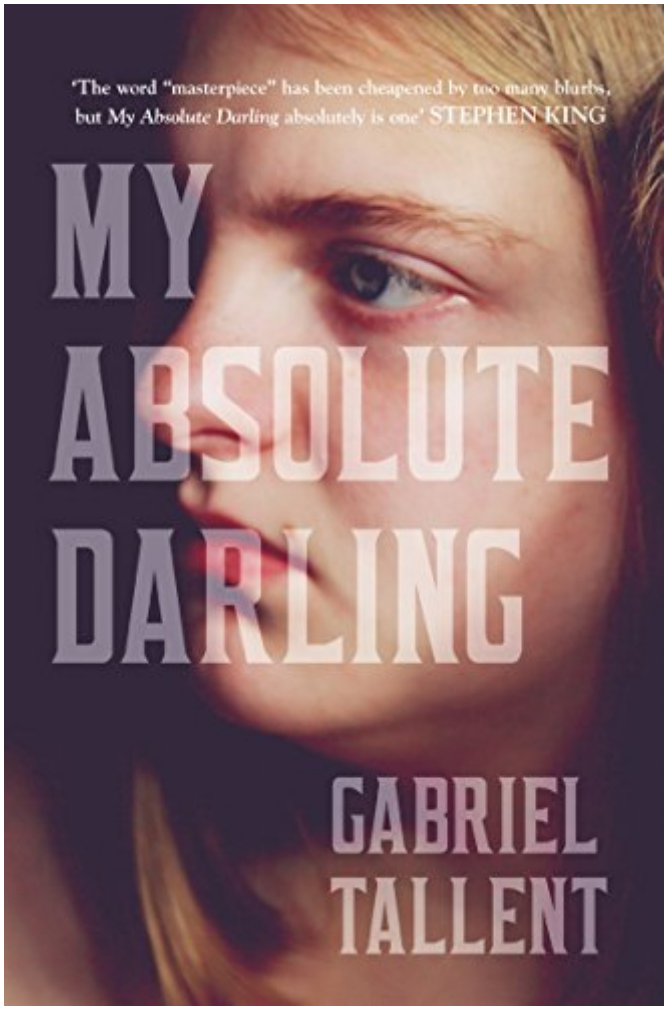
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My Absolute Darling: The Most Talked About Debut Of 2017



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Ëœ The yearÃ¢â ¬â„¢s must read novelÃ¢â ¬â„¢ The TimesÃ¢â ¬Ëœ You think youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re invincible. You think you wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t ever miss. We need to put the fear on you. You need to surrender yourself to death before you ever begin, and accept your life as a state of grace, and then and only then will you be good enough.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ At 14, Turtle Alveston knows the use of every gun on her wall;That chaos is coming and only the strong will survive it;That her daddy loves her more than anything else in this world.And heÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll do whatever it takes to keep her with him.She doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know why she feels so different from the other girls at school;Why the line between love and pain can be so hard to see;Why making a friend may be the bravest and most terrifying thing she has ever doneAnd what her daddy will do when he finds out Ã¢â ¬Â¦Sometimes strength is not the same as courage.Sometimes leaving is not the only way to escape.Sometimes surviving isn’t enough.

Book Information

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Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

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Customer Reviews

I thought My Absolute Darling was outstandingly good. It is beautifully written, remarkably insightful and completely gripping.This is the story of 12-year-old Julia "Turtle" Alveson who lives with her

survivalist father on the fringes of society in Mendocino, California. She is skilled in guns, survival skills and so on, but at sea with other people and in social situations. Told entirely from Turtle’s point of view, we see her struggles with understanding her father’s obsessive and abusive behaviour which she (and probably he) believes to be what love is. As events and growing maturity begin to make her more aware, the tension between what she has believed and what she begins to recognise as reality grows and Turtle has to wrestle with where her future lies and how, if at all, she can realise it.This doesn’t sound like a great read on the face of it, but it is. I genuinely found it hard to put this book down; the story is gripping, with some passages of incredible tension and real adventure, and Gabriel Tallent takes us right inside that young woman’s head with her confusion, self-doubt (often spilling into self-loathing) and resilience in a way which I have seldom experienced. The portraits of her and of her monstrous father are fantastically real, and I found the entire thing completely convincing. Be warned that there are some quite horrifying scenes of child abuse, but they are absolutely justified in the context and excellently judged - a world away from the often offensively facile use of child abuse as a theme in run-of-the-mill thrillers.The prose is excellent. Gabriel Tallent writes in a measured, unmelodramatic but rather lyrical style, which brings the people, especially Turtle, wonderfully to life. Just as a tiny example, we get sentences like this: "She waits there in the grass, feeling her every thought stored up and inarticulate within her," and this sort of brilliant distillation of internal experience shines through the book. The sense of place is excellent and dialogue is completely convincing; I especially liked some wonderful episodes of the jokey, wordy, literate chatter of two High School boys as it contrasted with Turtle’s near-silent inarticulacy.I find it hard to express quite how good I thought this book was. It is a rare combination of an utterly gripping story, excellent writing and genuine depth of content. Very, very warmly recommended.

WOW!INTRO: My Absolute Darlings is a coming-of-age Action-Adventure that may forever change how you understand life to be. In one sentence, I find it incredulous that a newbie writer penned such a graphic, gritty novel as his debut. Read on to learn more...*** ARE THERE PROFANITIES USED? ***I guess I should have read between the lines in the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s description. The phrase striking language actually means the book contains a great number of profanities. Further, the graphic sex scenes will enrage some, and enthrall others. Were it not for otherwise stellar writing, I might have given up halfway through. Yet, as the excerpt from Chapter 2 (below) shows, there is a great deal more to this novel than the sum total of vulgarities.Put another way, My Absolute Darlings reflects the characters it portrays in an honest, if obscene, manner that, if I were the editor I would probably have chosen to let the writer tell this tale as the author saw fit. It is THAT

good.BLUSH FACTOR Before you choose to read this to your 80-year-old grandmother, know that you will likely turn 80 shades of red. If this were a film it would be rated PG 17 or R for language and mature content. This is a novel to first read in private, then absorb it, savor in it, even marinate yourself in its saucy, sweet-and-sour flavor. Then, if you dare, share it with GrandmaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|.but keep the AED handyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|POV Third person.DOES THIS WRITER SHOW OR TELL WHAT WE SEE/FEEL/HEAR? The author paints a picture at every turn that is exquisite and incredible.DOES THE WRITER EVOKE THE FIVE SENSES? Absolutely, with uncanny skill for a debut novel.IS THIS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OR SHOULD I READ AN EARLIER BOOK FIRST?CLIFFHANGER? No cliffhanger, but a big part of me wishes there was, because that would mean there is another story coming.Q - How was this book obtained?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Bought on .Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ No, but I recollect at least one double contraction, such as IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve never noticed before. The word chosen was, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“couldnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢tÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll leave it to others to decide if this is an error. For me, though, it feels natural, so IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll say no more.Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ This is a page-turner.Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Ordinarily, I would complain about the excessive profanities that include graphic sexual content, but, this writing is too good to quibble.To give a feel for the editing, and the style and flow of this work, I am posting a brief excerpt below.ExcerptÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|When the fog lifts from grass still smoking with dew, Turtle takes the Remington 870 down from its wall pegs, trips the release, and slivers back the slide to show the green buckshot hull. She jacks the shotgun closed and tilts it over her shoulder and goes down the stairs and out the back door. It is beginning to rain. The drops patter down from the pines and stand trembling on the nettle leaves and sword fronds. She scrambles along the joists of the back deck and clambers down the hillside alive with rotting logs and rough-skinned newts and California slender salamanders, her heels breaking through the gooey crust of myrtle leaves and churning up the black earth. She comes cautious and switchbacking down to the wellspring of Slaughterhouse Creek, where the maidenhair ferns are black-stemmed with leaves like green teardrops, the nasturtiums hanging in tangles with their crisp, wet, nasturtium scent, the rocks scrolled with liverwort.The spring here pours from a mossy nook in the hillside, and where it falls, it has carved a basin out of the living stone, a well of cold, clear, iron-tasting water, big as a room, thatched with logs worn feathery by age. Turtle sits on the logs, taking off all of her clothes and laying the shotgun among them and slipping feetfirst into the stone

poolÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •because here she seeks her own peculiar solace, and here she feels it to be the solace of cold places, of a thing that is clear and cold and alive. She holds her breath and sinks to the bottom and, drawing her knees to her shoulders with her hair rising around her like weeds, she opens her eyes to the water and looks up and sees writ huge across the rain-dappled surface the basking shapes of newts with their fingers splayed and their golden-red bellies exposed to her, their tails churning lazily. They are bent and distorted, hazed the way things are under water, and the cold is good for her, it brings her back to herself. She breaks the surface and heaves out onto the logs and feels the warmth return and watches the forest around her.She rises and climbs carefully back up the hillside and walks heel to toe across the joists of the back deck in the gathering rain and then into the kitchen, where the black-tailed weasel startles and looks up, one paw raised above a plate covered in old steak bones.She sets the shotgun on the counter and goes to the fridge and opens it and stands wet, her hair slicked to her back and straggled around her face, racking the eggs on the counterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s edge and breaking them into her mouth andÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦Tallent, Gabriel. My Absolute Darling: A Novel (p. 24). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.Tallent, Gabriel. My Absolute Darling: A Novel (pp. 23-24). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.Bottom Line:I rose to the challenge to see the world from a gritty, raw, viewpoint with this Action-Adventure and am grateful for the authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s skill and the editorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s decision to let the writerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s voice come through.Five stars out of five.Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.Thank you.

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