

Book Review

It's Kind of a Funny Story

by Liam Decker

Do you enjoy realistic fiction? Stories that include the relatable awkwardness of high school? *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, by Ned Vizzini, is a young adult novel written in a brilliant style of realistic fiction. Following the life of high school freshman Craig Gilner, *It's Kind of a Funny Story* very accurately depicts teen depression and anxiety.

For some however this book may be a little extreme. The content in Vizzini's novel may not be for the faint of heart. In the book there are depictions of drug and alcohol use, strong language, suicide attempts, and brief descriptions of self harm.

Vizzini describes the feelings a rising percent of teenagers feel when going into high school or other high pressure situations, through his dynamic and intriguing characters. He dives right into the problems and seriousness of depression and anxiety; starting the book off with the daunting line, "It's so hard to *talk* when you want to kill yourself."

The book opens with Gilner at his friend Aaron's house along with their other friends Ronny and Nia, Aaron's girlfriend. The odd group of misfits sit around in a dark room watching Ronny play video games on Aaron's TV.

The book then takes a sudden change of setting with Craig at his psychologist's office. He then describes one of his many appointments with his newest doctor, Dr. Minerva. Gilner has had many 'shrinks'. He then goes on to explain his use of the term, "It's an adult term, and it's disrespectful, and I'm more than two thirds adult and I'm pretty disrespectful, so what the hell."

Vizzini's book keeps readers thoroughly captivated as new, and sur-

prisingly relatable, issues and drama arrive. Whether it be a silly crush, stunning changes in group dynamics, or an intense realization about life itself Vizzini constantly enthralls the reader.

Vizzini does an excellent job describing and explaining the thoughts and feelings of his clinically depressed character. He himself struggled with severe depression his entire life making the story of Craig Gilner all the more heart-felt, relatable, and realistic.

Entertaining but meaningful novels are some of my personal favorites, and this beautiful piece of literature more than meets my expectations. Vizzini keeps you interested with the progressive story of depression, but all the while makes sure to give a good laugh once in a while.

It's Kind of a Funny Story is a very easy to read novel with great humor and some very relatable topics to both teenaged and adult audiences.

If you enjoy relating to stories, having a good laugh, or just reading a good book, then *It's Kind of a Funny Story* might be right for you.

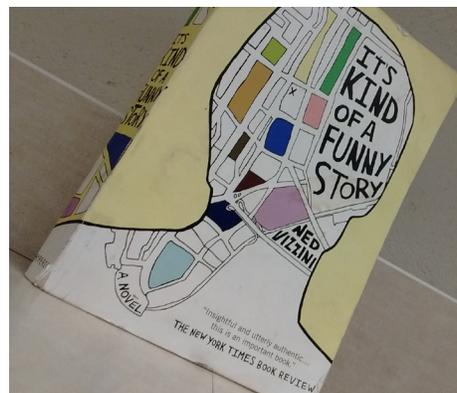


Photo of *It's Kind of a Funny Story* book cover. Photo by Liam Decker