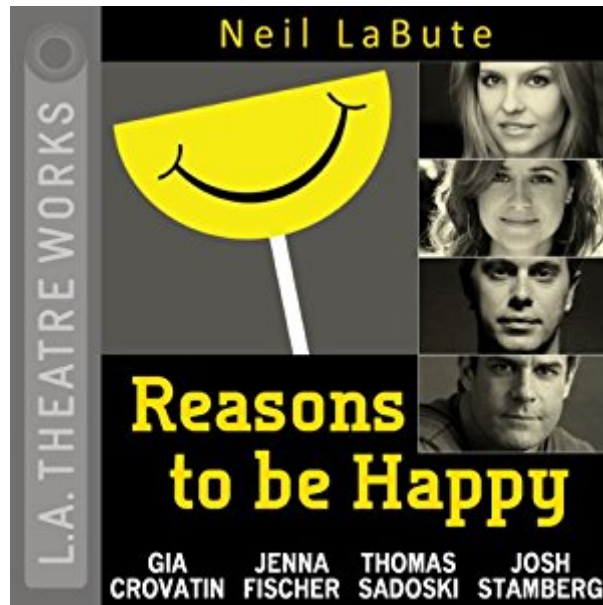


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# Reasons To Be Happy



## Synopsis

In the sequel to *Reasons to Be Pretty*, Greg, Steph, Carly, and Kent return a little older, but not necessarily wiser. And don't worry if you haven't met them before - there's more than enough humor and humanity to usher you into the second act of their lives. Includes a backstage conversation with Neil LaBute and the cast. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast production featuring Jenna Fischer, Thomas Sadoski, Gia Crovatin, and Josh Stamberg. Written and directed by Neil LaBute. Recorded by L.A. Theatre Works before a live audience.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

As most probably know by now, *Reasons To Be Happy* is a sequel to Labute's earlier play *Reasons To Be Pretty*, and picks up 3 years later to take another look into the lives of its characters Greg, Steph, Kent and Carly. A plot summary really doesn't do the play justice: Greg is now dating Carly, but Steph is ready to give things another shot with Greg. Kent is struggling to reconcile his naturally aggressive tendencies with his desire to be a decent/present father and to establish some kind of healthy adult relationship with his new girlfriend (who may be cheating on him). No, the true power of the play lies in the way Labute quietly explores how people make the same mistakes twice, attract dysfunction, and knowingly avoid making the right decisions. As a stand-alone story, the play is funny, touching, and very entertaining. As a companion piece to *Pretty*, it takes on whole new dimensions, developing into something far more poignant and ambitious. Given that the play is a "sequel" audiences will likely expect a story that takes off in some dynamic new direction, or present us with major character transformations. But the fact of the matter is that most people don't

change-- we talk, we plan, we pledge, we make resolutions, but if we're being really honest...? Stories about self-realization, growing up and coming of age only show the beginning stages. We can realize something dark or true that needs to change about ourselves, we often do, but how often do we take the hard path to make those changes? This story shows that while the desire to grow can be there, and the lessons can be learned, the struggle is often less exciting, less self-satisfying than simply continuing with life as usual.

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