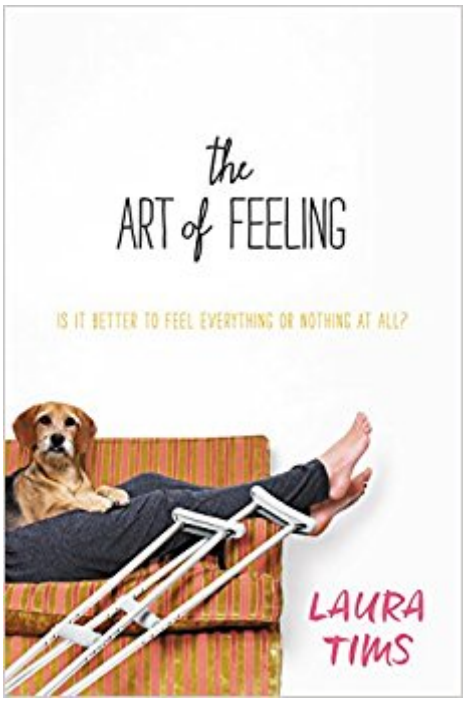
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The Art Of Feeling



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Synopsis

For fans of Jennifer NivenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s All the Bright Places and Meg WolitzerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Belzhar comes an emotionally thrilling tale of a friendship between a girl who feels too much and a boy who feels too little, as they discover that maybe pain can bring people together and not just tear them apart.Samantha Herring has been in constant pain ever since the car accident that injured her leg and killed her mother. After pushing her friends away, Sam has receded into a fog of depression until she meets Eliot, a carefree, impulsive loner who, is unable to feel any pain at all. At first, Sam is jealous. She would give anything to not feel the pain sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s felt for the past year. But the more she learns about EliotÃ¢â ¬â„¢s medical condition, the more she notices his self-destructive tendencies.In fact, Eliot doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t seem to care about anythingÃ¢â ¬â •except Sam. And as they grow closer, they begin to confront SamÃ¢â ¬â„¢s painful memories of the accident, memories that hold a startling truth about what really happened that day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for PLEASE DONÃ¢â ¬â„¢T TELL (;)Ã¢â ¬Å“Tims weaves a taut YA thriller...Readers of Jay AsherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Thirteen Reasons Why (2007) will find this to be a perfect complement.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Booklist)Ã¢â ¬Å“As real as it gets, not only with its believable dialogue and diverse cast of characters but also its reflection of the world...teens will find this story easily relatable...mature themes are handled tastefully and appropriately...an excellent debut that will leave readers hungry for more.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))Ã¢â ¬Å“The

twinsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ drama accelerates quickly, taking readers down shocking rabbit holes. High-octane drama that thrills.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus)Ã¢â ¬Å“Suspenseful debut. A compelling mystery. Tims expertly depicts the awkward uncertainties of teen life and the sometimes-blurry line between right and wrong.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Ã¢â ¬Å“Addresses classic coming-of-age questions and touches on many important contemporary issuesÃ¢â ¬Â• (School Library Journal)Ã¢â ¬Å“Funny and absorbing. Wry and engrossing.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Ã¢â ¬Å“TimsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ sophomore book captures the emotions of young characters dealing with loss, pain, and depression. A heartfelt package that many will enjoy.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Booklist)

GRADE: A-4.5 STARSLife is bleak. In constant pain following a car accident that killed Sam’s mother, her lacrosse career over and her family falling apart, the last thing Sam expects is to meet a new friend. Eliot has a genetic condition that prevents him from feeling pain or temperature. They forge an unlikely friendship, his first ever and her first since before the accident.Laura Tims’ sophomore is every bit as heartbreaking and compelling as last year’s PLEASE DON’T TELL. Sam’s voice is pitch perfect, sad with a healthy dose of clever sarcasm. Her flawed, multidimensional character was so easy for me to embrace and champion. Eliot was annoying, but I can see why Sam wanted to befriend him. Lena may have been the more irritating character ever written and I admire her family’s restraint in not throddling her.THE ART OF FEELING is a fast paced, character drive novel. The cause of the car accident left me underwhelmed, but didn’t detract from the plot. Lena and Dr Brown were flat, underdeveloped characters and also didn’t detract from the story.Laura Tims might just be my next guaranteed preorder. THE ART OF FEELING will leave you feeling for Sam.

I loved so many things about this book!I think books dealing with grief are winning a special place in my heart. I have been so knocked out by them lately and The Art of Feeling is yet another to add to my "stupendous read" list.This book was about loss. Sam and her family lost their mother due to a hit and run, but mom meant different things to different members of the family, and they all dealt with the loss in different ways. As far as Sam was concerned, she didn’t only lose her mom, she lost the ability to walk without assistance, which meant, she lost her ability to be part of the lacrosse team and her place in that social circle. Essentially, Sam was lost. My heart went out to her, and I was rooting for her to have a breakthrough the entire book."I’m losing him, just like I lost Mom, my mobility, my friends, my sport. I’m going to lose everyone who defines me and everything that makes me special until I dissolve into nothingness."This book was about feeling and not feeling.

Sam was plagued by chronic physical pain, but as she physically ached, she felt nothing emotionally. Until Eliot. I have so many thoughts on this part of the story. I loved all the connections Tims made between physical and emotional pain, and all the different ways that people deal with this pain. I was most struck, though, with the idea of someone who could not feel physical pain being the one, who helped someone else feel again."But I do know one thing, and it’s that the blankness that I usually feel went away the second I got into his car and it hasn’t come back."I was so enthralled by Eliot. He was beyond socially awkward, self-destructive, and fairly abrasive, but I was so drawn to his character. Maybe it was his obsession with the Meyers-Briggs types or his brutal honesty, but he was so interesting. And once he discovered there was more to him than he thought, there was some really special parts of him that shined through."I can’t figure out if I like him or not. If I do, that’s concerning."There is a little mystery. Sam is unable to remember the accident, but as time passes, she begins to remember snippets here and there. Tims placed these puzzle pieces so thoughtfully throughout the story, and it was sort of shocking when we learned the truth.This was a book that did not depict grief in a one-size-fits-all way. I loved that Tims showed how each member of Sam’s family was handling her mother’s death. Their approach to grief was so varied, and to me, that was very real. We don’t all grieve in the same way. Some numb their feelings with drugs and alcohol. Some run away from it, and call it "moving on". Some try to stuff the pain down with food. Others have a major depressive episode. The people in this book were quite broken, and it was watching them trying to combat the pain that was so special for me. They had setbacks, but I kept having hope for them."Grief is a tapeworm chewing holes in the brain, making it so you don’t remember things.."Although there is a lot of sad and heavy stuff in this book, there is a lot of humor and happiness too. Tims what I always need when I read a book like this. She balanced out the sad with the happy. I cried, but I also laughed, and that is what I need as a reader.I enjoyed this book immensely! It made me feel way too much and I couldn’t have asked for more. Great story, great characters, and enough closure in the ending that I was truly satisfied. I totally hugged this book.

ARC from NetgalleyMaybe itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s because of this unremarkable cover, but I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t have high expectations for The Art of Feeling. Though to be honest, I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know why. I mean, my interest was sparked enough to request it. I have to say, this book was such a surprise for me in all the good ways. I loved the characters even if I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like all of them, and I always love a story when friendship blossoms in the unlikeliest of ways. The Art of Feeling definitely had that vibe. At the beginning of this book,

itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s clear SamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family is steel reeling from her motherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s death. And to make matters even worse, SamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s injured leg is a constant reminder of the accident. Between her fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s indifference, her brotherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s drug use, and her sisterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s controlling tendencies, her family is in disarray. But when Sam meets Eliot, who is her opposite in that nothing makes him feel pain, their friendship gives her something else to focus on. I loved everything about the evolution of their friendship. It starts when Sam ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœsaves ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ Eliot and then makes an off the cuff remark about him not being able to feel pain, but itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not long before she realizes how serious his condition is and she wishes she could take it back. Their friendship really just came out of nowhere and was so unpredictable. It was Sam teaching Eliot how not only to be a friend, but how to have a friend, as itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s something Eliot has never experienced before. And what I really liked was that while Sam had distanced herself from her friends after her motherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s death, she felt disconnected from them, but it wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t a huge loss for her, because sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s always felt disconnected. With Eliot, this is the first time sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s felt like she had a place, and I love that they were able to be a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœplace ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ for each other.The family dynamic in this story was so well done. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s clear that Sam is, if not the peacemaker, the one who remains neutral so as to not cause more waves, but things around her are more chaotic than ever. And everyone in the family is so lost in their own grief theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re unable to connect with each other. It was just so sad to see, but so realistic. The only highlight for this family was their dog, Tito, who they all adored. I thought Tito was a fantastic addition to the story, and I love how Eliot eventually took to him. There was also an adorable conversation about ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Ëœshut-up kissingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ that left me chuckling. Obviously as this story begins with SamÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family still grieving for the matriarch, there was a lot of seriousness here. And I will say that the ending was something I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t see coming.Overall, I thought The Art of Feeling was a wonderful story about the aftermath of loss and finding friends where you least expect it. It was a book I loved, and I know itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s one IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll be rereading.This review was originally posted on Books & Beauty Are My Bag. (less)

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