

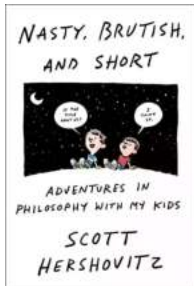
Nasty, Brutish, and Short - The Dark Reality of Existence



Life can be harsh, cruel, and unforgiving. In the words of the philosopher Thomas Hobbes, it is "nasty, brutish, and short." These words paint a bleak picture of our human existence, highlighting the struggles we face and the brevity of our time on this planet. Let us delve into the meaning of this grim reality and explore how we can navigate our way through its challenges.

The phrase "nasty, brutish, and short" originates from Hobbes' book, "Leviathan," which explores the nature of society and the social contract. Hobbes argues that life in a state of nature, without law or order, is characterized by constant violence, fear, and anarchy. He believes that

humans are driven by self-interest and constantly compete for resources. The result is a life filled with suffering and uncertainty.



Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Adventures in Philosophy with My Kids by Scott Hershovitz (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2837 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 380 pages



In Hobbes' view, without a governing authority to establish law and order, our lives descend into chaos. While this might seem extreme, there is truth to the idea that life presents numerous challenges. From birth to death, we encounter hardships, both physical and emotional, that shape our existence.

One of the fundamental aspects of our existence is the inherent struggle for survival. In the animal kingdom, it is the survival of the fittest, where only the strongest and most adaptable individuals thrive. Humans are not exempt from this struggle, although our battles may manifest in different forms.

Financial difficulties, health issues, and personal relationships can all be sources of struggle and hardship in our lives. From the moment we are

born, we are confronted with the harsh realities of the world, where our survival depends on our ability to adapt and overcome these challenges.

Furthermore, the brevity of life adds to the sense of urgency in navigating through its difficulties. Time is a finite resource, and the realization that our time on this earth is limited can be a sobering experience. It compels us to make the most of every moment and to find meaning and purpose in our lives.

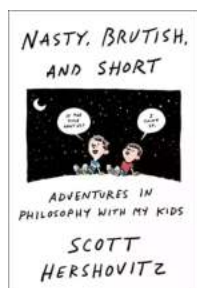
While the phrase "nasty, brutish, and short" evokes a sense of despair, it also serves as a reminder of our resilience as human beings. Despite the hardships we face, we have the capacity to overcome adversity and find moments of joy and fulfillment.

The key lies in understanding that life's challenges are an inherent part of the human experience. Instead of succumbing to despair, we can choose to embrace these challenges as opportunities for growth and self-discovery. It is through adversity that we develop strength and resilience, enabling us to navigate the twists and turns of life.

Additionally, it is crucial to cultivate a sense of purpose and meaning in our lives. By identifying our values and passions, we can create a roadmap that guides us through the darkness. Whether it be through meaningful relationships, creative pursuits, or contributing to the betterment of society, finding purpose allows us to transcend the limitations of our existence.

, life can indeed be "nasty, brutish, and short," but it is essential to recognize that these words do not solely define our existence. While we may encounter hardships and struggles along the way, we also possess the innate ability to persevere and find fulfillment. By embracing the

challenges, cultivating resilience, and seeking purpose, we can navigate through the darkness and create a life that is meaningful and fulfilling.



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One of the Christian Science Monitor's 10 best books of May

From a University of Michigan professor of law and philosophy, a fresh, deep, and funny inquiry into life's biggest questions with the help of first-rate philosophers—including his two young children

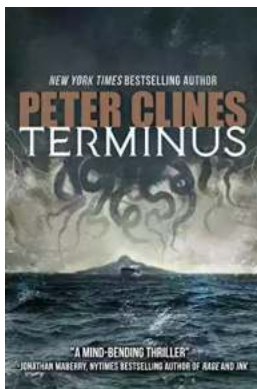
Some of the best philosophers in the world gather in surprising places—preschools and playgrounds. They debate questions about metaphysics and morality, even though they've never heard the words and perhaps can't even tie their shoes. They're kids. And as Scott Hershovitz shows in this delightful debut, they're astoundingly good philosophers.

Hershovitz has two young sons, Rex and Hank. From the time they could talk, he noticed that they raised philosophical questions and were determined to answer them. They re-created ancient arguments. And they

advanced entirely new ones. That's not unusual, Hershovitz says. Every kid is a philosopher.

Following an agenda set by Rex and Hank, Hershovitz takes us on a fun romp through classic and contemporary philosophy, powered by questions like, Does Hank have the right to drink soda? When is it okay to swear? and, Does the number six exist? Hershovitz and his boys take on more weighty issues too. They explore punishment, authority, sex, gender, race, the nature of truth and knowledge, and the existence of God. Along the way, they get help from professional philosophers, famous and obscure. And they show that all of us have a lot to learn from listening to kids—and thinking with them.

Hershovitz calls on us to support kids in their philosophical adventures. But more than that, he challenges us to join them so that we can become better, more discerning thinkers and recapture some of the wonder kids have at the world.



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