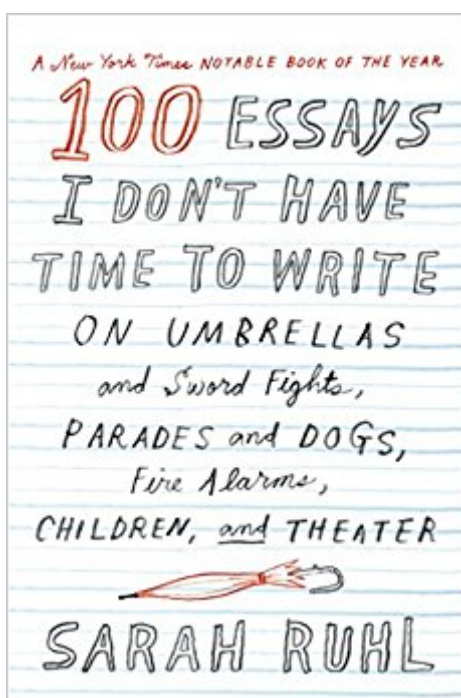




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# 100 Essays I Don't Have Time To Write: On Umbrellas And Sword Fights, Parades And Dogs, Fire Alarms, Children, And Theater



## Synopsis

One hundred incisive, idiosyncratic essays on life and theater from a major American playwright "Don't send your characters to reform school!" pleads Sarah Ruhl in one of her essays. With titles as varied as "On lice," "On sleeping in theaters," and "Motherhood and stools (the furniture kind)," these essays are artful meditations on life in the arts and joyous jumbles of observations on everything in between. The pieces combine admonition, celebration, inquiry, jokes, assignments, entreaties, prayers, and advice: honest reflections distilled from years of working in the theater. They offer candid accounts of what it is like to be a mother and an artist, along with descriptions of how Ruhl's children's dreams, jokes, and songs work themselves into her writing. 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write is not just a book about the theater. It is a map of a very particular artistic sensibility and a guide for anyone who has chosen an artist's life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• Probing, bracing, and captivating . . . a cornucopia of compact, playfully profound observations on life in and out of theater. • Lisa Shea, Elle • Delectable . . . Admirers of Ms. Ruhl's stylistically audacious plays will not be surprised at these oddly shaped but neatly chiseled pieces, none of which run more than a few hundred words or so, and some of which are just a sentence or two. But each is tightly packed with fresh thought, smart thinking and lively humor . . . I stopped dog-earing the pages of my favorites when I realized there were barely any pages left uncreased. • Charles Isherwood, The New York Times 2014 Holiday Gift Guide • 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write is in fact a work of profound moral organization . . . its deeper purpose is to define the

artist's relationship to truth and to demonstrate how, from within the correctness of the artistic process, life can be meaningfully understood . . . Ruhl has found the time to ask the right questions--it's up to us to make the time to think about her--and our--answers.

• Rachel Cusk, The New York Times Book Review

Ruhl writes pithy ruminations on language, art, and theater with a roving intelligence and compassion that are refreshingly accessible.

• Tomi Obaro, Chicago Magazine

Ruhl's musings may remind readers of Lydia Davis' aphoristic short stories: fresh, piquant, and slyly irreverent.

• Kirkus

All readers, including theater buffs, will appreciate a behind-the-scenes vision of a harried Ruhl, shoeless toddler under one arm, tiny sneakers dangling by shoelaces from her teeth, stubbornly typing these pithy, diverting goodies with the other hand.

• Booklist

Perceptive, funny, and intimate . . . 100 Essays reads like an extended, informal interview with one of the most original playwrights of our time . . . The essays, like her plays, bubble up with a sense of wonder, joy and excitement.

• Michael Bloom, American Theatre

Sample the acclaimed playwright's bite-size musings on Ovid, lice, the relationship between chimpanzees and subscriber audiences, and 97 other topics. They take only a minute to read, but will linger with you much longer.

• Natalie Beach, O Magazine

[T]he essays themselves are poignant examinations of imagination, the artistic life, mothering, and performance . . . The short format is deceptive; much like poetry, the reader occasionally comes across a few lines that say more than an entire chapter of a book.

• Michele Filgate, Barnes and Noble Review

Funny, poignant and wide-ranging.

• Jordan G. Teicher, amNewYork

Sarah Ruhl, the superstar playwright, collects her fascinating very short essays (most just a couple of pages) on a wide range of subjects.

• Colette Bancroft, Tampa Bay Times

I have pretty much turned down every page of 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write to mark it to reread later. Basically, I will be rereading the whole book, and using it in my classes (and for myself) immediately. Ruhl is so smart and spot-on and capital R Refreshing about writing and art and more. An enormous pleasure.

• Aimee Bender, author of The Color Master

Sarah Ruhl is not only one of the most original playwrights in America but, it turns out, one of the most original and exciting thinkers about theatre and art and being in an audience, and the intersection of all these things with being a mother and a person. I love this perfect book.

• Sheila Heti, author of How Should a Person Be?

Reading this book is like going on a rainy day treasure hunt through the attic of Sarah Ruhl's mind. You never know what you are going to come across in the next box--ruminations on motherhood, both comical and poignant; nuggets of startlingly frank autobiography; and then out of nowhere a short, spontaneous treatise that will make you think about theatre in a whole new way.

• Cynthia Nixon

Sarah Ruhl's new book of essays is miraculous. The writing is evanescent

while the thought is profound. I found it best to read the book in small bites, perhaps in the way that she wrote it. I carry it with me to sample regularly and repeatedly. • Anne Bogart, author of *A Director Prepares* • Fasten your seat belts! Sarah Ruhl is back! If the characters in her plays turn into almonds or travel to the underworld in raining elevators, you can imagine the delirium she whips up in essays she didn't have time to write! Illusion and reality link arms, igniting such wonder and merriment the reader's left breathless, begging for more. • Tina Howe, author of *Chasing Manet* • Sarah Ruhl describes the perfect audience as being wise or innocent. These essays are wise and innocent. *100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write* is a masterpiece. • Beth Henley, author of *The Jacksonian*

Sarah Ruhl's plays include *In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Tony Award nominee); *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize); *Passion Play*, a cycle (PEN American Award); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes Award); and, most recently, *Stage Kiss* and *Dear Elizabeth*. She has been the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, the Whiting Writers' Award, the PEN Center Award for a midcareer playwright, the Feminist Press's Forty Under Forty Award, and the 2010 Lilly Award. She is currently on the faculty at Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her family.

I thoroughly enjoyed the musings, essays and honest reflections in this book. If only we , us, all, could be as aware of our story ! What joyful choices we could make! An admission: the theatre has always been my church. I pay my ticket, sit and participate in the offering. Thank you Sarah Ruhl

I bought this to satisfy a reading challenge and really enjoyed it. I am not a fan of the theater; but this relates to everyday life very well.

I love this book - so much insight into writing plays and in short, pithy bursts that have me thinking about much larger things through theatre. I use it as a kind of morning meditation and then off I go to write.

As insightful and quirky as her plays. If I loved Sarah Ruhl's writing before, I love it even more now. Whether you do theatre, go to theatre, read theatre, teach theatre or none of the above, you should read this book if you believe life is more than working, sleeping and eating.

Sarah Ruhl is an American treasure for American theatre, and this book has so many brilliant things to say about all aspects of the theatre.

Cute book. Easy to read a few of the essays and put it down for later.

Excellent essays by the most talented writer. I love this book....so easy to pick up, read, and then remember the distinctive tales. Great.

I love her work as a playwright and she writes about being a mom and keeping focused on her work. Inspiring

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Son / Nobody Knows My Name / The Fire Next Time / No Name in the Street / The Devil Finds Work / Other Essays (Library of America) Free the Children: A Young Man Fights Against Child Labor and Proves that Children Can Change the World 100 Write-and-Learn Sight Word Practice Pages: Engaging Reproducible Activity Pages That Help Kids Recognize, Write, and Really LEARN the Top 100 High-Frequency Words That are Key to Reading Success Dogs Don't Die Dogs Stay All In One: Part 1,2,3 & 4 -- Write a Detective Novel, Write a Good Mystery, Red Herrings, Hiding & Finding the Clues: Help With Writing A Detective Novel (Write Me Dearly) The 30 Day Romance Novel Workbook: Write a Novel in a Month with the Plot-As-You-Write System (Write Smarter Not Harder) How to Write the Perfect Personal Statement: Write powerful essays for law, business, medical, or graduate school application (Peterson's Perfect Personal Statements)

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