



# I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy

*From HMH Books for Young Readers*

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## **I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy** From HMH Books for Young Readers

The teenage years are a time filled with sadness, madness, joy, and all the messy stuff in between. Sometimes it feels that every day brings a new struggle, a new concern, a new reason to stay in bed with the shades drawn. But between moments of despair and confusion often come times of great clarity and insight, when you might think, like the poet Rumi, “Whoever’s calm and sensible is insane!” It is moments like these that have inspired the touching, honest, and gripping poems found in *I Just Hope It’s Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy*. After all, what’s normal anyway? This collection includes poems by Charles Bukowski, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, T. S. Eliot, Edgar Allen Poe, W. B. Yeats, Dorothy Parker, Jane Kenyon, and many more, including teenage writers and up-and-coming poets.

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## **I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy** From HMH Books for Young Readers **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—The poems in this diverse collection range from classic (Shakespeare, Lord Byron) to modern (by the compilers themselves). While some of selections might be too complex and antique for reluctant readers, most of the pieces are powerfully written and easy to understand. Sylvia Plath, Dorothy Parker, and Rumi are among the poets included. Two short introductions explain the inclusion of many of these selections and the significance of each of the book's five sections. A biography section gives interesting summaries of each poet's life. This efficiently organized, concise, and interesting collection is an excellent choice for libraries serving teens. However, as November states in her introduction, This book is for everyone and anyone.—*Jessi Platt, Auburn Public Library, AL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 9-12. Rosenberg and her former university student November have both struggled with debilitating depression, and in this personal project, the poets have brought together poems that, as Rosenberg writes, address "various aspects of sanity and madness." The organization is loose and a bit chaotic. Categories include moods, the madness of love, the "deranged" world, and the relief of finding stability. There are works by famous writers, such as Shakespeare, Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson, and Rumi, as well as contemporary poets, such as Naomi Shihab Nye, whose poem "Kindness" is unforgettable. Many selections extend the dark humor of the collection's title, and there are contributions by young writers who, in the words of a 19-year-old autistic poet, view "the world called normal" with "a mind called abnormal." These raw, honest words from peers may speak most directly to teens. Comprehensive poets'biographies close this deeply affecting, sophisticated collection, which will resonate with readers in all states of mental equilibrium. *Gillian Engberg*

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### Review

"Includes poems of great intensity . . . alongside verses with humor-tinged darkness." —Publishers Weekly  
Publishers Weekly

"The wide range of styles, from poets both famous and lesser known, from various time periods, also adds interest. . . . Good biographical notes and indices of authors, titles, and first lines conclude the volume."  
—Horn Book Horn Book

"[A] deeply affecting, and sophisticated collection, which will resonate with young people in all states of mental equilibrium." —Booklist Booklist, ALA

"Powerfully written and easy to understand. . . . This efficiently organized, concise, and interesting collection is an excellent choice for libraries serving teens." --School Library Journal School Library Journal

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**Jane Rich:**

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they take because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy.

**Mark Bunnell:**

The knowledge that you get from I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read it because the author of this publication is well-known enough. That book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having that I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy instantly.

**Ana Smith:**

The reason why? Because this I Just Hope It's Lethal: Poems of Sadness, Madness, and Joy is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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