



The End of the World

Amy Matayo

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A desperate boy. A damaged girl. And a dark house filled with secrets.

For Cameron Tate, being shuffled from foster home to foster home is just a normal way of life. Until the year he turns fourteen. That's when he's sent to the home of seventeen-year-old Shaye McCormick—a fellow foster kid counting the days until she's released from the system.

For good reason. It doesn't take long for Cameron to learn that Shaye is shackled to the worst kind of pain...living in a home where nothing seems right. And now he's joined her with no way out. Their only refuge is a lake, a quiet spot at the edge of the property where they can sit together for a few moments at the end of each day. Alone with their thoughts. Away from prying eyes.

At the lake they become friends. At the lake they begin to talk. At the lake Cameron vows that no matter how deep their secrets are buried, he'll make it his mission to heal Shaye from a past that makes living in the present nearly impossible. Even if it takes until the end of time to do it.

The End of the World Details

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From Reader Review *The End of the World* for online ebook

Robin says

I was intrigued by the characters in the very beginning but lost my way a bit in the transition from section to section but it picked back up in the 3rd section and I was hooked again. I love the overall story and felt very invested in the characters. This book makes me want to do something, change something, be there for someone. I hugged my kids a little extra.

Anna says

An engaging, but hard read about healing, pain, love and commitment. Amy writes the difficult scenes with a love and care for the characters and watching the characters self-realization about what love is kept me interested the entire book. I'll admit, I correctly guessed the outcome of several situations as I was reading, but I still didn't want to put the book down.

Sarah Vanscoyoc says

I'm going to be blunt: I was so excited for the opportunity to review this book, without realizing that it isn't Christian based. There is a bit of mild cursing, the characters don't believe in God and live their lives as such, though there are no graphic details. This being the case, the rating and my review reflect my opinions of this book, with the focus on the author's talent and the book's merits, rather than the fact that its characters don't share my personal beliefs.

I've read a couple of Ms. Matayo's books and finished both of them with the assurance of what a fantastic writer she is and as this book ended, I've not been more sure of that. I honestly have no idea how Amy ever finished writing this book. Her writing is as beautiful as the tale this book tells is dark and painful. She drew me in from the very first page and I literally read almost all day, immersed in this story of brokenness and pain, but also light and hope. Both Shaye and Cameron have horrifying stories to tell. But even in the midst of their pain, there is hope in unexpected places.

The story follows Shaye and Cameron as they work to survive abuse and neglect as teenagers, then as they try to pick up the broken pieces as young adults. Amy's writing is so bold and straightforward. She pulls few punches with this book, but rather lets them fly right at your heart. Mine broke more than once as I read and just kept reading, hoping for the characters to find healing and peace, amidst all of the heartbreak. Amy's unique writing style allowed me to connect with both and Shaye and Cameron, which I loved, but also hated just a bit. Because I felt their pain, too. I hurt when they hurt and this book brought me close to tears more than once. I felt as though I knew both of them almost inside and out. Their story came to life in vivid color and I oftentimes felt as though I was right there with them, living through the worst life has to offer. Despite their heartache and the darkness we are shown, at its heart, this is a story of redemption and healing. There is the reminder that even the midst of shattered lives and hearts, there is light and hope. That's why I continued reading and kept cheering the characters on. Because of that little light of hope that never went out, even when all seemed lost.

I would not recommend this book to someone who is looking for a light read to pass the time. This book shines a light on very difficult topics and your heart will probably break for the characters, but regardless I don't regret reading it and I imagine it'll be sticking in my mind for quite a while. The best books do.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author for my honest review, which I have given. I was not required to write a positive review and have not been compensated for it in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

Dana Michael says

Although this book was beautifully written, it was a hard topic to read. I'm not going to lie. At the beginning, I worried that I wasn't going to be able to finish. However, Amy wove her story of these two fragile souls into a fabric of deep unconditional love. She showed that lives no matter how hard or tragic can overcome their past. Even though that love had been spun from horrifying circumstances it had become a beautiful tapestry of hope and a future. I encourage you as a reader to stay with this story because you won't regret it. I know, because I'm so glad I did.

I was given a copy of this book for my honest review.

Amy Langmaack says

Amy Matayo takes you on journey with Shaye and Cameron through their experience with the foster care system, some of the darkest parts of that system, and what it looks like to live life after the fact. From the introduction that leaves you hanging and guessing where the story is headed as you read the rest of the story, all the way to the epilogue, Matayo draws you into their lives and leaves you wanting to know more of the story. Shaye and Cameron form a bond of friendship that is so strong that no matter what happens in their lives, they are always drawn to one another and always seek the best for the other person, sometimes to the detriment of their own happiness.

This story is not for the faint of heart. Matayo writes about real things that happen in the foster care system, and doesn't shy away from the hardest things. But through it all, this story shows how strongly love can bring healing and hope and happiness for the future.

Denise Hershberger says

I couldn't believe what a fast read this was considering the deep, dark issues it tackled. I will admit that at first it took me a little while to completely get into the characters of Shaye and Cameron. Now that I've finished the book I think it was because my connection with them happened slowly, but by the end of the book I was so completely attached to them that I cried both when they suffered and when I read their epilogue. Matayo drew me so deeply into their feelings that I truly hurt when they did. I didn't even mind the alternating points of view between them and that usually drives me crazy because I want to stay in one character's mind. But this time I really enjoyed seeing both of their thoughts.

I found this book especially riveting because of my interest in possibly one day becoming a foster parent or at least doing respite foster care. Both main characters in this book are in the foster care system and while I would never say that Matayo's book portrays all foster homes I am deeply saddened to know that it does portray some :(but I pray that through books that open people's eyes to what can happen in the system that more good people with good hearts and lots of love will step up to help foster kids! The conflict and tension throughout this book dealing with the treatment of these foster kids truly broke my heart.

This book truly crosses both Young Adult fiction and New Adult fiction. Basically meaning an older teenager will enjoy this just as much as a young 30 something. That doesn't necessarily mean I would hand this to a 16 year old...because this book does cover some truly disturbing and difficult topics BUT if I read it before she did and approached reading the book as an opportunity to talk about some real life issues it would be an excellent book to hand a teenage daughter. I think even teenage boys would enjoy this book since half of it is told from a male point of view.

This book does have some romantic elements in it and I know that it is marketed toward that genre but in all honesty I didn't find the theme of romance in the book enough for me to classify it that way. I felt the coming of age theme was much stronger and the romance was a very small part. Likewise even though I did see this book on some inspirational lists I really didn't see any spiritual or even inspirational aspects to the story. I feel anyone looking for a mainstream book to read about teenagers in the foster care system would find this book fitting for their interests. Likewise, someone looking for a book with a lot of scripture and Christianity might find themselves disappointed.

I stayed up most of the night reading this book because I couldn't put it down. And then I spent the whole next day pondering the story. This was not a fun or easy read but it was very thought provoking. It covers some of the darkest topics of abuse and neglect. This book is not meant to be "enjoyed" but in my opinion is meant to talk about real life.

If you like books that aren't all flowers, candy, easy and fun then this is the book for you.

I received a free advanced copy of this book in exchange for my honest review from the author as a part of her launch team.

Anna LeBaron says

Even though I don't usually read fiction, I read this book in just a few sittings because it was that good.

Out of necessity, and for brevity, the author skips ahead in a few places where I only wish the book had been a little longer so those years could have been covered! There was so much more about the characters that I would love to know!

The subject matter is a difficult one to tackle, and therefore I recommend this book for more mature readers. It is also for anyone you feel would benefit from knowing they are not alone, if they have experienced abuse. Amy Matayo did such a thoughtful and tender job with the subject matter, the characters and the stories they told. The horrors that Shaye and Cameron experienced was conveyed without any unnecessary graphic details. For that I was grateful.

If you start reading this book just make sure you finish it! The ending and the epilogue was so worth the emotional ride the rest of the book took me on.

I received an Advance Reader Copy as part of the book launch team.

Julie Presley says

This book is just so beautiful. It's tragic, gripping, emotional and wastes not a minute on fluff or glossy moments. It's immediately deep and to the point, and the characters keep the reader glued to it's pages until the very end. The content contains some potential triggers for survivors of abuse, but each moment is handled with grace and sensitivity rather than gratuitous detail and indifference. I'm off to go devour another Amy Matayo book!

Maggie says

This is a beautiful story that will break your heart in the beginning and take you on a journey of healing in Shaye and Cameron's lives! Amy has a way of developing the characters in her books that I really enjoy. She makes you love them, and hurt for them.

Amy's other books are light hearted and fun, but this one tells a real life story that happens all too often and that some people would rather not read about. But they will miss out on a read well worth their time, and one I highly recommend.

I was given a copy for my honest review.

Sunshine says

Okay...truth...I stopped reading. I am at a point in the book that I do not want to know what happens. I am so afraid that the people I have grown to love are not going to have a "happily ever after". My Sanguine, ENFP, helper, fixer, people person cannot bear that. Two days have gone by....I see others finishing the book. Amy Matayo...your words are powerful...they have set me down in this story and I am afraid to walk through the next door. I'll get back...but for now...I rest. Emotional desperation has taken a toll. ...Thank you for bringing me to this place.

Finished the book. I have walked every step with the characters...some easy, some hard; some laughing, some crying; some angry, some excited...the emotions raged throughout. Thank you Amy Matayo. Thank you.

Ticcoa Leister says

I am absolutely blown away by this story Amy Matayo has crafted. When a piece of fiction grabs your attention, pulls you alongside the characters, and entrenches you in their story, you know the author has done her job.

This is a very difficult story to read. It addresses some traumatic subjects. But it is a powerful illustration of redemption, of unconditional love, of raw vulnerability, and deep healing.

If you start it, finish it. You will want to stop reading. Don't.

Well done, Amy. Well done.

Teresa says

This story starts out in heartbreak. Immediately you are feeling deeply for the main characters. Then, heartbreak becomes horror. These two teens live through hell yet through it their own hope, love, and humanity is kept alive. Amy weaves a heartwarming story of redemption, human love, and triumphing over circumstances that is highly emotional and attention grabbing. I read this book in one sitting over a couple of hours. I could not put it down. I had to know what happened. I cried and laughed- got angry and had a pit in my stomach right along with Cameron and Shaye. Amy masterfully took a very very hard topic and showed the beauty that can come from the ashes. It is a must read.

I received a copy of this book in return for my honest review

Janell Husted says

I am always in awe how Matayo can string words together that make you feel, see, and almost smell what is happening in her stories. She keeps the story moving along by going back and forth between viewpoints of the main characters. Once you start reading, it is really hard to stop. This story is a hard read, it's not light-hearted. I'm afraid it covers topics that we don't want to admit happen way too often in our world. But it is a love story - a story of unconditional love. I really enjoyed the emotional roller coaster this story took me on. I was honored and excited to receive an advanced copy of this book in return for my honest review.

Jennifer Emory says

Amy Matayo's book, *The End of The World*, is a heart breaking yet compassionate read of two teens who grew up in the foster care system. Amy does a wonderful job of weaving two main characters into one succinct story. Cameron and Shaye have two distinct voices and through Amy's writing you identify with each character and understand their circumstances, emotions and actions.

Cameron and Shaye develop a connection after Cameron is placed in a foster home where Shaye is living as a foster child and is seemingly the sole care taker of the three younger foster kids. The two develop a long term friendship that withstand tough circumstances that most of us have never had to experience. Their love and friendship for each other is evident. There are questions and answers that open up even more questions. The story is a tough one to read and process and not for everyone. Amy has thoughtfully created two character to tell Cameron and Shaye's story, mysteries, dark histories and their special bond that encourages you to continue reading through some very tough events.

I know I will have more to say after I process, one thing in certain, this book will stay with you for a long time.

Kandra Young says

This book... amazingly insightful and heartfelt. I fell in love with the characters, the story, the mystery of the

house, the plot... all of it. It's great when you find a book that really gets you emotionally invested and this one did. I wanted to scream at a character or I'd find myself really understanding Shaye's motives. I laughed out loud, I got frustrated, I cried a bit, I felt.... stuff...

I admit that I've read most of Amy's books and I've really enjoyed them, but this book... it's just on a different level. It goes deeper, it hit me harder emotionally, and there were times I would have like to have had Amy beside me so I could ask her what the heck did she think she was doing making me feel these feelings! ;) It was a great read - the best I've read from this author so far. Highly recommend!
