



## Teen Angst? Naaah . . .

By Ned Vizzini

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Ned Vizzini writes about the weird, funny, and sometimes mortifying moments that made up his teen years. With wit, irony, and honesty, Teen Angst? Naaah . . . invites you into Ned’s world of school, parents, cool (and almost cool), street people, rock bands, friends, fame, camp, sex (sort of), Cancún (almost), prom, beer, video games, and more.

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## Teen Angst? Naaah . . . By Ned Vizzini Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In his first book, 19-year-old Vizzini recounts his comical and intelligent, if not particularly penetrating experiences as a teenager coming of age in New York City. The first section covers highlights from junior high school, followed by one section each for his four years at Stuyvesant High School. Each showcases such universal and humiliating hurdles as vacationing with parents and preparing for the prom. Readers get a real sense of Vizzini through his stories (one especially insightful chapter describes his painstaking preparations for the high school admissions test) and some clever marginalia (e.g., "I'm skinny now, but over 50 percent of American men end up overweight, so I'll probably be fat later on"). He's gifted but gawky, adventurous yet filled with anxiety. Most of all, he shows a real talent for self-deprecating humor ("Being a cheap and petty person, I was shocked at how expensive the modern prom is"). However, some essays that could have meaning for many readers fall short on the follow-through: for example, the author talks about filling out a college application, but never discusses how he made his final decision about where to attend. Chapters about buying a Nintendo system or attempting to produce a video for cable access television are entertaining, but don't pack much punch. Readers will likely laugh at Vizzini's awkward antics, but may not find them particularly memorable. Ages 13-up. (Aug.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-The author, who is described as being a little on the geeky side and not too suave with girls, recorded his high school experiences between the ages of 15 and 18. These essays, originally published in the New York Press and New York Times Magazine, now appear in this compilation. Vignettes do not necessarily lend themselves to a straightforward plot, so the fiercely intelligent and introspective Vizzini concentrates on style rather than action. His wonderfully sardonic voice, like Daniel Pinkwater's in *The Education of Robert Nifkin* (Farrar, 1998), suggests a wisdom beyond his years. "The teen world is full of second prizes. Nobody wants to hurt our self-esteem." His timely scenarios include a Nintendo obsession, Magic cards, a visit to ABC's *The View*, and singular incidents with marijuana and alcohol. Echoing *The Wonder Years*, Vizzini's adult self comments on his high school self by way of sidebars, which sometimes include Web addresses for more information. He comments on his lame attempt to sleep with his girlfriend during his senior year, "I felt so bad about being high-pressure that I became no-pressure, never discussing it, never bringing it up." Black-and-white cartoons interspersed throughout the text give the book a "zine" feel. This surefire title is bright, insightful, and thoroughly charming.

*Laura Glaser, Euless Junior High School, TX*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 9-12. Nineteen-year-old Vizzini has the advantage of being able to write about his junior-high and high-school years (he was mostly the nerdy, sf-fan type) from close range. He also displays a mature and ironic detachment as he describes his experiences. He bases each chapter on a usually small incident. His writing style is breezy, often funny, and genuine, although occasionally the humor seems forced. The short explanatory comments in the margins (like the pop-ups on VH1 videos) add to the relaxed tone. Teens are sure to find much that is familiar in these recollections; older readers will find frequent reminders of why it's good to be out of high school. *Todd Morning*

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Debbie Bennett:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book allowed Teen Angst? Naaah . . .? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

**Lawrence Elam:**

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**Kirk Qualls:**

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