



Vein Fire

Lucia Adams

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One ordinary day, in one ordinary summer, Matt disfigured a childhood playmate with a cinder block. Five years later, he is released from a psychiatric facility and his circle of friends overlap with those of Hannah, the girl he maimed. He finds himself drawn to her, sadistically at first, but after Jared, an acquaintance from the hospital, covets her for his own disturbing uses, Matt struggles to protect her. Hannah's an outcast, not only because of the scars Matt gave her, but because of the ones she's given herself, too. Matt's heroin addiction and the way he exploits her body harm her in places sharp objects can't touch. Fearful that a dark secret will be disclosed, and with his addiction to heroin worsening, Matt chooses to abandon Hannah, allowing her to fall prey to Jared. Jared is a sociopath obsessed with a fantasy that Hannah can fly...a theory he plans on forcing her to test, even if the cost is her life. Vein Fire gives a startling portrait of Hannah, a young woman with Borderline Personality Disorder. This dark, voyeuristic story exposes the dysfunction she surrounds herself with as a method of self-harm. Its beautifully written passages will haunt the reader, compelling them to learn the fate of the girl who couldn't say no. Vein Fire is a stunning debut novel by Lucia Adams which editors have proclaimed, 'redefine the transgressive fiction genre'. "One of the great things about 'Vein Fire' is its bravery and directness. It's a dramatic and enlightening story of drugs, abuse, and the grey-areas of society; it shines a brave light on facets of humanity that the media tends to either glamorise, satirise or completely ignore. It is also a compulsive and pacey read. Ultimately, this is a manuscript that demonstrates a significant level of craft and originality." -- Harper Collins UK

Vein Fire Details

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Hope says

All I can say is that this book had me HOOKED and really helped me overcome my reading slump that I have been stuck in for the past few months.

This book was in no way, a romanticised story of mental illness, the author didn't sugarcoat the effects of mental illness, drug addiction, abuse, self harm and all that other stuff that happens. There was no romantic underlining between the characters in which one character is determined to save the other from the effects of their addiction or mental illness.

This book was realistic in terms of exploring the dark paths people can travel down. We see Hannah travel down the path of self hate and self destruction. Matt down the path of drugs and addiction and Jared down the path of becoming a psychopath. Yes, there were bits in the book that were raw and brutal to read, especially when it came to the sex scenes but that is just showing how those scenes are easily a reality for someone out there in this world.

This book showed me that there's plenty of Hannahs, and Matts and Jareds out there in this world.

I really clicked with Hannah and felt sorry for her throughout the whole book. Yes, there were times I wanted to shake her and say that she was being a fool but at the end of the day, she has been through a lot and the real Hannah, deep inside is buried under all this self loathing that she keeps inside. We don't see the real Hannah for a long time and I think that it clouds her judgement when it comes to her having trouble saying 'no'.

Hannah can easily represent the majority of young people out there, who want to be accepted and loved by people around them, so they turn to false beliefs and values that aren't their own just to impress other people.

This book was raw, brutal, realistic and beautifully written. Lucia Adams has done a fantastic job portraying the realistic effects addiction can have on people without putting any sort of romantic connotations within the story.

Janie Grella says

The author crafts a new world in a genre that is both stark and challenging. Characters are woven and tangled in this story that pulls poetry from the ordinary and obsessive. I find myself thinking of this story again and again- a sure sign of this book and its writer's unique talent.

Lorrii says

I'm surprised I didn't leave a review on this book! I hardly ever use this account and came in to leave a review on another book and can't believe I didn't review this.

So, onto it!

This is undoubtedly one of the best books I've ever read. It is sitting right by my computer and will always hold a central place on my bookshelves.

Reading this book, I really felt for Hannah, sometimes wanted to scream at her to watch what she was doing and who she was trusting... ultimately always wanted her to survive, come out on the better side of things.

As for the other central characters, Lucia Adams does a fantastic job of making you even want one of the nastier characters to somehow come out of the mire and turn out good. You're pulling for Hannah, you're pulling for the other characters, even though they at times are really horrible. Adams shows you the human side of them, making the reader realize how they became the people they are and making you have empathy for them.

This novel is direct when it comes to abuse, drugs, and the areas of society that we'd rather not see. You see them, hear them, and feel them when reading this novel. You will not want to stop reading, even when you wish you could.

Diana says

I loved this book! It's been a long time since I've read a book that I didn't want to put down. The story of Hannah is dark and depressing, but, wow! what a ride! Lucia Adams is an intelligent and riviting writer and I will be watching to read more of her novels. If you want to know what Vein Fire is about, you can read the overviews on various places selling this book to find out. I don't want to regergitate that here. I feel MY job as a reviewer is to give you my opinions and feelings that I get from reading a book, not in giving you another overview. This book disturbed me, shocked me, and made me think. Low self-esteem can be more devastating and harmful than any other emotional/mental problem, and hope can save save you.

Mackenzie Bekker says

The first thing I have to say is that this book is incredibly graphic. If non-consensual sex and/or self-harm bothers you, put the book down now. I read reviews prior to reading, so I was somewhat prepared but I don't think anyone can fully prepare you for this book.

Hannah is an emotional trainwreck, to put it lightly. Her neighborhood "friend" Matt crushed her legs in an act of rage when they were thirteen, and Hannah has been self-harming and unable to say no to anyone or anything since. After Matt is released from the institution he has been committed to for the past five years, he is reunited with Hannah and introduces her to his world of heroin and other drugs, while eventually trying to protect her from a former acquaintance from the institution, the disturbed Jared who is fixated on Hannah and wants to make her fly.

This book was fascinating to me; all the characters were greatly disturbed but I found myself having moments where I liked each of them. I don't know if you can call Hannah the heroine as much as you can call her the damsel in distress, but the moments where she took control where the best parts of her story. I found myself extremely drawn to Matt, someone who knew he had issues but tried to overcome them in

order to somewhat protect Hannah from Jared. Although he would protect her from such harm, he still encouraged her drug use and sexually objectified her. Jared, although wanting to essentially kill her in his twisted way of appreciating Hannah's beauty, seemed to be the most gentle and loving towards her, even discouraging her from drugs. This is one of my most favorite things about this book; there is so much chaos and complexity underneath the surface chaos of each character. I was hooked on this book and couldn't stop reading, not necessarily because it was an amazing read but because I had to find out what happened to these twisted characters. As far as the ending goes, I don't think it could have ended better.

Manuscript says

A story that navigates the seams in society through characters frenzied, flawed and fatal. Undeniable talent and vision. Would make an incredible screen play.

Felicia Johnson says

Sometimes you go through things in life and it's a little more than you can emotionally handle. That's the truth about life and it's written in this book. Hannah is a broken and scared woman. She was once a girl who, like most of us, experimented and learned from the lessons that came from the things that we tried out while growing up. This is more than just a coming of age story about a girl who struggles with dealing with trauma, chronic pain, mental illness and drug abuse. This is a story that may disturb you, shake you, break you, trigger you and make you feel all mixed up inside. However, you may just feel something. And if that is what you want, then this is it. 3.5 stars for Hannah. - Review written by Felicia Johnson, Author of "HER".

Tabitha says

An exquisite view of a disease troubling millions of people. Impossible to put down so I read this all in one sitting even though it carried me late into the night hours. Never quite read anything like this. That has to be a good thing to be so unique.

Paul Freeman says

I do not possess the skills to unravel the complexity of the thought process behind Hannah's need to continually self harm. I can only watch voyeuristically as each choice she makes leads her further down the path to self destruction. The complicated relationship between the three main characters, Hannah, Matt and Jared, each of them as complex as the other, all of them needing one another for different reasons and all of them mutually destructive to one another.

Then there is Hannah's inability to say no to any situation or anyone. Her need and desire to be liked and accepted for who she is, not even loved, just accepted, the irony being, the real person is deeply buried beneath layers of self loathing and shame that the front she presents to the world is far removed from who she really is, a mask to hide behind, just as the self inflicted scars on her skin are nothing compared to the ones on the inside, because she does not even like herself.

Lucia Adam's portrayal of Hannah is so vivid and skilfully done, you feel you have known her all your life by the end of the book. Her descriptions are raw and real, often brutal. The drug taking and sex does not hide behind any romantic notions, it is not about making love on a rose covered bed, it's about wet patches on the couch. I don't think any other book ever touched me so profoundly as Vein Fire. The story itself is compelling but the way it is told leaves a mark on your soul.

An absolute stunning debut by an author, I am sure, we will hear a lot more about in the future.

Ann Smith says

There really aren't words to explain this novel. It will leave you feeling disturbed and yet wanting more all at the same time.

I felt a deep connection to Hannah. Many times I wanted to reach through the book and smack some sense into her. Of course I know it isn't that easy.

My own personal family deals with some of the issues that this book touches on. It is a hard subject to discuss, read, and especially to deal with.

Something that happened toward the end of the book is one of my own personal horrors (read it and you will know what I am talking about) and I will have nightmares JUST about that part for a long time.

Kudos to the author for tackling such a difficult subject in such a great way. Thanks for writing this novel and I hope to see more from you in the future.

JaHy?Hold the Fairy Dust says

DNF @ 8%

... Please DO NOT let my quitter shenanigans deter you from reading Vein Fire. I'm not a fan of angst riddled storyline and in my humble opinion the beginning of this novel had enough drama to feed a theatrical army.

Angst lovers rejoice as you've just hit the jackpot ... as soon as you one-click the title of course.

Lucia Adams, I wish you much success. Sorry your story didn't work for me :-)

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Daniel Fletcher Ingram says

It's a rare debut author that can lay claim to what Lucia Adams can: *Vein Fire* was written in ten days, and that first rough draft prompted major publishers, agents, and film executives to court her. I doubt this rare treasure of an author can keep herself hidden away much longer.

This is transgressive fiction at its best. It's a direct and raw look at cutters, drug abuse, and sociopaths. This story is so real, after you've read it, you will know someone's lived it. Perhaps the best part is Lucia's unique writing style. You can't even compare it to anyone else's. I predict she will be the one others will attempt to copy.

This literary novel will shake your soul and it'll never be the same afterwards. This fast-paced read isn't bogged down with experimental writing or fantasy elements. You simply get a story worth reading.

Cait S says

I have so much to say about this book, I'm not sure where to start. I guess the first thing I want to say is: Whoever shelved this book as "Young Adult" was a fucking idiot and never to be trusted for any reason. This book is not for anyone under the age of 18. Hell, maybe under the age of 21. Seriously.

Reading this, right from the get go, you think damn...how much worse can it get for this poor girl? But it gets worse. It always gets worse. Every chapter. Hannah is sick, and in a lot of ways she's just as twisted as Matt and Jared are. And together, in any combination of the three, things just constantly go from "oh my god" to "holy.....shit...." at the speed of light.

There are no likable characters in this story. There are no heroes. No one comes to rescue Hannah. But the twisted part is that for a little while, this book works its way so far into your head, that you start thinking, like Hannah, that hey...maybe it's not so bad. And then you take a step back or turn the page and realize nope, it is 100% exactly that bad.

If you're looking for a mind fuck that you can't put down until it's over, here it is. If you're looking for a happy ending... Go somewhere else.

EDIT: I wanted to add this because it really bugged me when I read the book. This has either never seen an editor or was seen by the WORST EDITOR IN THE HISTORY OF TIME. It is FULL of typos and errors, one on almost every single page.

Rebecca McNutt says

Vein Fire is unlike anything I've ever read before, although it does carry similar themes to *Cut*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Her*. This book centers on a group of traumatized teens, including a disfigured young girl and the boy who caused her scars because of his BPD. At first they both find themselves hating each other, but it soon becomes a twisted friendship.

Krissy says

So disturbing, but so good. I couldn't put it down...such good writing and loved the story being told from three different perspectives!
