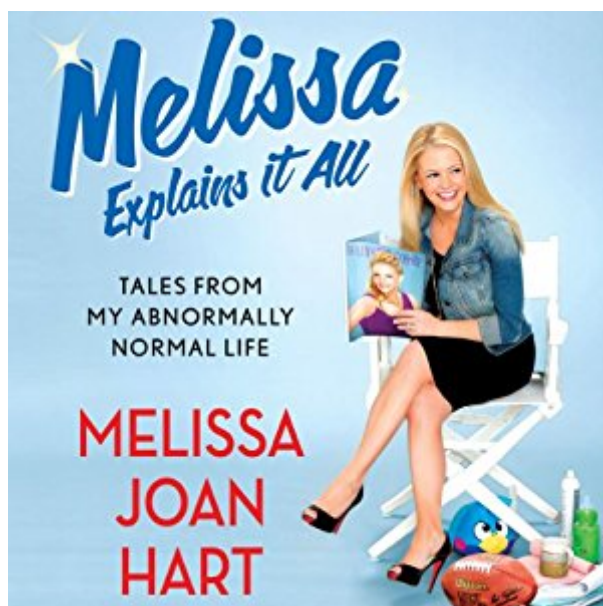


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# Melissa Explains It All: Tales From My Abnormally Normal Life



## Synopsis

Melissa has been entertaining audiences most of her life; when there were no girls named Melissa on her favorite show, the forceful four year old decided she'd get on TV her way. From that moment on, Melissa has shown a singular determination and focus whether it's for booking three national commercials so her dad would build her a tree house or for nailing the audition for Clarissa. From her first commercial to her current starring role in ABC Family's hit *Melissa and Joey*, Hart never let fame go to her head. She always had one foot in Hollywood and one foot in reality - and still does. Melissa makes us laugh along with her as she talks about: guest appearances in shows like *Saturday Night Live* and *The Equalizer* auditioning for Punky Brewster and Clarissa her early Broadway days wacky parties she's thrown and attended the actors who influenced her and whom she befriended, worked with and competed against her experiences both on and off-set - with *Sabrina's Salem the Cat* and *Elvis the Alligator* on *Clarissa* how she met the love of her life at the Kentucky Derby Melissa Joan Hart explains all that she's learned along the way - what's kept her grounded, normal and working when others have not been so fortunate - and that she's the approachable, hilarious girl-next-door her fans have always thought she'd be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a mom of boys myself, I bought this book hoping to relate to Melissa as well as to get some inside scoop into her Hollywood experiences. Well, there was no inside scoop (except how hard-working she is/was) and I was disappointed in the seemingly condescending tone and overall

theme of highlighting her accomplishments and high points. I understand the need to point out one's successes in life, but I feel that it needs to be balanced with one's low points in order to be real and relatable to the reader. In my opinion, Melissa came off as a little desperate to sell herself as a "star" with a tendency to bolster her own ego. And her stage "mother" sounds like a nightmare. Despite Melissa's insistence that her mother was nothing like Kris Jenner or Joe Simpson, it's painfully obvious that she was indeed exactly that. I love the popular claim of many child stars, "At four years old, I insisted on being an actor. It was MY idea." Right. When you are old enough to drive yourself and book your own auditions, then we will call it YOUR idea. I was left unsatisfied and feeling kind of sorry for Melissa.

I usually love reading celeb books, but this one was hard to get through. While I love the self depreciating styles that say tori spelling or Jenny McCarthy use, Melissa Joan Hart spends most of her time name dropping and she seems to be full of herself. She sees herself as much more of a celebrity than she really is. A few juicy parts with good info, but mostly very boring and tedious.

I really wanted to like this book. At first I did. It was interesting to hear of Melissa's start in the business. From there, things quickly went downhill. First, Melissa takes forever to tell the most tedious stories ever!! (an entire chapter on her husband's football obsession....details of every party she's ever thrown) Second, there's nothing normal about her life and the fact that she put this in the title is amusing. She spends most of the book name dropping and talking about things the average person will never do or be able to afford. Another thing...while confidence is good...Melissa makes it clear that she is really an amazing actor. She really likes herself....A LOT. Unless you're a huge fan, skip this one.

As a lifelong Melissa Joan Hart fan, I had to read her book. I still remember Clarissa and Sam, I had to spend my Friday nights with Sabrina and the rest of the TGIF gang, and I never miss Melissa & Joey. MJH is fun to follow on Twitter and Instagram with adorable pictures of her kids and fun behind-the-scenes looks at M&J. Her book, *Melissa Explains It All*, was an incredibly fun read. It is funny, full of juicy gossip, and very "Hart"-felt (pardon the pun). Hart talks in depth about her normal upbringing in a large, middle-class family. Acting was her hobby that just happened to blossom and be fun and profitable. She devotes an entire chapter to both *Clarissa Explains It All* and *Sabrina*, describing her first horrendous on-screen kiss with James Van der Blah (Beek, poor guy lol) and her hallucinogenic use of shrooms with some of the Sabrina cast. Her references to drug and alcohol

use were very surprising considering she has a great reputation, especially compared with other celebs like Tara Reid and Britney Spears. However, it was clearly a phase associated with being young, rich, and successful in the 90s, and one she grew out of. Hart is extremely honest in this book, even when the truth is less than flattering. She almost started a fight with Oscar de la Hoya, for goodness sake. She's also honest about other people, such as Jerry O'Connell being a teenage man-whore and Drew Barrymore being a childhood brat. Hart comes off as very down to Earth, especially when it comes to parenting. She talks about her shortcomings in cooking, potty-training, and being a disciplinarian. She once burnt water, which is hilarious. She's not one of those celebs that advocates vegan, organic, local, gluten-free, etc etc parenting styles. She's the kind of mom you might see down the block wrangling 3 kids for soccer practice. She talks about people telling her she "looks like Sabrina." Melissa Explains It All is honest, funny, sarcastic, and surprisingly down-to-earth. If you like Melissa Joan Hart or grew up in the 90s, you will definitely enjoy this book.

I was very excited to read this book since I grew up on Melissa's shows and also on Long Island, not too far from the town she grew up. I was hoping to read an honest tell all that would really give her fans some insight on her story. It couldn't have been farther from what I was expecting. First of all, she spent the entire book name dropping about all of the important people and celebrities that she has worked with. Not interested. She talked about living deep in Long Island. Long Island is NOT the deep South, and Sayville is hardly deep in Long Island. She lived in a small town on the wrong side of the tracks? Sayville? Really? I don't think so. She really wanted to make it seem like she had a tough childhood in a tough town. That is not the case. Being the same age as her and knowing people that went to school with her, I always heard rumors about what an unfriendly person she was. I was hoping that by reading this book, that would put those rumors to rest, but it only confirmed what I have always heard about her. I really could have done without the entire chapter dedicated to her husband's football obsession. I also couldn't get over how she said since she grew up on Long Island she knew nothing about football as if Long Islanders aren't fans. Melissa is a good actress, and I enjoyed her shows as a kid, but she is very arrogant and full of herself and I think her entire book was a lie. If you grew up on Long Island, read this book. If not, I wouldn't waste the time, or money. I wish I could get a refund.

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