



F.U.T.B.

"Wildly exuberant, and exciting

... This is a bitch of a book."

—*The Washington Post*

IN PRAISE OF

DIFFICULT WOMEN

ELIZABETH WURTZEL

by the author of the bestselling *Prozac Nation*

Elizabeth Wurtzel's

BITCH: IN PRAISE OF DIFFICULT WOMEN

Bitch Gets People Talking ...

The Good

“One of the more honest, insightful, and witty books on the subject of women to have come along in a while.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“The Courtney Love of letters ... extraordinarily thought-provoking, absorbing, wise, often poignant. You can disagree with Wurtzel, but at least she always has a definite point of view.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

“Wurtzel ... is truly a *Wunderkind*. She's brilliant, original, outspoken ... This is a big, brash, and bountiful book.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“It's got the preposterous energy of a great, drunken tantrum, and a voluptuous, sprawling style, with lots of good, zinging jokes ...” —*The Village Voice Literary Supplement*

“This promiscuous rampage through the raw stuff of popular culture ... is as outrageous, suggestive and difficult as the post-feminist role-model it takes as its subject. A vastly entertaining, at times virtuosic rant ...” —*Esquire* (U.K.)

“The history of female manipulation as told by the baddest, brainiest babe from Generation X ... for all her bitchy poses and sassy one-liners, she still comes across as someone who is generous, fun, thoughtful and—irony of ironies—nice.” —*The Express* (London)

“Wurtzel is an intelligent writer ... fast-paced and convincing.” —*The Daily Telegraph* (London)

“*Bitch* is a brilliant feminist manifesto in the great tradition that stretches from Mary Wollstonecraft to Germaine Greer.” —Elaine Showalter in *The Guardian* (London)

“[Wurtzel] drops phrases that are surgically funny in their incisiveness. Depending on the occasion, Wurtzel can be catty, opinionated, empathetic or scurrilous, but always with a backbone of solid research.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“*Bitch* is a show-stopping, name-dropping, gossip-dishing, wild rock-n-roll performance ... [Wurtzel’s] analogies, similes and metaphors are wildly exuberant, and exciting ... This is a bitch of a book.” —*Washington Post*

“Thoughtful analysis, a lot of entertaining information, and a good deal of clever writing ... Wurtzel’s talent for provocative prose and sexy subjects perfectly lends itself to a screed on female power.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Certainly, Wurtzel has her finger, even her middle one, on something here.” —*USA Today*

The Bad

“ ‘The Blonde in the Bleachers’ takes Hillary Clinton over the sticks for underachieving. A tiring read.” —*Time Out* (London)

“It is unclear why Wurtzel, a prodigiously gifted, if outrageously self-involved, writer, believes that this tawdry story, which has long since been picked clean of any insights, merits yet more parsing.” —*The Globe and Mail* (Toronto)

“Her aggressively chatty book reads like a dorm-room bull session,

rambling from Delilah to Anne Sexton to Courtney Love to Nicole Brown Simpson—all difficult women ‘of extremely different sorts’—without really presenting a definition or an argument ... Along with the old feminism she has so gladly jettisoned, she has abandoned any attempt at polite sisterhood.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“The next installment in *The World According to Liz* ... puts Wurtzel in serious contention to usurp Camille Paglia as the loudmouthed loose cannon of pseudo-intellectual, quasi-feminist cultural criticism.” —*New Times Los Angeles*

“Wurtzel’s reductive theorizing, coupled with her penchant for posing in half-naked states of repose, established her mainly as hot damaged goods ... self-flagellation, as Wurtzel can attest, is a hell of a career move.” —*Spin*

“*Prozac Nation* established Wurtzel as the voice of all self-centered, self-pitying own-worst-enemies. Her new book is that much more proof that she’s the right woman for the job.” —*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

“*Bitch* is, more or less, a meandering lamentation on the fate of irrepressible women, those too angry, too tormented, too selfish ... While Wurtzel’s plaint is heartfelt, it isn’t more than that. The book is all shapeless feeling.” —*Time*

“One wants to say: Please shut up, because Wurtzel rambles endlessly, making points and then abandoning them, piling up plots and song lyrics and media detritus, pausing now and then to opine on various things ... These struttings and preenings suggest that she prefers her audience prone, passive and awestruck. When I finally put this book down, my overwhelming feeling was one of relief at having been released from such a confining role.” —*The Nation*

“The book’s glimpses of truth are unnerving, mostly because they close the distance between themselves and *Bitch*’s exceedingly

distraught author.” —*Time Out New York*

“Wurtzel’s second book, *Bitch*, is not a good book ... After the introduction, *Bitch* disintegrates quickly into a rant. In most of the book there is no method to Wurtzel’s affected madness.” —*New York Press*

“Hip turns of phrase frequently replace logic in this often smug and overwritten screed. In her defense, Wurtzel has taken on a huge project, and every now and again she introduces a startling insight about how women manipulate situations to control their lives ... Recommended only as catalyst for debate.” —*Library Journal*

The Bitchy

“What follows can ultimately be judged by its cover: saucy, sassy, but ultimately rather silly ... Wow—what a bitch.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

“One wants to scream at the cover picture, ‘Damn, honey, no one’s gonna confuse you with a beauty queen, either.’ *Bitch* begets bitchiness.” —*Salon*

“Ostensibly a book about bitchy women throughout history, it is really a bitchy book about one woman: the author herself.” —*Swing*

“Bottom line: Rambling, self-important dog of a book.” —*People*

“I find myself flip-flopping between sympathizing with and wanting to muzzle the mercurial Wurtzel.” —Louisa Kamps, *Mirabella*

The Bottom Line

“Like demanding women, pathbreaking and impossible to dismiss.” —*Ms.*

“It will absolutely make you furious. Yet while you may want to bash *Bitch* or burn it, I dare you to put it down for long. There’s something about it—so bold, so bald?—that’s just so good.” —*Hartford Courant*

“Wurtzel is insouciant. And that’s the reason many loathe and others like her book.” —*Boston Globe*

Also by Elizabeth Wurtzel

Prozac Nation

Bitch

In Praise of Difficult Women

Elizabeth Wurtzel



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For Betsy Lerner and Lydia Wills, without whom ...