

READER GUIDE: SHARI KASMAN'S EVERYTHING LIFE HAS TO OFFER

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Hello readers!

Thanks for choosing to read *Everything Life Has to Offer*! This is a short story collection you're sure to enjoy.

I wrote these seventeen stories over a four-year period. Some writers base stories on real life situations. My approach to writing, however, is to start writing and to continue writing based on whatever pops into my head. While writing these stories, I didn't have specific themes in mind, so it was interesting to see what ideas and concepts surfaced when looking at the stories individually as well as later on when considering the collection as a whole. Have you found similarities between the stories? Are there themes that stand out for you in the book?

Many of the stories are based around situations that are improbable, or sometimes impossible. They're all set in the real world, though, so they don't technically fall into the categories of magic realism, fantasy, or science fiction, even though they borrow elements from those genres. Where do you see elements from genres in the stories? What are the aspects that keep the stories grounded in the real world?

In many of these stories, life offers disappointment and unmet expectations. Characters have high hopes, but they don't always achieve what they hope for and their needs aren't often met. Despite this, the stories are filled with humour. How does the book maintain a balance between oddity, hilarity, and discontentment? How do the characters' voices contribute to the overall atmosphere of the stories?

It might be interesting to discuss the book's title. The title actually comes from a sentence in one of the stories—see if you can find it! What does that phrase mean to you? What does life have to offer in terms of this story collections and beyond?

I truly hope you enjoy my book and that life offers some excellent book-related discussion.

Yours truly,
Shari Kasman