



Faking It: How to Seem Like a Better Person Without Actually Improving Yourself

CollegeHumor.com , Ethan Trex , Neel Shah

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The ultimate guide to faking it through the real world! Now the people who bring you the Web's most popular humor site teach you how to live the good life (or at least look like you do).

With annual revenues surpassing \$6 million and an astonishing 10 million unique visitors a month, CollegeHumor.com ranks within the top six hundred Web sites worldwide. Now, in a follow-up to their recently launched *The CollegeHumor Guide to College*, these cheeky alumni offer real-world novices a guide to getting ahead—without getting out of bed before noon.

In *Faking It* readers will learn how to bluff their way through on-the-job conversations, woo cute art students with the compelling use of the term “postmodern,” and feign a deep appreciation of Neruda. The CollegeHumor team of experts provides everything required to pull off an outstanding social life, including appearing to have cultural knowledge beyond references gleaned from *The Simpsons*. The sexual, financial, and social arenas have never been more competitive, so it can’t hurt to act like you understand classical music, even if you prefer light beer to light opera.

Published just in time for graduation, *Faking It* is the poseur’s bible, but with less religious overtones than the real bible—and more pointers on conspicuously carrying an NPR tote bag.

Faking It: How to Seem Like a Better Person Without Actually Improving Yourself Details

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Adalira Morningstar says

I was enjoying this book (and actually learned a few things, who would have thought?) up until the last chapter which suddenly declared that fat people aren't actually people and you should never date a girl who is even the tiniest bit chubby because your friends will forever mock you. Obviously when it comes to women you should only ever be concerned about their appearance.

The entire book is written for straight males and this fact shines through every chapter. There's no "advice" at all aimed towards females but if you do yourself a favor and skip the final chapter on dating it can be a funny read.

Adam says

Sometimes this hits too close to home. We all know someone who does these things and comes across as a pretentious jerk. That said, there were some interesting explanations about the very basics of music and alcohol.

The authors don't beat around the bush and suggest that all of these tricks are about wooing girls into bed. Sometimes it comes across as creepy, other times it's just hilarious in a "that'll never work and if it does then shame on the both of you" sort of way.

All in all it's an amusing read with some good pointers, and some bewilderingly bad ones too.

Karen says

I saw this book at the library and decided to check it out because it seemed like an amusing quick read. It did have amusing parts. However, I should note that all the advice in this book is specifically directed towards men. Straight men, specifically. I guess women don't need to know how to seem smart and interesting, because all we need to do is wear a push-up bra and a low-cut top to seem "interesting." The book is okay until the last chapter, which is on dating. I know the book is intended to be humorous and all, but this chapter just comes across as really creepy and misogynistic. It basically boils women down to 2 categories: the hot ones, who probably have no personality, and who you want to trick into sleeping with you. And fat girls, who are cool to hang out with, but you certainly don't want to sleep with them! Ugh.

Matthew says

I read this book because I enjoy Jake and Amir videos (and one of the authors is Amir Blumenfeld), the premise seemed funny, and the fake reviews on the cover implied a relatively smart kind of humor.

So hmm, how do I feel now that I've read the book? Well, on the surface this book seems written for a male in his early 20's who was in a college frat and exemplifies every negative stereotype.

Yet the book is clearly not trying to take itself seriously. It uses the bro-dude stereotype to get a laugh, which is evident in the over-the-top advice the book gives. Plus, throughout the book there is some actual information (like how to categorize different types of wines) which seems targeted towards a more intelligent reader.

So it's hard to know if this book is catering to the bro-dude or making fun of him, or both. Either way I would say pass on this one unless you are in that very narrow band of being in your early 20's, pretty shallow, and already a fan of CollegeHumor.com's brand of comedy. For what it is, I say 3 stars. If you're outside the targeted demographic, 1 star.

Autumn says

This etiquette guide is cleverly disguised as a subversive humor book! I love any book that gives SPECIFIC advice on how to act (ie The Preppy Handbook, Sex and the Single Girl). This one tells you how to act like a male, white-collar recent graduate who lives in an urban area in 2007! For instance, don't wear striped shirts out clubbing and do make Pimm's No. 1 Cup to impress girls!

This book is goofy, somewhat irritating and it will be outdated by next spring. But sociologists can study it later and you can buy it in the thrift store if you get nostalgic for the Naughty Oughts in 2021.

Marcel says

I'm actually fairly ashamed I read this book. It wasn't so much funny as it was actually informative for graduate pot smoking bums who were looking for a few life pointers. Not relevant for people who have have a bit of purpose. I only laughed once, at the part about "billowing pantaloons"... Mainly just because visualizing that is funny.

Diane Stephàni says

I thought this book would actually be humorous and have some kind of deeper, positive message hidden within, but it really just teaches one how to behave like a total asshole and overall definitely sucks. If you're looking for humor and substance, look elsewhere.

Sadie Perkins says

Honestly, missed the mark. Really wasn't funny and kinda cringe for the most part - felt like a manifesto for every greasy college guy who thought they were the coolest around. Waste of time to read.

Shannon says

The authors suggest things like saying "I didn't know I applied for a job working for Big Brother!" if you get caught lying about your GPA. Another gem concerns name-dropping famous writers who mention the beverage you're serving at your cocktail party in one of their works: Substitute Faulkner for Hemingway if you're below the Mason-Dixon line. This is such a wonderfully absurd book, great for the CollegeHumor crowd.

Chase Brooks says

Some parts were hilarious. However, it seems very repetitive and doesn't seem to make a point.

Mike says

Seemingly stupid "Collegehumor.com" type comedy, but actually filled with some worthwhile information on things like faking one's way through a conversation on an unknown topic and proper etiquette for all sorts of situations.

Jonathan Gascho says

Kind of embarrassed for reading this one. Lots of wink-wink-nudge-nudge-you-know-we're-really-kidding-here -- but it's not kidding. Occasionally useful and funny at times, but it turned into such a venting of misogynistic insecurity that I almost started to feel bad for the guy.

On the upside, it made me feel pretty good about myself, and for how much things have changed since 2007!

Cordero Vazquez says

very funny also very useful. if you have ever wanted to join in a conversation yet you dont understand what it is about then this is the book for you. it will do exactly what it says it will do which is to teach you how to appear like a better person.

Bryce Wilson says

Flipped through it in a book store was horrified to see it wasn't kidding and read the whole thing.

Should be called "Faking It: The Starter Guide To Being That One Dude You Know That 50 Year Old

Douche Bag Who Keeps Trying To Pick Up 20 Year Olds. The One Who Has Nothing To Show For His Life But 2 Divorces, Kids Who Hate Him, A Subscription To Men's Health, And A Vague Terrifying Sense Of Ennui. Only He Doesn't Know To Call It That Because He's Never Devoted More Then 2 Minutes To Knowing Anything That Didn't Directly Lead To Money Or Pussy."

Thor Kamphefner says

Sometimes wry, more often reminiscent of days when College Humor was still funny occasionally. Book managed to be amusing for about 50 pages, but that's more or less the nature of comedic writing. Wouldn't recommend the book for much more than a prop for social engagement, and reminder of the late 2000's.
