Sin Bravely: A Memoir of Spiritual Disobedience by Maggie Rowe

As a young girl, Maggie Rowe took the idea of salvation very seriously. At nineteen, crippled by fear, she checked herself in to an Evangelical psychiatric facility. Maggie launches a campaign to, in the words of Martin Luther, “sin bravely in order to know the forgiveness of God.”


About the Author: For the last fifteen years, Maggie Rowe has performed in and produced the Comedy Central stage show sitnspin , Los Angeles’ longest running spoken word, having taken over the reigns from creator Jill Soloway in 2002. She has written for Arrested Development and Flaked for Netflix. She co-wrote the screenplay for and directed the New Age religious mockumentary "Bright Day" and is the creator of the theatrical satires Hollywood Hellhouse and Hollywood Purity Ball. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, writer Jim Vallely.

Questions for Discussion

1. Do the “characters” Maggie encounters at the psychiatric facility seem real and believable? Can you relate to their predicaments? To what extent do they remind you of yourself or someone you know?
2. Did certain parts of the book make you feel uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or aware of some aspects of your life you might have thought about before?
3. What was the funniest part of the book?
4. Was there something surprising about Rowe’s story? What was it and why?
5. Memoirs can be written for a variety of different purposes, such as clearing up a misconceived notion, gaining fame and notoriety or promoting something. What category does this book fall into?
6. How controversial are the issues raised in the book?
7. Did your opinion of the book change as you read it? How?
8. What is original about this book? How does it distinguish itself from other books you have read on a similar topic?
9. What made you want to read this book? Did it live up to your expectations? Why or why not?
10. How important is the setting to the story?