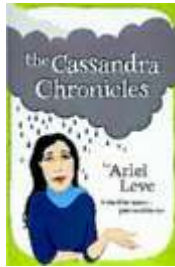




Sydney Morning Herald
17/10/2009
Page: 31
Section: Spectrum
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IN SHORT Nonfiction



THE CASSANDRA CHRONICLES

By Ariel Leve

Portobello Books, 289pp, \$29.99

Ariel Leve, a long-time columnist for London's *Sunday Times Magazine*, is not really a Cassandra in the conventional sense of the word – that is, a disregarded prophet of disaster.

Rather, she is a commentator on contemporary foibles and infelicities whose columns, presented here under 16 thematic headings such as "Friendship" and "Modern Manners", take a rather jaundiced view of modern life. You know the sort of thing: "I won't call it a love affair because that suggests there will be an end. It's more like a love story. Best of all, there is no snoring, no post-coital regret, no unreturned phone calls or awkward silences."

She could be the love child of Fran Lebowitz and Woody Allen. She possesses that same kind of sad-sack New York (she was born in New York but now lives in London) Jewish humour that is both perceptive and caustic.

If you enjoy laughing at your foibles and the foibles of your friends, then every line of this very clever, if painful, book will be chuckled and cried over.



Sunday Canberra Times
18/10/2009
Page: 2
Section: Relax
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Type: Australian Capital City Daily
Size: 53.00 sq.cms
Frequency: -----S

the list



worth worrying

Joan Rivers describes Ariel Leve as the "love child of David Sedaris and Fran Leibowitz". Original, insightful and sharp, this is the flip side of *Sex and the City*: a very funny book written by a woman who knows how to laugh at herself and her insecurities". We agree. Her book *The Cassandra Chronicles* (Portobello Books, \$29.95) is a collection of columns Leve writes for Great Britain's *The Sunday Times*. She's a hypochondriac, neurotic, habitual sweater of the small stuff, one of life's losers. She reckons it's a good day if she gets out of bed. It's not meant to be a feel-good book but Leve leaves you uplifted.