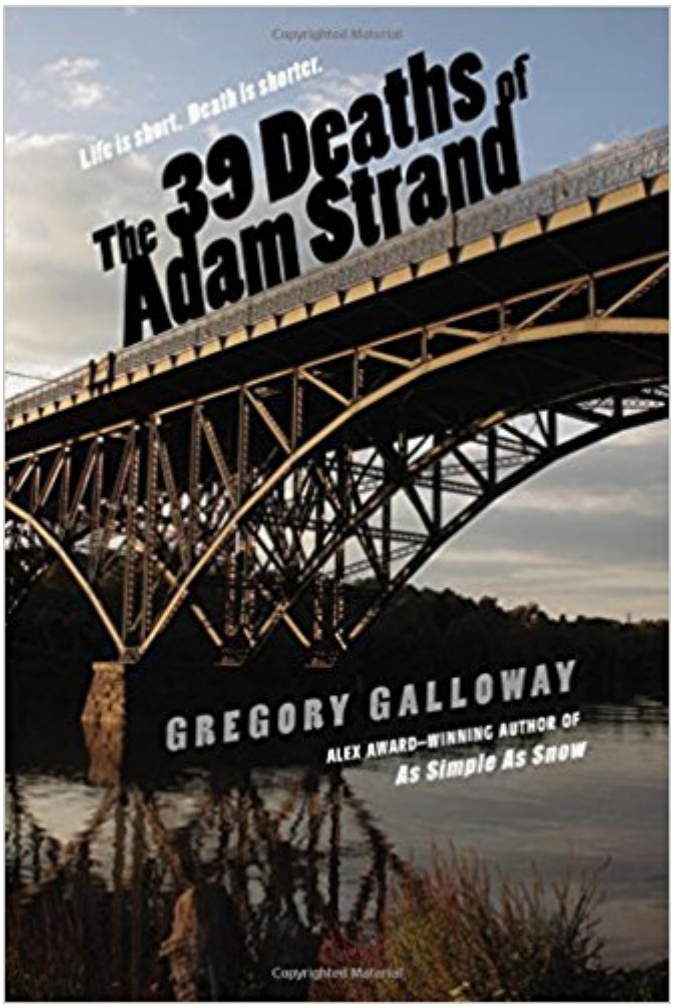
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The 39 Deaths Of Adam Strand



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Synopsis

Adam Strand isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t depressed. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s just bored.Ã Â Disaffected. So he kills himselfÃ¢â ¬â •39 times. No matter the method, Adam canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t seem to stay dead; he awakes after each suicide alive and physically unharmed, more determined to succeed and undeterred by othersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ concerns. But when his self-contained, self-absorbed path is diverted, Adam is struck by the reality that life is an ever-expanding web of impact and forged connections, and that nothingÃ¢â ¬â •not even deathÃ¢â ¬â •can sever those bonds.In this hyper-edgy coming-of-age story told in stark, arresting prose, Alex Award-winning author Gregory Galloway finds hope and understanding in the blackest humor.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Teenager Adam Strand is bored, self-absorbed, and desperate to have some control over his own life; he has committed suicide 39 times. However, after each act he has awoken hours or days later, physically unscathed. The people in his bleak factory town in rural Iowa have come to view his failed suicides as more of a nuisance than a miracle. Adam’s narrative includes several nonlinear flashbacks dating back to his early childhood, but the primary story takes place over the course of the summer before his senior year. The chapter titles, which include the chronological number of the suicide contained within, help to clarify the time line. The lack of action may leave some readers restless; the novel is made up largely of static situations, such as Adam and his friends getting drunk and watching a dead cow decompose or Adam complaining about his parents’

many idiosyncrasies. Galloway's exquisite writing, however, more than makes up for the slow pace. Using raw imagery, he perfectly crafts Adam's philosophical, meandering account of his life and deaths. He relates Adam's plight to that of Sisyphus, and also includes references to the works of Kafka, Twain, and Poe, among others. Secondary characters are well developed and easily distinguishable. Fans of gritty realistic fiction such as Laurie Halse Anderson's Speak (Farrar, 1999) and Jay Asher's Thirteen Reasons Why (Penguin, 2007) will appreciate Adam's thoughtful, authentic adolescent voice, and the honesty and boldness with which Galloway treats the issue of suicide.-Liz Overberg, Darlington Middle School, Rome, GAÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review At 16, Adam Strand has committed suicide 39 times and each time has returned to life whole and unscathed, no matter how violent his death. He is, Adam thinks, genetically hardwired to kill himself, and his condition is exacerbated by his rejection of a world where, he thinks, Ã¢â ¬Å“weÃ¢â ¬â„¢re all horrible.Ã¢â ¬Â• Better to find oblivion in death, for Ã¢â ¬Å“the dead are perfect.Ã¢â ¬Â• Profoundly pessimistic and solipsistic, Adam begins to look beyond himself for the first time when a young girl whom he is fond of becomes perhaps ill, and he is called on to help her. Will his acts of charity be enough to temper his addiction to death? Galloway, the author of the Alex AwardÃ¢â ¬â œwinning As Simple as Snow (2005), offers a riveting second novel that explores the issue of suicide with a philosophical, never sensational, approach, inviting considerations of existentialism and nihilism. Adam is tragically out of tune with what he regards as a meaningless world in which fishing and drinking are the only ways to spend the summer he turns 17. Is his disaffection universal or is it an anomaly confined to his own troubled self? As it addresses these questions, GallowayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book requires careful reading, but the effort is well worth it. Grades 10-12. --Cart, Michael --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I read As Simple As Snow and really loved it. I was hoping this would be similar. As an "old" person, I couldn't really get into this book, it just seemed repetitive to me. I still have to finish it after about 6 months. Maybe it will get better. I think someone up to the age of early 20's would enjoy it more.

The 39 Deaths of Adam Strand is a fascinating read that keeps you thinking long after you've finished. Galloway hooks you and keeps you invested in the characters right from the start. I highly recommend.

This was a very well written book with a great purpose.I highly recommend it to those struggling with the choice of living or taking your own life.The right choice is always life.

Adam is bored. Every day he goes drinking with his boring friends, in the same boring location by the boring river, and they do the same boring things. He gets urges to commit suicide because itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll take him away from his boring life and the boring future that stretches out before him. Despite his best attempts to kill himself, nothing works. He wakes up a few days later fresh as a daisy.The whole town is tired of finding his crumpled or mangled body after each attempt, but each failed attempt only makes Adam want to try harder. HeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s frustrated because heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s in love with his best friend and upset/bored with life. Going to a therapist doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help, reading books doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t help, but he knows that if he can only kill himself everything will be better.As I read of AdamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s many different, detailed attempts to kill himself because he was bored and frustrated, all I could think was ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the point of this book?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Adam canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t kill himself, so he tries all sorts of different ways hoping one of them will work. Thus, is this book supposed to be some sort of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“how-toÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• manual for those reading it and contemplating suicide? What was GallowayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s point? If anything, it seemed to be glorifying teen drinking, reckless driving, and suicide attempts.Having seen no point to it, and not enjoying AdamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s repeated attempts, there is no way IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d recommend this book to anyone. In fact, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m throwing my ARC into the recycling bin instead of giving it away so no one will decide to get inspired by Adam. I honestly couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t find a reason for Galloway to write it, as Adam never felt truly remorseful for what he was putting everyone through when they found his body, it was more like an ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“aw shucks, I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know it was you who found meÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• as off he skipped to try again. Of all the books IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve read about teen suicide, this was the worst.My recommendation is not to bother to read it. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m sorry I wasted my time with it.

I’m not even sure how to review this one. I didn’t hate it. The writing was fine. I never reached a point where I felt like not finishing it but it was just meh. The concept of a kid who wants to die...and does time and again only to inexplicably wake up fine was an interesting premise but the book itself was just not...interesting that is. Adam spends most of the book doing nothing other than drinking

with his friends and wanting a girl who he’s been friends with his whole life. Nothing happens...as in NOTHING. There’s not really a story until maybe the last seventy five pages or so and even that is resolved abruptly.Adam doesn’t want to die because he’s depressed. He doesn’t want to die because he’s unstable. He wants to die because he’s bored and has this "calling"...this drive to kill himself. He likes those moments of peace and nothing he gets in the short amount of time that he’s dead before he eventually wakes up alive. That’s it? Yeah, that’s it.The author’s note at the end states that the author decided to explore the idea of suicide after countless people he knew committed suicide. I was even more confused about the point of this book when I read that. It seems like a really odd way of exploring suicide to feature a boy who can’t die and wants to kill himself because he’s bored. It almost diminishes or disrespects those people who are in so much pain that suicide seems like the only option. And yet I didn’t hate it. I can’t figure out why.

Authors sometimes have books within them that they are compelled to write.Ã Â Liesl & PoÃ Â was one such book.Ã Â The 39 Deaths of Adam StrandÃ Â is another.In the first case I must be honest and say that I remember only vaguely why Lauren Oliver felt compelled to tell such a grim tale. It had something to do with personal loss. Much the same with Gregory Galloway. A man who has had the great misfortune to have had had over a dozen acquaintances who have taken their own lives. (How absolutely dreadful for him.)----------You might be wondering what brings both books to mind. I’m afraid to say it is not only the dark subject of death, but the fact that these books aren’t for me. In the case of Liesl and Po, I absolutely hated the book and wrote that I wouldn’t recommend to anyone with any child left in them. (It was violent, dark toned, and slooooooooooooow.) And alas, I’m not having a good time with 39 Deaths either.I’m currently half way through --struggle, yank teeth-- and all I can say is that I very much like Galloway’s wordsmithing and I will be waiting for his next book. But this one does nothing for me. The story concept is new, but dull. The principle character has zero appeal, and the amount of teen-angst (though well captured) is off the chart.

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