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Review of Amy Poehler's "Yes Please"

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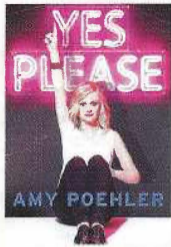


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Yes Please

By Amy Poehler

HarperAvenue, 2014. 332 pages. \$20 (e-book \$16)

UNLESS YOU have a sense of humour, or liked Tina Fey's *Bossypants* and want

more, or you want to understand contemporary culture, you can skip this memoir-ish book by actor and comedian Amy Poehler.

After all, she openly discusses her drug use and how good she is at sex right alongside advice on careers, friendship and motherhood. Her language is blunt, sometimes rude, and,

at a few points, downright foul. But she is consistently honest and charitable, and says some things Christians need to hear.

For example, in explaining *improv* – improvisational comedy – she argues for saying yes. If your improv partner says we are riding on the Prague subway, then that is what we are doing. Your job is to say yes, add to the story and keep it moving. We all know people whose default answer to new ideas is no. They would be nicer to work with if they took improv lessons from Amy Poehler.

To underline the point that even today we have philosophers among us, I recently took *Yes Please* to class. My university

students thought me clever to classify Amy Poehler as a philosopher, but they argued she really didn't qualify. "Socrates, Poehler, Aristotle?" As I explained my classification, they agreed that for most of their lives Amy Poehler has presented a philosophy of life on both *Saturday Night Live* and *Parks and Recreation*. Here's the kicker. Several asked to borrow my copy. For that reason, I recommend *Yes Please*. It is an accessible, major work of reflection on contemporary society.

–KEN BADLEY