



You Remind Me of You: A Poetry Memoir

Eireann Corrigan

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A startling autobiographical account of a young woman's battle with eating disorders that put her in and out of hospitals over a span of four years and led to her own parents fighting for the right to commit her. When her last source of support, her boyfriend, attempts suicide and ends up in a coma, she is forced to find strength from within. A courageous story about the strange paths we take to recovery.

You Remind Me of You: A Poetry Memoir Details

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Author : Eireann Corrigan

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Audrey says

This is actually a book of poetry -- although the poems all fit together to tell one larger story. They're brutal, beautiful, stark, funny, and very very sad. Definitely worth reading -- it's one I always recommended to my female students, and they were always moved by it.

Ashley Scott says

This was one of my favorite books as a teenager, but I haven't read it since I was probably 17 or 18. I still find it shockingly and painfully beautiful, and still just as uncomfortable to read.

edit - Feb 2018 reread

All the old spots hit me just as hard, but there's a maturity that I've uncovered, maybe an awareness, a sense of purposeful risk that didn't strike me before.

This was the first time I wasn't sorry that they don't end up together.

N_maryellen Rosenblum says

This book is a poetic memoir of a young girl through her high school years and beyond. We find her struggling with many of the problems adolescents face during these difficult years. In addition our young writer is slowly starving herself to death in an attempt to become the perfect girl she imagines the object of her affection desires her to be. Daniel, the object of her affection, is struggling with his own demons, drugs, manic swings, and self-isolation. The two are bound by a strange interdependent relationship that allows each to spiral further into despair and obsession.

The author describes her self-destructive behavior in excruciating detail as she is hospitalized time and again as her family desperately tries to keep her alive. We get to see inside the writer's mind as she searches her own need for self-starvation, and her need to be taken care of by Daniel and by everyone around her.

Daniel's journey of self-destruction is less documented however we are told right at the start that he has attempted to end his life with a gun and has not succeeded. We find our emaciated author by his bedside attempting to coax him back into living.

The verses are disturbing however they do seem very in touch with what many teenagers feel during these troublesome years. Love, obsession, isolation and self-destruction are the common themes running through the somewhat disjointed verses as we flip back and forth between the present and the past.

This memoir would be very useful in a high-school classroom, however there are several situations and topics covered which may be deemed inappropriate for students. I would imagine this book would be challenged by parents for a variety of reasons, however it accurately conveys feelings and emotions in their

rawest form. There is no holding back or sugarcoating the realizations the author comes to looking at herself both past and present.

The book would lead to many discussions and could also serve as a mentor text for students writing free verse or perhaps even journaling their daily challenges.

Sarah says

I thought this book was very well written. It was so deep in emotion and very clear so that I could picture everything that was going on throughout the story. Her experience and that of her boyfriend's made me cry numerous times the first time I read it. I would recommend this book to a selective group of my friends because this book is dark and covers a topic not well understood. Also this is a very detailed journey about Eireann's life so not all will like/apreciate the details.

Dannielle says

I read this book in middle school (Which was years ago) and Still sometimes I like to go back and read pages of it. Something about this book that's unforgettable

Kate S. says

Beautiful! Absolutely amazing it was so hard to believe that this is a true story. It was so detailed and there was so much happening to the main character that it was almost like it was made up. I have to say that I have never cried while reading a book until this one. I'm still in shock that this could happen to an actual person. This is our society! I learned what it was like to actually struggle. The pain throughout the story was so realistic it was like I could feel it. And the way she loved Danny was something from the Notebook I swear! I now understand the struggle of an eating disorder and being alone. I absolutely love this book! Thank you so much, Eireann Corrigan for sharing this life-changing story!!!

Gracie B says

I read this all in one day. This book was very deep and amazing, but however did have sensitive topics. This book made me cry. All I have to say is that this girl has been through a lot. I picked this book up because Kate was reading this in our biography unit. Thank you Kate for the recommendation. Kate however did bring up that the book sometimes does get confusing and jumps around to years later and goes back to the past.

Liralen says

I may have to revise my less-than-flattering view of books done in verse.

I'd had this one on my to-read list for a while, but had put it off because...well, I've read some verse novels done exceptionally well (Ellen Hopkins, anyone?) and some done...less well...and overall find them more miss than hit. But Corrigan had an essay in *Does This Book Make Me Look Fat?* (actually, Ellen Hopkins also had a story in verse in that book...), and when I closed the back cover of that book I turned straight to the computer to put Corrigan's memoir on hold at the library.

Now, none of this is to say that the book is perfect. I can't judge it from a poetry perspective, because, well, I am not a good judge of whether poetry is good or not. But I do think that the framing sometimes made it difficult to place the author in time and space, separated her a little from what was going on in her life. The style isn't particularly spare, and there are some really beautiful lines (116: "People also use the word recovery to describe/gathering the shards of the broken./Divers swimming circles around the shipwreck and taking./Meaning: to salvage.") -- it was just hard in places to understand what was going through her mind.

I have no great insights into this book, but it's one that I expect to end up in possession sooner or later.

Jamey says

I have no words. I feel so bad that this is true and it wasn't till I was on page 80 when I relies that this is the author's own story. I wish I would have caught it early, but I didn't even when it said memoir on the back. I am also very appalled of the events that accrued in this book. I had no idea that one can go through so much hurt in their lifetime. I wonder what it was like to remember your emotions and write what you felt at those times. I think that this book would be better also if I could understand it more. I got the gist, but it feels as if I am missing something important. To me it was a bit harder than I thought, but hey if you like poetry and true heart felt stories then maybe this book is the right book for you.

Keri says

Kerima McLucas
Poetry/ Poetic memoir

You Remind Me of You is written by Eireann Corrigan, a bulimic teenager who nears death more than once in this poetic memoir. She describes her life, the difficulty of her eating disorder, her relationship with friends and the love of her life. Eireann remembers the tough love her boyfriend tried in order to force her to learn to eat again. She also speaks of the loss of a friend, another anorexia patient who quickly loses her battle to live. Eireann never realized her boyfriend suffered from depression and unbalanced thoughts until his attempted suicide; the love she counted on for support and love suddenly needed her more than she needed him. This memoir takes the reader through difficult stages while she struggles for recovery.

Eireann Corrigan has captured the pain and suffering of living with an eating disorder. She describes feelings and thoughts of loving a person that attempts suicide and the problems that pushed him to that decision. Corrigan is able to use beautiful, yet realistic descriptions throughout the book. She experiences happiness,

love, loss, pain and more on her journey to recovery. It is a novel that is fit to cherish for most young adult readers.

Mackenzie H says

This book left me speechless. My teacher told me that it was the author's real life story. I started reading the book a while later and forgot all about it. Then as I was reading it, it dawned on me that it was real life. Not only real life but her life. I was taken aback while reading this because of how much she went through during her life. And the courage it took to share this with the world is inspiring.

This book was a quicker but meaningful read. Although it was 128 pages, she didn't fail to move me through her writing. I enjoy reading books with raw and deeper meaning behind it. And this book accomplished just that. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading challenging events in life written through poetry.

Rachie says

This is literally one of the best books i've ever read. I don't think i've ever been so close to an author before. she writes beautifully and honestly. No one has ever come so close to putting love on paper. Corrigan has hit the nail on the head. I wish she wrote more. Eireann your amazing! her story should be shared with everyone everywhere.

Joe Paris says

Erienne Corrigan, despite the serious tone of this book, has a great sense of humor. The author profile in her first book (this one) says she hopes to marry Bob Dylan someday. Her second book's profile says, "Since I haven't heard back from Bob Dylan..." I like that the author maintains a sense of humor and hopeful happiness despite the tragic struggles of her life. This memoir is different than most YA books that are told through the genre of poetry (such as Sonya Sones's *What My Mother Doesn't Know*, etc.) in that most books sacrifice the poetry for the bigger picture. Corrigan's poems are worthy of standing alone. They are insightful, well-crafted works that have more depth than most books told through this format. As a writer, this appealed to me. I was able to travel with her down a vulnerable, scary path of eating disorders, but also experience the transformation of that terrible part of her life to something artistic and beautiful.

Natasha says

I thought it was a really good book. I was kinda confused at first but then when i got into the book it wasn't as confusing.

Lindsay Cole says

When your best friend tells you this is her favorite book, you drop everything else to read it. This was heartbreaking and so beautifully written. My best friend warned me it would be triggering - I did have to stop at multiple pages to take a break and regroup, but it was worth every word. As someone who has suffered from disordered eating for 9 years, I found this memoir to be honest and powerful. Memoirs or novels on eating disorders are difficult, because you never want them to become how-to's for readers, but for me, I really appreciated having a true, honest look into the life of this author. I think this memoir would do more good than harm, and I think it's important for deep, dark books about eating disorders to exist so the people living with one can feel less alone.
