

# a long way down nick hornby

## A Long Way Down Nick Hornby: An In-Depth Exploration

### Introduction to the Novel

*A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby is a compelling and darkly humorous novel that delves into the lives of four strangers who meet on the roof of a tall building with the intention of ending their lives. The book explores themes of depression, redemption, human connection, and the unpredictability of life. Published in 2011, Hornby's novel challenges readers to consider the importance of second chances and the complexities of mental health issues through its witty yet poignant narrative.

### The Premise and Setting

The story centers around four individuals from different backgrounds who, each battling their own personal struggles, converge on the roof of a London building on New Year's Eve. Their shared intention is to commit suicide, but their encounter leads to an unexpected and transformative journey.

- **Martin Sharp:** A disgraced TV presenter dealing with a failed career and personal loss.
- **Jess:** A teenage girl grappling with her mother's death and her own identity.
- **Maureen:** A woman in her 50s who feels overlooked and unfulfilled in her marriage.
- **JJ:** A man in his 20s who is battling depression and feelings of alienation.

The novel takes place primarily in the setting of the rooftop, but it also shifts between their respective

backgrounds and homes, providing a comprehensive view of each character's life and struggles.

## **Character Analysis**

### **Martin Sharp: The Disillusioned Ex-Presenter**

Martin represents the disillusionment that often accompanies fame and success. Once a popular TV host, he now faces the fallout from a scandal that has tarnished his reputation. His character embodies themes of regret, loss, and the search for meaning beyond superficial fame.

- His journey reflects the difficulty of dealing with failure and public shame.
- He seeks connection and understanding, which he finds through his interactions with the other characters.

### **Jess: The Teenage Voice of Vulnerability**

Jess's character introduces a youthful perspective on grief and identity. She is mourning her mother's death and struggles with her place in the world. Her vulnerability and honesty make her a relatable and sympathetic character.

- Her conversations reveal her internal conflicts about growing up and facing reality.
- Her relationship with the others helps her find hope and purpose.

## Maureen: The Middle-Aged Woman Seeking Meaning

Maureen's storyline explores the midlife crisis and the feeling of being overlooked or unfulfilled. She embodies the struggles of balancing societal expectations with personal happiness.

- Her character arc involves rediscovering her self-worth and voice.
- Her interactions highlight the importance of friendship and honest communication.

## JJ: The Young Man Confronting Isolation

JJ's character depicts the struggles of mental health in young adults. His depression and feelings of alienation are central to his role in the narrative.

- His journey underscores the importance of seeking help and opening up about mental health issues.
- He learns that connection can be a powerful tool for healing.

## Thematic Depth and Literary Analysis

### Themes of Despair and Hope

At its core, *A Long Way Down* grapples with profound themes of despair and hope. The characters' initial intent to end their lives underscores the depths of their personal suffering. However, their interactions and shared experiences ignite a sense of hope, illustrating the potential for change and

redemption even in the darkest moments.

## **Humor in Darkness**

Nick Hornby masterfully employs humor to navigate sensitive topics. His witty dialogue and humorous observations serve as a coping mechanism for both the characters and readers, making the heavy themes more accessible and humanized.

- Humor acts as a bridge between despair and recovery.
- It underscores the resilience of the human spirit.

## **Character Development and Transformation**

The novel's strength lies in its deep character development. Each character starts with their own set of flaws and traumas, but through their interactions, they experience growth and self-awareness.

- Their dialogues and actions reveal their evolving perceptions of life and death.
- The story emphasizes that even those contemplating ending their lives can find reasons to live.

## **Narrative Style and Structure**

Nick Hornby employs a third-person narrative that offers insight into each character's thoughts and feelings. The novel's structure, alternating perspectives, creates a tapestry of human experiences, emphasizing the interconnectedness of their stories.

- The narrative flows seamlessly between characters' viewpoints.
- This approach allows readers to empathize with each individual's journey.

## Critical Reception and Impact

*A Long Way Down* received widespread acclaim for its honest portrayal of mental health and its blend of humor and tragedy. Critics praised Hornby's ability to handle sensitive issues with compassion and wit. The novel sparked conversations about mental health awareness and the importance of human connection.

- Many readers found the characters relatable and inspiring.
- The book's success led to a 2014 film adaptation directed by Pascal Laugier, starring Pierce Brosnan, Toni Collette, Imogen Poots, and Aaron Paul.

## Impact on Readers and Society

The novel encourages open discussions about mental health and emphasizes that life's challenges can be overcome. By portraying characters who find hope in unexpected places, Hornby advocates for compassion, understanding, and the importance of not giving up.

## Conclusion: The Significance of *A Long Way Down*

*A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby is more than a story about four strangers on a rooftop; it is a profound meditation on life, death, and the human capacity for resilience. Through its compelling characters, sharp wit, and thematic depth, the novel reminds us that even in our darkest moments,

there is potential for change, connection, and renewal. Hornby's work challenges societal stigmas surrounding mental health and offers a message of hope, making it a vital and impactful read for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of the human condition.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of 'A Long Way Down' by Nick Hornby?**

The novel explores themes of depression, redemption, and the interconnectedness of human lives as four strangers meet on a rooftop intending to commit suicide.

### **Who are the four main characters in 'A Long Way Down'?**

The four characters are Martin, Jess, Maureen, and JJ, each with their own reasons for contemplating suicide, and their interactions drive the story.

### **How does Nick Hornby depict mental health issues in 'A Long Way Down'?**

Hornby portrays mental health issues with sensitivity and humor, highlighting the complexity of depression and the importance of human connection and understanding.

### **What role does humor play in 'A Long Way Down'?**

Humor in the novel serves to humanize the characters, provide relief from heavy themes, and emphasize the absurdity and resilience of life even in difficult circumstances.

### **How does the setting of the rooftop influence the story in 'A Long Way Down'?**

The rooftop acts as a symbolic and literal meeting point for the characters, representing a moment of

crisis and potential change, and serving as a catalyst for their interactions and personal growth.

## **Has 'A Long Way Down' been adapted into any other media?**

Yes, 'A Long Way Down' was adapted into a film released in 2014, directed by Pascal Chaumeil and starring Pierce Brosnan, Toni Collette, Aaron Paul, and Imogen Poots.

## **What is the significance of the novel's title, 'A Long Way Down'?**

The title reflects both the literal descent from the rooftop and the emotional and psychological journey the characters undertake to find hope and connection beyond their despair.

## **How does Nick Hornby develop character depth in 'A Long Way Down'?**

Hornby provides detailed backstories, internal monologues, and realistic dialogues to create complex, relatable characters who each grapple with their own struggles and hopes.

## **Additional Resources**

A Long Way Down Nick Hornby is a compelling novel that delves into themes of despair, redemption, and human connection through the intertwined stories of four strangers who meet on the rooftop of a London building on New Year's Eve. Nick Hornby's storytelling prowess shines as he explores the complex emotions and circumstances that lead each character to contemplate suicide, while ultimately offering a nuanced portrayal of hope and change. This guide provides a comprehensive analysis of A Long Way Down, examining its themes, characters, narrative style, and the impact it has had on readers and critics alike.

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Introduction to A Long Way Down by Nick Hornby

Published in 2011, *A Long Way Down* is a departure from Hornby's typical focus on music, adolescence, and personal relationships, instead tackling the heavy subject of suicide with a blend of dark humor, honesty, and empathy. The novel follows four unlikely companions—Martin, Jess, Maureen, and JJ—who meet on the rooftop of a building in London intending to end their lives. Their accidental meeting sparks a series of interactions that challenge their perceptions and ultimately open the door to possibilities of change.

The novel's title, *A Long Way Down*, encapsulates both the physical journey these characters are contemplating and the emotional journey they undertake. Hornby's tone balances grim subject matter with wit and compassion, making it both a provocative and ultimately uplifting read.

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## The Characters and Their Interwoven Stories

### Martin Sharp: The Failed Music Journalist

Martin is a middle-aged man who has recently lost his job and feels disconnected from his family. His despair stems from a sense of failure, both professionally and personally. His decision to jump is fueled by feelings of inadequacy and shame, but his encounter with the others begins to shift his perspective.

### Jess: The Young Girl with a Troubled Past

Jess is a teenage girl who has run away from home after a series of traumatic events, including her mother's death and a troubled relationship with her stepfather. Her impulsiveness and vulnerability are evident, and her interactions with the others reveal her deep desire for connection and understanding.

### Maureen: The Overworked Single Mother

Maureen is a single mother who feels overwhelmed by her responsibilities and her inability to provide

a better life for her children. She is skeptical and pragmatic, believing that her life is simply not worth living. Her story highlights the struggles faced by many adults balancing work and family.

#### JJ: The Young Man with a Troubling Past

JJ is a young man haunted by his experiences with violence and crime. His decision to join the others is driven by guilt, anger, and a sense of despair about his future. His perspective adds a gritty realism to the narrative.

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### The Narrative Style and Structure

#### Alternating Perspectives

Hornby employs a narrative technique that shifts viewpoints among the four characters, providing readers with a multifaceted understanding of their motivations and backgrounds. This approach fosters empathy and allows the reader to see the complexity behind each person's decision to consider suicide.

#### Use of Humor and Wit

Despite the dark themes, Hornby's characteristic wit and humor permeate the novel, preventing it from becoming overwhelmingly bleak. The humor often arises from the characters' banter and their attempts to navigate their grim circumstances with a touch of levity.

#### The Setting: A Symbolic Rooftop

The rooftop serves as both a literal and symbolic setting. It is the precipice of their despair and the threshold of change. The confined space emphasizes their feelings of entrapment, while the open sky symbolizes hope and possibility.

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## Major Themes Explored in A Long Way Down

### The Complexity of Mental Health and Suicide

Hornby offers an honest portrayal of mental health struggles, emphasizing that depression and suicidal thoughts are complex and multifaceted. The characters' stories challenge simplistic notions of despair, illustrating that everyone's pain is unique.

### Human Connection and Empathy

A central message of the novel is that human connection can be transformative. The unlikely group forms a fragile bond, demonstrating that understanding and compassion can emerge even in the darkest moments.

### Redemption and Change

The characters' journeys highlight themes of redemption, suggesting that it is never too late to alter one's course. Hornby emphasizes that hope can be found in unexpected places and that change is possible, even for those who feel beyond repair.

### The Illusion of Control

The novel explores how individuals often seek control over their lives, sometimes through destructive means. Hornby suggests that true control comes from facing fears and accepting vulnerability.

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## Key Scenes and Their Significance

## The Meeting on the Roof

The accidental meeting is a pivotal moment, setting the stage for the novel's exploration of shared humanity. It underscores how chance encounters can lead to unexpected connections.

## The Group's First Attempts at Communication

Their awkward and sometimes humorous exchanges reveal the characters' vulnerabilities and set the tone for their evolving relationships.

## The Midnight Resolution

As New Year's Eve progresses, the characters confront their reasons for wanting to die and contemplate alternative paths. This sequence underscores the novel's message of hope and renewal.

## The Final Decision

Without giving away spoilers, the culmination of their stories illustrates that life's unpredictability can lead to unexpected outcomes, emphasizing the importance of empathy and understanding.

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## Critical Reception and Impact

*A Long Way Down* received generally positive reviews, with critics praising Hornby's sensitive handling of a difficult subject and his ability to balance humor with tragedy. The novel sparked conversations about mental health, showcasing how literature can foster empathy and awareness.

Many readers found the characters relatable, and the novel's message that everyone's story matters resonated deeply. It also inspired adaptations, including a film released in 2014, further extending its reach.

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## Conclusion: Why A Long Way Down Matters

Nick Hornby's *A Long Way Down* stands out as a powerful exploration of despair and hope, reminding us that even in our darkest moments, human connection can be a beacon of light. Its richly drawn characters, honest storytelling, and nuanced themes make it a significant contribution to contemporary literature on mental health.

Whether you are interested in stories of redemption, seeking to understand the complexities of mental health, or simply looking for a novel that balances darkness with humor, *A Long Way Down* offers valuable insights and a compelling narrative that stays with you long after the last page.

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## Final Thoughts

Reading *A Long Way Down* is an invitation to reflect on the importance of compassion, the unpredictability of change, and the resilience of the human spirit. Hornby's storytelling demonstrates that even when life feels unbearable, there is always a possibility for renewal—sometimes, it just takes a little leap of faith.

## [A Long Way Down Nick Hornby](#)

**a long way down nick hornby:** *A Long Way Down* Nick Hornby, 2006-05-02 "One New Year's Eve, four people with very different reasons but a common purpose find their way to the top of a fifteen-story building in London. None of them has calculated that, on a date humans favor for acts of significance, in a place known as a local suicide-jumpers' favorite, they might encounter company. *A Long Way Down* is the story of what happens next, and of what doesn't." —The New York Times Book Review A wise, affecting novel from the beloved, award-winning author of *Dickens* and *Prince*, *Funny Girl* and *High Fidelity* Nick Hornby mines the hearts and psyches of four lost souls who connect just when they've reached the end of the line. In four distinct and riveting first-person voices, Hornby tells a story of four individuals confronting the limits of choice, circumstance, and their own mortality. This is a tale of connections made and missed, punishing regrets, and the grace of second chances.

**a long way down nick hornby:** *A Long Way Down* Nick Hornby, 2014-05-06 A wise, affecting novel from the beloved, award-winning author of *Dickens and Prince*, *High Fidelity*, and *About A Boy*. New York Times-bestselling author Nick Hornby mines the hearts and psyches of four lost souls who connect just when they've reached the end of the line. *A Long Way Down* is now a major motion picture from Magnolia Pictures starring Pierce Brosnan, Toni Collette, Aaron Paul, and Imogen Poots. Meet Martin, JJ, Jess, and Maureen. Four people who come together on New Year's Eve: a former TV talk show host, a musician, a teenage girl, and a mother. Three are British, one is American. They encounter one another on the roof of Topper's House, a London destination famous as the last stop for those ready to end their lives. In four distinct and riveting first-person voices, Nick Hornby tells a story of four individuals confronting the limits of choice, circumstance, and their own mortality. This is a tale of connections made and missed, punishing regrets, and the grace of second chances. Intense, hilarious, provocative, and moving, *A Long Way Down* is a novel about suicide that is, surprisingly, full of life.

**a long way down nick hornby:** *A Long Way Down* Nick Hornby, 2005-05-05 'Extremely funny . . . and wise' Sunday Times NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE \_\_\_\_\_ 'Can I explain why I wanted to jump off the top of a tower block?' For disgraced TV presenter Martin Sharp the answer's pretty simple: he has, in his own words, 'pissed his life away'. And on New Year's Eve he's going to end it all . . . but not, as it happens, alone. Because first single-mum Maureen, then eighteen-year-old Jess and lastly American rock-god JJ turn up and crash Martin's private party. They've stolen his idea - but brought their own reasons. Yet it's hard to jump when you've got an audience queuing impatiently behind you. A few heated words and some slices of cold pizza later and these four strangers are suddenly allies. But is their unlikely friendship a good enough reason to carry on living? Shortlisted for the 2005 Whitbread Award and the Commonwealth Writers Prize, *A Long Way Down* is a darkly hilarious and moving novel by bestselling author Nick Hornby.

\_\_\_\_\_ 'Hornby's best yet' Literary Review 'Impossible to put down' Ruth Rendell, Guardian 'Some of the finest writing I've ever had the pleasure of reading' Johnny Depp

**a long way down nick hornby:** *High Fidelity (TV Tie-in)* Nick Hornby, 2020-02-04 A wise and hilarious novel about love, heartbreak, and rock and roll from the bestselling author of *About a Boy* and *Dickens and Prince* Now a Hulu series starring Zoë Kravitz! I've always loved Nick Hornby, and the way he writes characters and the way he thinks. It's funny and heartbreaking all at the same time.—Zoë Kravitz Rob is a pop music junkie who runs his own semi-failing record store. His girlfriend, Laura, has just left him for the guy upstairs, and Rob is both miserable and relieved. After all, could he have spent his life with someone who has a bad record collection? Rob seeks refuge in the company of the offbeat clerks at his store, who endlessly review their top five films; top five Elvis Costello songs; top five episodes of *Cheers*. Rob tries dating a singer, but maybe it's just that he's always wanted to sleep with someone who has a record contract. Then he sees Laura again. And Rob begins to think that life with kids, marriage, barbecues, and soft rock CDs might not be so bad.

**a long way down nick hornby:** *Ethics in Culture* Astrid Erll, Herbert Grabes, Ansgar Nünning, 2008-08-27 Alongside the recent cultural turn in the humanities, there has been a noticeable return to ethical considerations. With regard to literature as well as other media, this has rekindled awareness of a tension, antagonism, or even disparity between ethics and aesthetics. This volume of articles takes a more systematic and cross-disciplinary approach to the widely mooted ethical turn in literature and other media than has been pursued so far. It brings together a wide range of critical perspectives from literary studies, media and cultural memory studies, and philosophy, tracing the complex and sometimes conflicting relationship between ethics and aesthetics in theoretical contexts and individual case studies as diverse as colonial architecture, nineteenth-century literary histories, and postmodern writing and art.

**a long way down nick hornby:** *Fever Pitch* Nick Hornby, 1998-03-01 "Whether you are interested in football or not, this is tears-running-down-your-face funny, read-bits-out-loud-to-complete-strangers funny, but also highly perceptive and honest about Hornby's obsession and the state of the game." —GQ A brilliant memoir from the beloved,

bestselling author of Dickens and Prince, Funny Girl, and High Fidelity. In America, it is soccer. But in Great Britain, it is the real football. No pads, no prayers, no prisoners. And that's before the players even take the field. Nick Hornby has been a football fan since the moment he was conceived. Call it predestiny. Or call it preschool. Fever Pitch is his tribute to a lifelong obsession. Part autobiography, part comedy, part incisive analysis of insanity, Hornby's award-winning memoir captures the fever pitch of fandom—its agony and ecstasy, its community, its defining role in thousands of young men's coming-of-age stories. Fever Pitch is one for the home team. But above all, it is one for everyone who knows what it really means to have a losing season.

**a long way down nick hornby: Long Way Down** Nick Hornby, 2001-01-01 In four distinct and riveting first-person voices, Hornby tells a story of four individuals confronting the limits of choice, circumstance, and their own morality. This is a tale of connections made and missed, punishing regrets, and the grace of second chances.

**a long way down nick hornby: New Beginnings** Margaret Atwood, 2005-03-16 In an unprecedented publishing move, the world's leading writers are coming together to publish the first chapters of their new, unpublished work in a single volume entitled NEW BEGINNINGS. All proceeds of this unique venture will be going to Save the Children Tsunami Relief Fund. Authors participating are: Alexander McCall Smith chapter from Sunday Philosophy Club #2: Friends, Lovers, Chocolates coming 9/05 from Pantheon Ian McEwan chapter from Saturday coming 3/05 from Doubleday Maeve Binchy short story Georgia Hall ♦ as yet unscheduled Margaret Atwood excerpt from the Tree coming in 06 from Doubleday Marian Keyes chapter from If You Were Me Mark Haddon chapter from Blood and Scissors Nicholas Evans chapter from the Divide Nick Hornby chapter from A Long Way Down coming 6/05 from Riverhead Paulo Coelho chapter from the Zahir Scott Turow chapter from the Law of War coming 10/05 from FSG Stephen King short story: Lisey and the Madman from McSweeney's Enchanted Chamber of Astonishing Stories published 11/04 Tracy Chevalier untitled novel excerpt, as yet unscheduled for publication Vikram Seth poem, Earth and Sky as yet unscheduled Helen Fielding - introduction Harlan Coben chapter from the Innocent coming 4/05 from Dutton Joanna Trollope chapter from Second Honeymoon coming 2/06 from Bloomsbury JM Coetzee chapter from Slow Man coming 10/05 from Viking This is an extraordinary collection of superb pieces from the world's most celebrated writers. All of this is being made available to consumers in advance of publication and in aid of Tsunami victims. Your generous and enthusiastic support of this project will enable Save the Children to continue their important work in the wake of the Tsunami devastation.

**a long way down nick hornby: Dismembering the American Dream** Kate Charlton-Jones, 2014-08-30 A detailed study of Yates's novels and stories-- Provided by publisher.

**a long way down nick hornby: The State of the Novel** Dominic Head, 2009-01-30 Part of the Blackwell Manifestos series, The State of the Novel offers a lively, yet rigorous investigation into the state and future of the contemporary British novel written by an expert in the field. Evaluates the state of the 'serious literary' novel and novel criticism Prominent treatment is paid to the 'internationalization' of the novel in English Offers a manifesto on contemporary fiction from an expert in this field; Dominic Head is best known for his Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Fiction 1950-2000 Establishes the shared interests of contemporary theorists of the novel, cultural commentators, and novel consumers An ideal supplementary text for students and faculty interested in the novel and contemporary fiction

**a long way down nick hornby: Bring on the Books for Everybody** Jim Collins, 2010-06-30 A look at how technology and literary, visual, and consumer cultures have combined over the past two decades to transform a once solitary, print-based experience into an exuberantly social activity.

**a long way down nick hornby: A Long Way Down (Movie Tie-In Edition)** Nick Hornby, 2014-05-06 For use in schools and libraries only. Meeting on New Year's Eve on the roof of Topper's House, a London destination infamous as a last stop for suicidal people, a talk show host, a musician, a teenage girl, and a mother share stories about their circumstances and decisions.

**a long way down nick hornby: In The Zone** Mike Lansdown, 2018-06-29 In the Zone aims to

ensure that children's learning is firmly at the forefront of everything a teacher does in their professional life. Written in the conviction that education is far more than a means to improved exam results, Mike Lansdown focuses relentlessly on learning, thinking and the importance of challenge in ensuring children achieve what they can - both in class and beyond. Including chapters on Creativity, The Terror of Error, and Flow in Learning, this book gets beneath the skin of what it is to learn effectively and to use the words of a contributor, celebrates the slips, stumbles and blunders along with the moments of grace and unpredictable brilliance of children. Mike draws on a wide range of research and expert opinion from around the world and explains, in simple terms, how we can use this collective wisdom to improve the learning experience for children and, as a direct result, enjoy our teaching more. This book is a must have for any trainee, NQT or more experienced teacher who feels they need to be reminded of why they came into teaching in the first place!

**a long way down nick hornby: *Blending and the Study of Narrative*** Ralf Schneider, Marcus Hartner, 2012-10-30 The theory of Blending, or Conceptual Integration, proposed by Gilles Fauconnier and Marc Turner, is one of most promising cognitive theories of meaning production. It has been successfully applied to the analysis of poetic discourse and micro-textual elements, such as metaphor. Prose narrative has so far received significantly less attention. The present volume aims to remedy this situation. Following an introductory discussion of the connections between narrative and the processes of blending, the contributions demonstrate the range of applications of the theory to the study of narrative. They cover issues such as time and space, literary character and perspective, genre, story levels, and fictional minds; some chapters show how such phenomena as metalepsis, counterfactual narration, intermediality, extended metaphors, and suspense can be fruitfully studied from the vantage point of Conceptual Integration. Working within a theoretical framework situated at the intersection of narratology and the cognitive sciences, the book provides both fresh readings for individual literary and film narratives and new impulses for post-classical narratology.

**a long way down nick hornby: *The Intelligible Metropolis*** Nora Pleßke, 2014-08-15 Writings on the metropolis generally foreground illimitability, stressing thereby that the urban ultimately remains both illegible and unintelligible. Instead, the purpose of this interdisciplinary study is to demonstrate that mentality as a tool offers orientation in the urban realm. Nora Pleßke develops a model of urban mentality to be employed for cities worldwide. Against the background of the Spatial Turn, she identifies dominant urban-specific structures of London mentality in contemporary London novels, such as Monica Ali's »Brick Lane«, J.G. Ballard's »Millennium People«, Nick Hornby's »A Long Way Down«, and Ian McEwan's »Saturday«.

**a long way down nick hornby: *On the Turn*** Bárbara Arizti, Silvia Martínez-Falquina, 2009-05-05 *On the Turn: The Ethics of Fiction in Contemporary Narrative in English* is an attempt to listen to the various voices that participate in the current dialogue on the relationship between fiction and ethics. The editors' introduction investigates the current state of affairs on the return to ethics in critical and literary consideration, and it opens up the way for the variety of approaches that follows. Participants include internationally recognized scholars like Andrew Gibson, Patricia Waugh, or Native American fiction writer and poet Gordon Henry, winner of the American Book Award in 1995. All in all, contributors cover a significant geographical diversity, and their approaches also vary from general theory to particular examples, from traditional interpretations to post-deconstruction ethics. Authors analyze texts both mainstream and marginal, colonial and postcolonial; they examine the ethics of race, gender and sexuality; the ethics of self-positioning and orientation; the ethics of style; the ethics of reception; the ethics of mode and genre; the ethics of extreme situations of evil, disease and fascism. In its search for a better understanding of the global/nationalistic world of today, *On the Turn* therefore moves beyond the scope of literary criticism into issues of wider, more urgent relevance. What should I, ought I, may I, must I, do, if anything, on the basis of reading, when I have read a literary work? What does reading a literary work authorize, or even command, me to do? Writing an essay about the work would be one response. *On the Turn* is a wonderfully diverse, learned, challenging, provocative, even sometimes

controversial, collection of essays on the ethical dimensions of literature. This book is testimony to the continued lively interest in the ethical turn in literary studies. The authors are, for the most part, concerned with ethical theory and with ethically charged situations in postmodern novels in English, as they shape readers' values and judgments. Poetry and non-print media are, however, also discussed. J. Hillis Miller UCI Distinguished Research Professor of Comparative Literature and English, University of California at Irvine The Ethics of Fiction is an important and exciting volume that explores with energy and rigour the connections between ethics and literature. Relating literature to philosophy, neurobiology, politics, religion, deconstruction and psychoanalysis, the twenty two contributors richly advance 'the ethical turn' recently embraced by many critics. Works by authors such as Ian McEwan, A.S. Byatt, Charles Palliser, Hanif Kureishi, J.M. Coetzee, David Malouf, George Orwell, E.L. Doctorow, Flannery O'Connor, Toni Morrison and Paul Auster are presented in a new light and complex topics such as territoriality, the nature of love, Islamophobia and the politics of representation are tackled with imagination and intellectual integrity. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the dialogue between ethics and literature. Avril Horner, Professor of English, Kingston University

**a long way down nick hornby: Lad Trouble** Andrea Ochsner, 2015-07-15 In the 1990s, the male confessional novel, most prominently represented by Nick Hornby (»High Fidelity«), but also by writers such as Tim Lott (»White City Blue«) and Mike Gayle (»My Legendary Girlfriend«), articulated the structure of feeling of the male generation in their late twenties/early-to-mid-thirties. The book presents the advent of the male confessional novel in a fresh and yet critical light, challenging the feminist claim that the genre should be understood as a backlash against feminism and a relapse into sexism. By applying an eclectic theoretical framework, ranging from Raymond Williams to Anthony Giddens, Judith Butler and Jacques Derrida, the study illustrates why the male confessional novel is too complex a phenomenon to be solely interpreted in terms of retrosexism. It convincingly shows how the multitude of postmodern gender scripts adds to the crisis of identity and to the problematic nature of clearly defined gender relationships.

**a long way down nick hornby: How to be Hornby - Die Struktur der erzählerischen Vermittlung in "A Long Way Down" und "About a Boy"** Eva-Maria Gries, 2008 Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2008 im Fachbereich Anglistik - Literatur, Note: 1,0, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar Heidelberg), Veranstaltung: British Novels at the Beginning of the 21st Century: Beyond Postmodernism?, 13 Quellen im Literaturverzeichnis, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Betrachtet man die Autoren zeitgenössischer britischer Romane in den letzten fünfzehn Jahren, so zeichnet sich Nick Hornby vielleicht nicht als der einflussreichste Autor, aber zumindest als einer der kommerziell erfolgreichsten Autoren aus. Doch nicht nur sein kommerzieller Erfolg, sondern vor allem die Erzählweise in seinen Romanen, die D.J. Taylor als self-interrogative streams of an occasionally less than illuminating consciousness<sup>1</sup> bezeichnet, scheint ein bemerkenswerter Aspekt von Hornbys Werken zu sein. Taylor bezieht sich mit seinem Zitat vor allem auf Hornbys Roman A long way down, der 2005 erschienen ist. Gilt diese Beschreibung der Erzählweise Hornbys nur für diesen Roman, oder finden sich Aspekte einer hornbyesken Erzählweise auch in seinen anderen Romanen? Was macht die Struktur der erzählerischen Vermittlung in Nick Hornbys Romanen aus? Im Folgenden soll anhand eines Vergleichs zwischen Nick Hornbys Romanen A long way down und About a boy diese Frage zwar nicht für Hornbys gesamtes Werk, aber zumindest für diese beiden Romane beantwortet werden. Zum einen soll untersucht werden, wie genau in beiden Romanen erzählt wird, zum anderen, welche Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede sich in der Erzählweise der beiden Romane ergeben. Dazu muss zunächst dargelegt werden, welche Kriterien zur Analyse der erzählerischen Vermittlung verwendet werden und auf welchen theoretischen Grundlagen diese basieren. Anschließend soll zunächst die Struktur der erzählerischen Vermittlung in A long way down, dann in About a Boy anhand der gewählten Kriterien untersucht werden. Abschließend kann dann ein Vergleich, der Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede in der Erzählweise beider

**a long way down nick hornby: Time**, 2009

**a long way down nick hornby:** [Study Guide](#) Supersummary, 2019-08-27 SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 65-page guide for A Long Way Down by Nick Hornby includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 3 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Contemporary Existentialism and Suicide and The Correlation Between Regret and Depression.

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