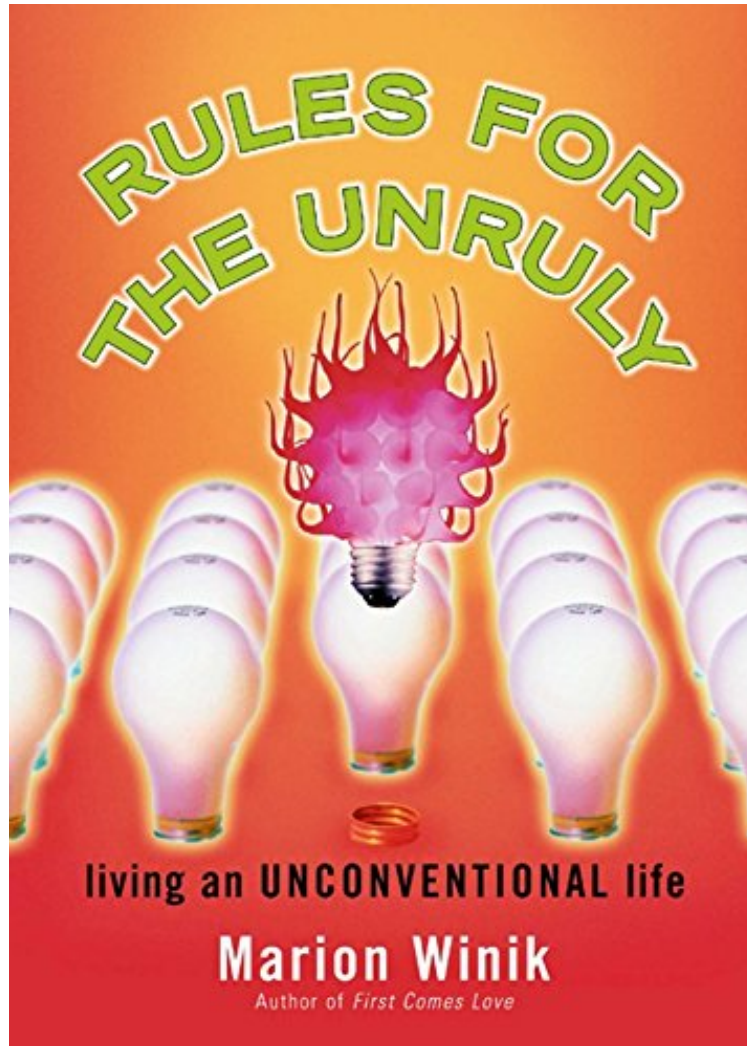


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Rules for the Unruly: Living an Unconventional Life

Marion Winik

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Marion Winik : Rules for the Unruly: Living an Unconventional Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rules for the Unruly: Living an Unconventional Life:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. inspiringBy Kate ChopinRules for the Unruly inspires and delights with wisdom and funny stories . . it's a book to share yet keep for those days when you feel discouraged. Marion Winik has a flowing, pleasing writing style that sounds conversational yet so well put together. And her life story is intriguing, such that I'm curious to read her memoirs. Definitely the perfect graduation present!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, moving, timelessBy AnaSnowThis book is excellent. Even though it was conceived as advice for soon-to-graduate high school students, I've read it numerous times, just to touch base. It's easy to forget the lessons Marion writes about, and I think we could all be reminded of them, regardless of age. This is an advice book that reads like a memoir and is extremely wise and touching. I read "Tiny Beautiful Things" and was

constantly reminded of *Rules for the Unruly*. This book is what *Tiny Beautiful Things* aspired to be, but wasn't. 18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Cherish your inner weirdness
By Mary G. Longorio
I am a die-hard fan of Marion Winik. From my first exposure to her work in *Texas Monthly* magazine, I was hooked. So, I was taken aback when I was directed to the self help section for her latest title. Self help? Marion Winik pokes fun at self help books, she doesn't write them. Don't let category fool you. Once you pick up this book, you won't want to put it down. Winik gives seven rules to live your life by, among them "mistakes need not be fatal", people are more important than possessions", and my favorite, "learn to use a semicolon". Drawing from her own colorful life, she shares an insight that is encouraging as well as forgiving. She does not shy away from expressing regret or acknowledging a mistake, laughing at the follies or excesses of youth. The best teachers are those who have learned from their own experiences, the best writers are those who are able to share their ideas and feelings. She accomplishes both. What makes this such an effective "self help" book is the tone. It is like sitting down and chatting with an old friend, remembering shared feelings and experiences, laughing at inexperience, cringing at now obvious mistakes, sharing sorrows. There are no worksheets, no big lists of questions probing your inner self. Rather, this book imparts a gentle wisdom that has been hard earned from personal experiences, and from observing friends and loved ones. Maybe it is the fact she is a fellow Texan that draws me to her writing, or we are the same age, share common cultural landmarks, or even that we both visited the very same tattoo parlor in Austin, Texas. Most likely, it is the fact that even when addressing the difficult issues in life, Marion Winik uses gentle humor and compassion to make her point. Part self guidance, part autobiography, this is a wonderful book.

Rules for the Unruly is a distillation of surprising life wisdom from National Public Radio commentator and writer Marion Winik -- a woman who has seen it all, done it all, and would never exchange her experiences for the security of a traditional life. Winik's amusing tales of outrageous mistakes, haunting uncertainty, and the never-ending struggle to stay true to her heart strike a powerful chord with creative, impassioned, independent-minded free spirits who know they're different -- and want to stay that way. Winik's seven Rules for the Unruly are: THE PATH IS NOT STRAIGHT · MISTAKES NEED NOT BE FATAL · PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACHIEVEMENTS OR POSSESSIONS · BE GENTLE WITH YOUR PARENTS · NEVER STOP DOING WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT · MOST LEARN TO USE A SEMICOLON · YOU WILL FIND LOVE
Rules for the Unruly shows us how taking risks, living creatively, and cherishing our inner weirdness can become the secret of our happiness and success, not our downfall.

From *Booklist* Gr. 10-12. Decades after graduating, Winik, author of *The Lunch Box Chronicles* (1998), was invited to return to her high school and address the recipients of an award for academic excellence. She did so with trepidation, feeling unqualified to give advice, but the talk went so well that she developed it into a book for high-schoolers. As in her previous books (all written for adults), she describes some of her experiences, including unwanted pregnancies and life-threatening drug addiction, with a candor and sensitivity that keep the stories from becoming sentimental. This is definitely for mature teens (some parents, teachers, and YAs will find the language and subject matter abrasive and explicit), but Winik speaks to teens without the slightest hint of condescension, and her advice about living an extraordinary life is alternately moving, powerful, and hilarious. John Green
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Henry Winkler
Marion Winik's ability to see the human condition resonates in every one of us. She's the clearest communicator I know.
About the Author
Marion Winik is a longtime contributor to National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and the author of *Telling*, *First Comes Love*, and *The Lunch-Box Chronicles*. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and their children.