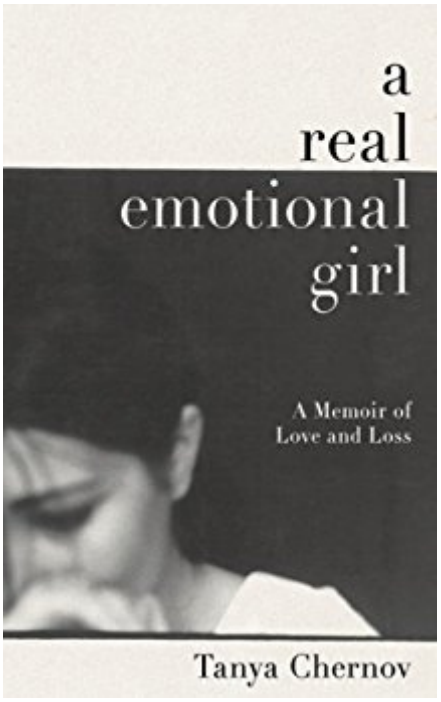
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A Real Emotional Girl: A Memoir Of Love And Loss



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Synopsis

A Real Emotional Girl tells the true story of young Tanya, growing up in the wonderland of her familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s summer camp. At sixteen, this idyllic life is interrupted when she must face her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sudden illness. Tanya, her mother, and two brothers find themselves cramped in a tiny cabin in a tiny town in northern Wisconsin in the dead of winter. There they wait for her father to die of cancer. Separated from friends and civilization, Tanya has only her fears and uncertainty for company. At the age of twenty, Tanya loses a man who was not only her father but a surrogate father to thousands. Richard Chernov was a man who shared himself, humor and all, with just about everyone who would let him. And with this same unflagging commitment and passion, Tanya shares her struggles and the blessings she finds in them. Her memoir is a complex amalgam of human strength and fragility, which creates an inimitable coming-of-age story. This is a story of family and pain, of survival and growing up, and ultimately of love. For anyone who has ever experienced loss, A Real Emotional Girl offers a glimpse, provocative in its raw honesty, into the nature of grief and the positive transformation that can follow.

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Customer Reviews

Monday night I started Tanya Chernov’s "A Real Emotional Girl, A Memoir of Love and Loss."Tuesday I spent most of the day reading it through to the end.It is the very personal and very honest recounting of Tanya’s ten-year attempt to come to terms with the loss of her wonderful father Richard Chernov and her painful attempts to find a place in the world without him.Whether others will find this memoir as emotional wrenching, as insightful, and as wonderful as I did, I honestly don’t know.I hope so. I think it’s outstanding.Know that I know the characters in Tanya’s just published book.Richard Chernov, her father, is one of the most wonderful persons I have every known. He is a former lawyer who became a summer camp director and created Birch Trail Camp for Girls, where my daughters and many, many young girls have spent some of the most memorable and important summers of their lives. Tanya will tell you why he was so wonderful. She sees him clearly, and the man she describes is the man I knew.Barbara Chernov, her mother, is Richard’s long time partner in everything he did. While she plays a smaller role in this memoir, the person Tanya describes is the person I also know.Dylan and Gabe are her two older brothers. I don’t know either of them very well, but from what I do know of them and from what Tanya writes, Richard and Barbara did a terrific job parenting them.Tanya herself is the youngest of the three Chernov children and the only girl. She is about 16 when Richard is first diagnosed with cancer and the book covers approximately the next 10+ years of her life (and that of her family too).Many of the current and not so current memoirs written by women about loss have been about the loss of their fathers, mothers, or husbands. I have not read much where a child, an adolescent, a young woman has written about this kind of loss.And for me, that is the wonderful thing about "A Real Emotional Girl." Tanya has taken us (and I hope others who do not know the Chernovs or Birch Trail) on her painful and loving odyssey following the loss of her father and on the search for herself.

Having dealt with my own diagnosis and the loss of my Dad to the beast, it was not hard for me to relate to Tanya’s heartache. As I read, I felt like I could have been sitting up late into the night listening to a girlfriend shedding the pain of loss. I imagined my own daughters and how they could’ve been telling a similar story had I not beat cancer. I think we all often forget the emotional toll cancer takes on the children of parents lost. I have often heard that children are resilient. In truth, they have no choice but to go on, but that doesn’t mean they have grieved or healed their broken heart. In fact, it was difficult to find meaningful help for my children as I struggled to live.I

also loved that Tanya included so much of the camp story. It clearly was an enormous gift that her family gave to so many others. I wish there was a camp like that today for my kids. The love and compassion her parents so willingly shared, made me feel the loss of her father in an unexpected way. I kept saying to myself it wasn't only a loss to the Chernov family, it was a loss to the world. We need more people like that! In an age when celebrities fill the airwaves with their issues and hunger for the sympathy of the world, which so many willingly give, we forget to support the regular people who do not have an entire staff caring for their every need as they navigate the challenges of life. I hope this book will be widely read!!

When my package arrived, I couldn't wait to tear it open and begin reading. I read this book in less than 72 hours. It grips you from the moment you open it, making it extremely difficult to put down. I have never laughed and cried so much in one sitting. Tanya brings you on this incredible journey that often feels like a roller coaster, as she opens up her heart to the world and tells the story of one of the most incredible men, her father. If you weren't as lucky as I to have met this man at some point, you will definitely be able to feel his large heart and hilarious sense of humor through Tanya's writing. Thank you Tanya for sharing even the rawest of details with us and letting us in on what was such a terrible turn of events in your family lives. Buy this book...it won't disappoint!

A love letter to her father, and her life. Raw unquenchable pain and joy in her memoir. No subject too deep for Tanya or taboo. My beloved husband died of cancer and this helped me to hear how it is for young adults. Having two sons, the youngest twenty, it helped me to understand more. Their father also was so well loved and a huge force in life and dying.I have read a ton of memoirs and this is one of the best out there from a young woman. I like how she talked about her mothers grief, and all the books she read as a widow. I understood that, and Tanya showed the reality of grief. Not what society tells us, the many well-meaning people that say, "ya mean you aren't over 'it' yet?"Thank you, Tanya for being so honest. I look forward to more writings from you! And as a Mom I just wanted to hold you so many times in the book! I am glad you have such a wonderful family, too. Your Dad would be proud! Wishing you lots of success. Make a wonderful movie!

It's really rare for me to read a book in one sitting; I'm often too preoccupied by the stresses of looming deadlines, or am too tired to sit down and read in the free time that I have. With two short weeks in between camp and school, I decided it was the perfect time to unwind and read, and with my copy of "A Real Emotional Girl" sitting proudly on my desktop, it was only natural to start the

remainder of my summer reading with this memoir. I didn't really know what to expect, never having met Richard (Tanya's father) myself, but the book was truly gripping, until the very last page. I could feel the love that pours out on each page, and Tanya's words really resonated with me. I would definitely recommend this book...along with a package of tissues by your side.

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