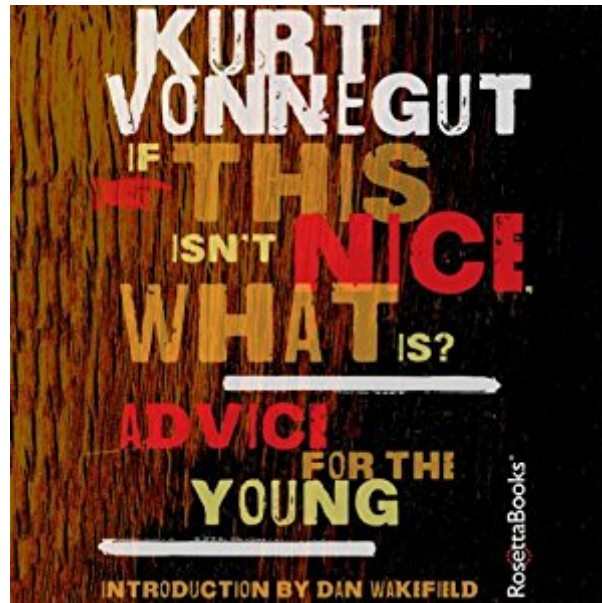


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# If This Isn't Nice, What Is?: Advice For The Young



## Synopsis

Master storyteller and satirist Kurt Vonnegut was one of the most in-demand commencement speakers of his time. For each occasion, Vonnegut's words were unfailingly unique, insightful, and witty, and they stayed with audience members long after graduation. As edited by Dan Wakefield, this book reads like a narrative in the unique voice that made Vonnegut a hero to readers and listeners of all ages. At times hilarious, razor-sharp, freewheeling, and deeply serious, these reflections are ideal for anyone undergoing what Vonnegut would call their "long-delayed puberty ceremony" - marking the passage from student to full-time adult. This book makes the perfect gift for high school or college graduates - or for parents and grandparents who remember Vonnegut fondly and want to connect with him in a new context.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you love Vonnegut, of course you'll love this. A lot of it will seem familiar, but who cares. A lot of it is repeated. Again, who cares? He is smart, witty, cynical, genius. If you don't have everything by Vonnegut yet, this should not be at the top of your list, but once you've read everything by him and you want more, get it. It's not Vonnegut at his best, but even when he's mediocre, he's better than most.

This was a quick and interesting collection of speeches given by Kurt Vonnegut, mostly to graduating college classes. Though every speech was different, there were definitely a few

repeating themes. Well worth a read, and uplifting for the most part. I enjoyed it and I think some of the ideas will stick with me.

I love Vonnegut. Reading his grocery shopping list would be enjoyable, entertaining and informative. This book is all of that and more.

I give Vonnegut's compilation of speeches a solid three stars, as it was a very quick and enjoyable read. Although mildly redundant--how could it not be given the similar themes throughout most of his speeches--and sometimes a bit too sarcastic-ly cynical in my opinion, I still appreciated his thoughts and perspective. What I liked best was his assertion that being happy and not realizing it is the most tragic waste of all. So, he pleads, notice when little things make you smile. Remember and recount these moments, for they are happiness.

Kurt Vonnegut was a wise and hilarious man, as well as a creative genius, so I was glad to read his graduation speeches. Still, having several of his speeches in one book reminded me that even geniuses have formulas, and Vonnegut certainly had his own version of a speech. I found the formula a bit tiring after the first few speeches, but I did appreciate the chance to read some of Vonnegut's words of wisdom, and I have found myself saying, "If this isn't nice, what is?" all the time now!

Great collection. Wry, wise, and funny. Love his line that those who want to post the Ten Commandments in public places never suggest that we post the Beatitudes. He quotes Twain that the object of life is for others to hold us in high regard. Lots of gems sprinkled throughout. Good introduction by Dan Wakefield. Oh the book's title? When he and his uncle would hang put on a nice day, the uncle would look around and say, "if this isn't nice, what is?" A good mindset to live by.

This was my first run in with Kurt Vonnegut, though I have heard a lot about his published work and his reputation as an exceptional writer. Unfortunately this was not the best book to jump into, while trying to get a taste for his work. A novelist may be amazing at what he does, but for some it doesn't always translate into their speeches. This is a collection of graduation speeches throughout the years, and across the country. He brings up many intriguing points, while sharing his opinions on various topics. Some speeches had a couple great jokes. But unfortunately most of the time his humor was lost in the dated references he used. In other situations I found the topic to be lost while

he was drifting into a completely unrelated anecdote. It felt more like a grasp at straws than a witty joke or attempt to switch in topics. All in all it was a bit boring, and more of a burden to read than a satisfying read. I found the book to be repetitive. Many speeches had the same points, and even same lines. It's understandable that he would use the same joke or same anecdote in speeches at different universities, but in a book it's daunting to get through. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to read this book, which I won via Goodreads Giveaways. It's unfortunate that I wasn't able to give it more than a 2 star rating. I believe in honest reviews. I think if I were able to hear them first hand maybe they would have had more impact. Unfortunately reading this book just fell short of any expectations.

I personally love Kurt Vonnegut. This particular volume is a collection of speeches given mostly at graduation ceremonies. While not as exciting as some of the recent releases since his death, this one is worth the cost if you are truly a Vonnegut nut. It does tend to repeat and there is really nothing totally exciting, but hey, this is Vonnegut and a must for a complete collection.

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