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The Opposite Of Loneliness: Essays And Stories



Synopsis

Marina Keegan's star was on the rise when she graduated magna cum laude from Yale in May 2012. She had a play that was to be produced at the New York International Fringe Festival and a job waiting for her at the New Yorker. Tragically, five days after graduation, Marina died in a car crash. As her family, friends, and classmates, deep in grief, joined to create a memorial service for Marina, her unforgettable last essay for the Yale Daily News, "The Opposite of Loneliness", went viral, receiving more than 1.4 million hits. She had struck a chord. Even though she was just 22 when she died, Marina left behind a rich, expansive trove of prose that, like her title essay, captures the hope, uncertainty, and possibility of her generation. The Opposite of Loneliness is an assemblage of Marina's essays and stories that, like The Last Lecture, articulates the universal struggle that all of us face as we figure out what we aspire to be and how we can harness our talents to make an impact on the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

She was talented. At just 22, she had a strong sense of self in her writing. even when I was reading her fiction, I thought I was reading about her life. It's terrible that her life was cut so short - the book is ominous at times, almost as though she knew she would not live long. She spoke of death and what she hopes for her life, and what she hopes carries on after she passes. I am sure he mother is grateful for the one piece dedicated to her dedication as a mother. I read it in 2 days - I recommend.

It's tragically sad, that she was called home at 22. I'm not going to use words like connections, entitlement, privileged or call her work immature or label her the best student in an undergrad writing class in my review. Rather I'm going to look at this using three criteria that Rita Crowley a fiery 50 year English Lit teacher/Professor, used in a writing class I took back in my college days. Passion, be a wordsmith, and no piece is ever really complete, where the three things that she pounded into my head, that semester. All of which Marina had from reading, her life work collection. She wasn't college-talented, but rather talented period, she had the knack to grab the reader, hold their attention and make you want to read more. I was one of the millions who were inspired by her 'Opposite of Loneliness' essay, even joined Yale Daily News website, just to read the pieces they featured on the site of her work. Even have tucked away somewhere printed copies of them. I read many articles, just to see if they posted links to essays/short stories I hadn't read. I've read most of this book already as individual pieces, but still enjoyed re-reading her work and several also are different versions. I like the entire collection, it's because of Marina that I started to read short stories, previously I never bother with them, and she opened my eyes to realize just what I was missing out on by not reading them. I'd like to think she's old school, she's not like most in her generation and worked extremely hard for everything she earned. Took full advantage of everything surrounding her in her short life, was a sponge and if she didn't know something, she wanted to know the answer. She opened the doors, no one threw them open for her. She made herself get noticed, to stand out in crowd and confidently make the New Yorker know she was the best choice, to do a prestigious internship. Let herself be nurtured, was her own worst critic, and made her professors pass on or share her essays/short stories. I know from my paying job, each year we have four interns that changes yearly. I've worked their 18 years, it's scary to me how many of these privileged people never took advantage of that fact, but I've worked with one whose parents were billionaires, you would never have known that if she didn't tell you, another while going through 8 years of college became a millionaire by dabbling with stocks, another flipped houses to pay for her college years and had the pleasure to work with several dozens, who while deep in debt earned everything they had through their own hard work. Being a lifelong reader I feel cheated, that we never got to see this talented writer grow, see her develop into a best selling author, to have the chance to pre-order them on , to either have a bookshelf full of her books or a collection of her work on my Kindle. Surely she would have been loved by her readers, like Robert B. Parker, Robert Ludlum or Terry C. Johnston are. Her legacy will be her writing, those who she's posthumously inspired will never let the light she lite ever burn out and will share this collection of her writing, to inspire future generations. Lastly a huge thank you, to her parents, her friends, her professors, the

Yale Daily news and everyone else who made this collection available for use.

I bought this one after reading about the book online, I was not disappointed. Marina gracefully and beautifully wrote short stories and essays with witty humor. Great book would definitely recommendedThe opposite of loneliness it an outstanding novel written by a young lady who had so much potential but, unfortunate circumstances occurred and brought the efforts for the novel to happen. Marina was a witty author who had great potential to rise above the stars but a few days after her graduation from Yale she was involved in a fatal car accident. However, the people who were close to her refused to let her legacy end there they put together her stories and her essays in this wonderful read that will keep you on your toes. She has an amazing style of writing, her stories show so much passion and how much she enjoyed writing. I promise if you pick up this novel you will not be disappointed. The different stories are amazing and the essays are very informational and give excellent viewpoints on the world. I loved her writing and this book is amazing, definitely one to go in the reread pile.

I had not heard of Marina Keegan, but one day I picked up this book on display at a bookstore, read the back, and realized that Marina and I had many things in common. She and I both graduated from college with honors and an English degree in May 2012, and both of us hoped to be writers, despite the odds against us. Marina, of course, being a Yale grad, had much more going for than I, but as I began reading her essays, I found that 20-somethings across the US, in many ways, are all the same. As I read through her essays, speeches, and short stories, I was hit with an all-to-well understanding of the nervous-yet-exciting feeling right before leaving college and entering the "real world," the internal conflicts that all young people in relationships will feel at some point, and the simple yet so significant nostalgia that connects humans to cars with which they have shared life experiences. Marina's essays were my favorite part, because I could tell they were written from the heart. I wasn't a fan of some of her short stories, but then again, I know that they wouldn't have been her final copies if she had a say; on the other hand, I greatly enjoyed others of the short stories. Altogether, I find is astounding that Marina, at the age of 22, accomplished what she set out to do; she shared her writing with a world of readers who loved her. I would recommend this book for any young adult! It hits close to home.

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