



# The Principles of Uncertainty

By Maira Kalman

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Maira Kalman paints her highly personal worldview in an inimitable combination of image and text.

*The Principles of Uncertainty* is an irresistible invitation to experience life through the psyche of Maira Kalman, one of this country's most beloved artists. The result is a book that is part personal narrative, part documentary, part travelogue, part chapbook, and all Kalman. Her brilliant, whimsical paintings, ideas, and images-which initially appear random-ultimately form an intricately interconnected worldview, an idiosyncratic inner monologue. Kalman contends with some existential questions-What is identity? What is happiness? Why do we fight wars? And then, of course, death, love, and candy (not necessarily in that order).

The tremendous success of Kalman's 2005 illustrated edition of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* established her as an original, inspirational voice, and the quirky, hilarious, heartbreaking style of *The Principles of Uncertainty* reveals Maira Kalman for what she truly is: a national treasure.

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## The Principles of Uncertainty By Maira Kalman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #91124 in Books
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- 336 pages

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best of the Month, October 2007:** In 2005 Maira Kalman brought a fresh vision to Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*, filling the pages of the reference classic with her whimsical illustrations. And much like its multi-talented creator—who has illustrated children's books and *New Yorker* covers and collaborated on fashion projects with Kate Spade and Isaac Mizrahi—her new book, *The Principles of Uncertainty*, defies easy classification. Is it philosophy? Art? Memoir? Travel? Sociology? The answer is All of the Above (and more). This charming collection of text, paintings, and photography presents a "profusely illustrated" year in a life, with illustrated musings that range from a young Nabokov "sitting innocently and elegantly in a red chair" to two stuffed rabbits in the window at Paris's Deyrolles taxidermy to Kitty Carlisle Hart at home in her "pearly pink palace." Delightful, inspiring, and often very moving, this little charmer is a book you might find nestled on Wes Anderson's coffee table. --*Brad Thomas Parsons*

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reviewers were not faint in their praise of *The Principles of Uncertainty*, even if they spent most of their energy attempting to describe it. And no wonder: the list of items that Maira Kalman describes in the book could almost fill a book itself, even without her illustrations. Readers who are unfamiliar with Kalman's work but respond to even a few items on that list should probably take a look at *Principles*. Those who know her children's books or illustrations will be excited to see her take on a broader range of topics, including "the images and confusion of the dreamworld [that] linger in our waking hours" and create deep emotion and consciousness from her art (*New York Times Book Review*). But as with any book, the most important question will be whether the images "here, mostly visual" affect the reader's own perceptions of the world.

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Review

"Sublime... Kalman's elegantly witty and at times melancholy narrative runs arm in arm with her unmistakable paintings on a serendipitous romp through the history of the world."—*Vanity Fair*

"Wildly original...there's nothing else even remotely like it... This hilarious, wise, and deeply moving volume [is] the ultimate picture book for grown-ups."—*O Magazine*

"An odd treasure."—*Ariel Levy, The New York Times Book Review*

"Within this work, as much literary as artistic, one finds the assurance (the certainty!) that the human condition is inescapable but not insurmountable."—*The New York Observer*

"In her distinctive, muscularly whimsical paintings with sad-funny handwritten annotations, Kalman encounters, well, everything...More personal than much of her previous work, the book is simultaneously idiosyncratic and universal. And utterly lovable." —*Culture + Travel*

"This is a unique, warmly intelligent book for the enjoyment of artists, writers and anyone who delights in works of genuine imagination."—*L.K. Hanson, Minnesota Star Tribune*

"My absolute favorite book of recent memory: an exquisite and delightful and peculiarly illustrated memoir about...well, the search for the meaning of life. I will be giving this book to everyone I know." —*Elizabeth*

**Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love***

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Alyssa Lewis:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book *The Principles of Uncertainty* it is quite good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

#### **Ryan Walker:**

Is it you who having spare time after that spend it whole day by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Principles of Uncertainty* can be the respond to, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your free time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

#### **Wayne McKnight:**

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#### **Richard Dike:**

A lot of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a publication. They are directly felt that when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book *The Principles of Uncertainty* to make your current reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading skill is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the opinion about book and reading through especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve *The Principles of Uncertainty* can to be your friend when you're sense alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of these time.

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