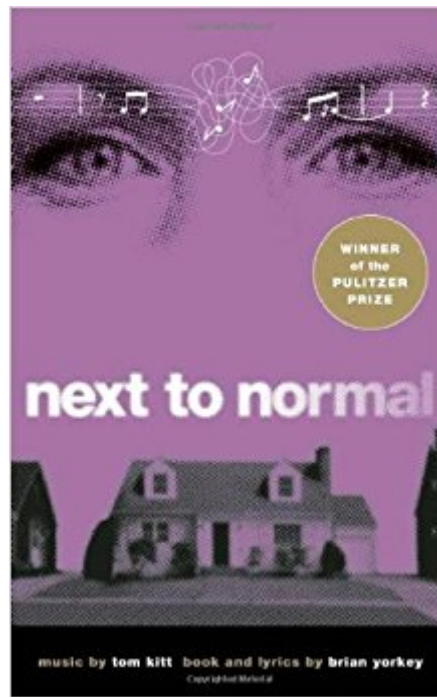


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# Next To Normal



## Synopsis

"A brave and breathtaking musical."--The New York Times

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I started seeing a new PCP, she told me that her sister saw the play Next to Normal and that she loved it. She said she found the line "Oh thank you, valium is my favorite color" especially funny. This piqued my interest. As one who battles bipolar depression and mania, I had to buy the disc. I was blown away. Wow! I don't think that I have heard or am aware of anything that gets it SO right. I live this life, so it made me laugh at many of the songs on the 1st disc. Disc 2 scared my like the Ghost of Christmas to come scared Scrooge. Anyway, I had originally written about all the things that go on with this illness, but thought, why bore people with the life of a bipolar wife/mother. It bores even me. After reading, I thought, these are the things that I should be telling MY psychopharmacologist! Honestly, I think everyone should listen to this almost, like a public service announcement. There a lot of people who have NO idea what it's like to ride this ride. Although there is no longer a stigma attached to mental illness, there are a LOT of people who see it as a sign of weakness and scoff at us. Quite the contrary. I believe that those of us who battle this illness are the strongest people I know. I loved the song that talks about being jealous for the dead. Living is hard, because it means taking a cocktail of one or more of the long list of meds in the song, but we do it each day. Dying is easier. You only have to do this once. So hats off to the creator of this wonderful play/musical! It's comic relief for those who live with it whether they be the one affected or

those who live with the person who rides the ride at least for as long as they can no longer for their own sanity. Many of them are life-long friends, parents, spouses and children and they should know that they are not alone with all the things that are written about it in this musical. Private group therapy if you will. I wish peace and comfort to those who live this life and pray for those who don't because their lives could be shattered should they experience the condition themselves or someone that they love. Next to Normal (Original Broadway Cast)

I saw this show on Christmas Eve 2010 in Los Angeles with no expectations. Mostly, I was curious about what made it a Pulitzer prize winner. It's been four months now and I'm still haunted by its courage, raw beauty, and the seamless performances of this cast. For the first two months, there were songs that would pop into my head at random. Tom Kitt's music and Brian Yorkey's lyrics are as brilliant and insightful as anything Sondheim has ever given us and despite its electric and modern rock sounds, so much of it feels as if it's all been with us before when I know it hasn't. Although Alice Ripley is at the core and the star of the piece, it is about as beautiful an ensemble as I've ever seen. Not since, A Chorus Line, have songs been so well balanced in their story narrative and character revelations. The song, My Psycho-pharmacologist and I, had me in convulsions of laughter and yet when the song was over, I sat motionless in my seat stone cold with fear. It's that rare piece that penetrates your consciousness without assaulting you months after you've seen it. More than anything, I feel blessed to have witnessed such a masterful and compassionate piece of American musical theater. Without being snobbish, I don't think anyone but American composers could have tackled such a monumental feat so brilliantly.

We wanted to read Next to Normal before we saw the play as we have had difficulty in the past hearing all the words, songs and actions of a musical when they happen together. The play book, "Next to Normal" is an excellent choice for this and the words are quite poetic. We saw the play the next week and enjoyed every minute for having read the play. Our daughter, who had seen the play before we did, had not read the book, and she missed a lot of the story. I would recommend this book to those who don't see the play as the story is quite powerful and timely.

This work is the dialogue of the rock musical "Next to Normal" which portrays a bipolar mother's struggle with her life. I found the book very helpful, since I attended a performance of the show currently running in Portland, OR. I join the local critics in praising the work. It must be seen by any family encountering mental health issues in their lives. It is a marvelous, unique presentation for

theater-goers. The book enhanced my understanding of this fast moving show.

if you have not seen, read or heard this musical and you are a theatre enthusiast, this pulitzer prize winning play is a must! one of the most ingeniously written pieces in decades. full of wit, humor, drama, and heart wrenching sadness. it's an emotional journey everyone should experience!

This play captures the essence of living with the memory of a dead child, and then pain of an emotionally disturbed family member. As a psychologist, I have seen this played out many times. But the loss of a child does not cause mental illness, and bipolar illness often has genetic roots, sometimes triggered by stressors, and sometimes just occurring on its own. My DILs own mother has bipolar. There is no known stressor other than genetics. Natalie and her share the same pain of growing up.

I bought this script because I had already purchased the album and I was interested in the entire musical. This came very quickly in the mail and was packaged correctly and securely. I loved being able to read the show and get a new perspective on it, especially because it's not a show you get to see everyday. What really pushed me to buy it is that I was going to be auditioning for the show shortly and I wanted to have some better insight on the characters. I was not disappointed by this purchase and I'm looking at buying more of these scripts!

I saw this show on Broadway, and this book is the exact same playwright from Broadway. I love reading it from time to time! It's a must-read for anyone going through personal struggles or for anyone who wants to understand what these struggles are like!

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