



Wintergirls

By Laurie Halse Anderson

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Wintergirls By Laurie Halse Anderson

“Dead girl walking,” the boys say in the halls.

“Tell us your secret,” the girls whisper, one toilet to another.

I am that girl.

I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through.

I am the bones they want, wired on a porcelain frame.

Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the skinniest. But what comes after size zero and size double-zero? When Cassie succumbs to the demons within, Lia feels she is being haunted by her friend's restless spirit.

In her most emotionally wrenching, lyrically written book since the multiple-award-winning *Speak*, Laurie Halse Anderson explores Lia's descent into the powerful vortex of anorexia, and her painful path toward recovery.

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Wintergirls By Laurie Halse Anderson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 8 Up—The intensity of emotion and vivid language here are more reminiscent of Anderson's *Speak* (Farrar, 1999) than any of her other works. Lia and Cassie had been best friends since elementary school, and each developed her own style of eating disorder that leads to disaster. Now 18, they are no longer friends. Despite their estrangement, Cassie calls Lia 33 times on the night of her death, and Lia never answers. As events play out, Lia's guilt, her need to be thin, and her fight for acceptance unravel in an almost poetic stream of consciousness in this startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative. The text is rich with words still legible but crossed out, the judicious use of italics, and tiny font-size refrains reflecting her distorted internal logic. All of the usual answers of specialized treatment centers, therapy, and monitoring of weight and food fail to prevail while Lia's cleverness holds sway. What happens to her in the end is much less the point than traveling with her on her agonizing journey of inexplicable pain and her attempt to make some sense of her life.—Carol A. Edwards, Denver Public Library

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Problem-novel fodder becomes a devastating portrait of the extremes of self-deception in this brutal and poetic deconstruction of how one girl stealthily vanishes into the depths of anorexia. Lia has been down this road before: her competitive relationship with her best friend, Cassie, once landed them both in the hospital, but now not even Cassie's death can eradicate Lia's disgust of the "fat cows" who scrutinize her body all day long. Her father (no, "Professor Overbrook") and her mother (no, "Dr. Marrigan") are frighteningly easy to dupe—tinkering and sabotage inflate her scale readings as her weight secretly plunges: 101.30, 97.00, 89.00. Anderson illuminates a dark but utterly realistic world where every piece of food is just a caloric number, inner voices scream "NO!" with each swallow, and self-worth is too easily gauged: "I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through." Struck-through sentences, incessant repetition, and even blank pages make Lia's inner turmoil tactile, and gruesome details of her decomposition will test sensitive readers. But this is necessary reading for anyone caught in a feedback loop of weight loss as well as any parent unfamiliar with the scripts teens recite so easily to escape from such deadly situations. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

Anderson illuminates a dark but utterly realistic world...this is necessary reading. --*Booklist*, starred review

The intensity of emotion and vivid language here are more reminiscent of Anderson's *Speak* than any of her other works...an almost poetic stream of consciousness in [a] startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative. --*School Library Journal*, starred review

Due to the author's and the subject's popularity, this should be a much-discussed book, which rises far above the standard problem novel. --*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

As difficult as reading this novel can be, it is more difficult to put down. --*Publishers Weekly*

Readers will be absorbed by this gripping tale... ---*BCCB*, starred review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michelle Porter:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources included can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Studying a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Wintergirls book because book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

Patricia McGuire:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one along with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Often the Wintergirls is kind of book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Martin Solomon:

Often the book Wintergirls has a lot associated with on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of help. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after perusing this book.

Billy Salazar:

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