

# Book review

## When Life Gives You Lemons

A resource for young people dealing with depression and anxiety

**Category:** Book Reviews / Self-help

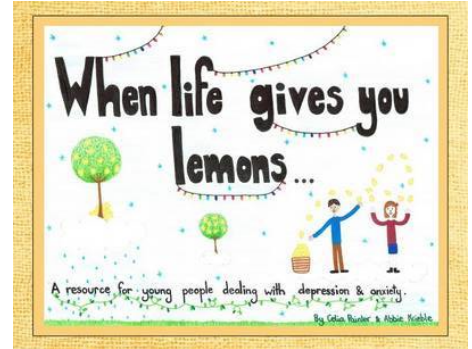
**Author:** Abbie Kriebler, illustrated by Celia Painter

**Year:** 2015

**Publisher:** CreateBooks Ltd, NZ

**ISBN:** 9780994122797

**Audience:** Supporting Myself



**Summary:** Explaining depression and anxiety for teens, with illustrations, strategies and support information

The minute *When Life Gives You Lemons* landed in my hands, I smiled. This book is bursting with creativity and spirit which instantly takes you on a journey through the artistic minds of these two teens, explaining the complexities of depression and anxiety.

Celia Painter illustrated the book while she was living with depression and anxiety. In the introduction, Painter says how therapeutic it was for her to draw while she was struggling with her own mental health. She hopes the images will help others too. Writer Abbie Kriebler does an excellent job of explaining mental illness, what the symptoms are and tangible ways to help support yourself and others.

### A picture is worth a thousand words

*When Life Gives You Lemons* is fun and inviting. The information is easy to read and organised with delicately written words and images, helping you grasp medical terms as well as sharing interesting mental health facts and quotes. The images on each page help bring the words to life and express many of the complex feelings that are hard to put into words.

### What to do with lemons

*When Life Gives You Lemons* is a beautiful way to support teens to understand mental illness for themselves and also for friends and family. The authors have created a well-rounded resource that delivers: tangible skills, explanations, understanding and important information on supportive services for teens. I wish I had this book when I was a teenager.

**Reviewed by Kate Cherven, Programme Engagement Specialist at the Mental Health Foundation**



The Mental Health Foundation's Resource and Information Service brings you book reviews fortnightly. To view more go to [www.mentalhealth.org.nz/books](http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/books)

Phone: 09 623 4810 | [www.mentalhealth.org.nz](http://www.mentalhealth.org.nz)  
Units 109-110, Zone 23, 23 Edwin Street, Mt Eden, Auckland  
PO Box 10051, Dominion Road, Auckland 1446