved the book and bought copies for friends. Great job Allison & Jamie!

Early in the book, Jaime and Allison talk about how they wanted Citizen Radio to be a funny sort of Democracy Now. They wanted to use humour to teach people. This pedagogy of humour is in full force throughout #NEWSFAIL. Anyone who considers themselves progressive should read this book. It might be eye-opening to some, and ideologically reinforcing to others. Aesthetically the book is really pretty, and hardcover! If you are thinking about buying this book, you should!

This is the book everyone should read. Not only are Kilstein and Kilkenny brilliantly funny, they are also deeply insightful into the failures of mainstream media. This book will not only have you laughing out loud, but also thinking deeply and getting mad at the lack of in-depth coverage the media provides us. Reading this book will help you better understand the problems with the media and how independent media can help us by showing us the real stories and perspectives on what is happening in our world. Buy this book to become a more well informed citizen and to become part of the solution rather than the problem.

If you have listened to the author's podcast, you will hear their voices in your head as you read the book, which makes reading the book a blast. You can even guess which parts were written by Jamie and which were written by Allison, as they have distinct and complimentary voices, though I'm sure there are a lot of parts I thought were written by one but were actually written by the other. They are both so smart and so funny. I suspect if you have never listened to their show, it won't take away from the experience...it'll just make you want to start listening to the show.

This book is incredible. The authors are professional smashers of pre-conceived notions. You can be vegan and call out PETA's terrible, sexist ad campaigns. There can be comedy that is funny and doesn't s*** on women. You can be liberal and still think MSNBC and the Daily Show have a chronic problem with giving war criminals airtime. Jamie Kilstein and Allison Kilkenny are stretching the political dialogue further to the left by producing informative, hilarious, and at times enraging media including this book and their daily podcast Citizen Radio. The authors are the reason I have hope that my generation can take on the daunting issues we face. Now buy this book, read it, become righteously enraged, and start changing things for the better.

As a college student I don't get the chance to read much outside my assigned reading for the semester but I am making time for Newsfail. This book brings together so much information and connects many of the larger issues facing our society today in one place. Humorous. Informative. Riveting. This book is worth it and I'll be buying everyone I know a copy of it either for Christmas or their upcoming birthday!

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