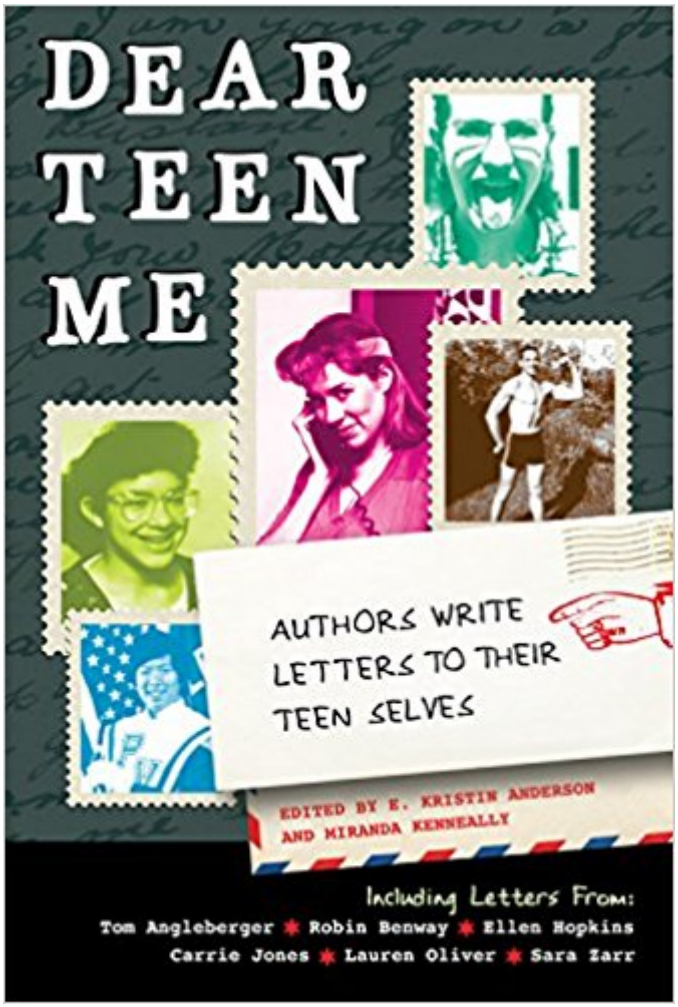
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Dear Teen Me: Authors Write Letters To Their Teen Selves (True Stories)



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Synopsis

Dear Teen Me includes reflections and advice from over 70 YA authors (including Lauren Oliver, Ellen Hopkins, and Nancy Holder, to name a few) to their teenage selves.The letters cover a wide range of topics, including physical abuse, body issues, bullying, friendship, love, and enough insecurities to fill an auditorium. So pick a page, and find out which of your favorite authors had a really bad first kiss. Who found true love at 18? And who wishes heÃ¢â ¬â„¢d had more fun in high school, instead of studying so hard? Some authors write diary entries, some write letters, and a few graphic novelists turn their stories into visual art.Whether you hang out with the theater kids, the band geeks, the bad boys, the loners, the class presidents, the delinquents, the jocks, or the nerds, youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll find friends--and a lot of familiar faces--in the course of Dear Teen Me.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up
Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

A Look Inside Dear Teen Me Pages 32-33 Pages 68-69 Pages 70-71

Gr 6 Up-Fact: The teenage experience doesn't play out like it does in the movies. Stripped of its Hollywood gloss and thrown into harsh reality, it is a daily gauntlet of angst and anxiety and trial, but also of hard-won triumph. Here, in letters to their former teen selves, more than 60 young adult

authors discuss friendship, first love, body image, abuse, depression, glory days, horror days, and how the experiences they had as teenagers helped shape them into the (mostly) well-adjusted adults they grew to be. These letters range from humorous to heartbreaking, and teens past, present, and future will find something they can relate to. Julia Whelan and Macleod Andrews do an admirable of job narrating the various letters (Zest Books, 2012) by authors such as Beth Fantaskey, Carrie Jones, Joseph Bruchac, Ilse Bick, and a host of others. The concept is creative, and listeners will love getting to know their favorite YA authors better. Unfortunately, the discs consistently end mid-letter, giving the recording a choppy, interrupted feel. Additionally, graphic segments don't translate well into audio format. This makes a nice supplement to the print version, but is not a necessary purchase. For additional letters, visit dearteenme.com.-Alissa Bach, Oxford Public Library, MIÃ Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I choose this book because I recognized some the authors in this book. I loved it because of the letters, the stories were funny, heartbreaking and over-all inspirational to read. I recommend this book to any teen that thinks they are having a hard even though these letters come from adults teens can surely relate and find comfort in this book.

Typically, Young Adult authors are adults. Sure, they have lived through high school and their awkward teenage years, but they aren't currently entrenched in them. Perhaps they have glorified those times, or maybe they view them like being the lone survivor of a zombie plague- all alone and waiting to be devoured by the beasts surrounding you. Either way, they aren't part of the target audience for whom they write their books. So can they make the young adults they write for believe they lived through the same situations? Yep. With one book. In Dear Teen Me, a collection of letters from the authors to their teen selves, you will get a glimpse of just how much they can connect to the teens they write for."You know there is no way in hell a guy like him would ever kiss a girl like you, you think."There are moms who left. Left behind was a girl who had to raise her younger siblings and needed her grandmother to buy her first bra for her. Dads who left an never called, creating an almost obsessive need for attention of any kind. There was a dad who suffered from mental illness in a way that devastated her childhood. And there were great parents who loved, comforted, angered, yelled, supported and loved some more."Here's the thing: You're a freak. Always were. Always will be. One day you'll love this about yourself. But right now you hate it."There are band geeks, theater dropouts, book nerds, smart kids, dancers, jocks, chubby kids, and so

much more. Some had a defining moment like when Big Bern (scary Sister Bernard Agnes) recognized you were a fish out of water and suggested you spend some time in the library, the exact spot where you finally fit in. Some just floated through, realizing only now that they missed an amazing opportunity. But they all have something in common. They had no idea who the hell they really were and who the hell they were going to be one day. And that was OK. Because eventually, they would know."The goose egg on your forehead will heal, but the loose thread in your moral fiber is probably still there to this day."There were bullies. Some were expected, and some were unexpected. Those were inexplicably sadder. Sometimes the bullied became the bully just to turn the tide a little bit. There were cruel taunts and jabs that will stay with you forever. But there were friends. A girl who let you know it is OK to stop worrying about homework and tests and just be free. Friends who want to play Dungeons and Dragons or belong to the breakdancing group right along with your rhythm-less self. And did you know Lauren Oliver and Elizabeth Miles were friends in school?! How awesome and crazy is that?!"Keep dancing by the highway, you splendid little dork."There are first crushes, first kisses, and attempts to lose your virginity. There are milestones and drudgery, but it is all that time you need to spend finding yourself, losing yourself, and finding yourself again. This is all the advice you wish someone had told you when you were a teenager, but then you stop and realize even if they had told you, you would have ignored them and made those same mistakes again. This book should not only be read by students from middle school through their young adult years, but also adults as well. Parents, teachers, and just the woman debating whether or not to go to her high school reunion because she was once an awkward young girl who dreaded every day of high school. I loved this collection. Loved it. And there is nothing you will ove more than watching someone realize those very authors you look up to were struggling through the same horror show you went through during adolescence. (And not Rocky Horror Picture Show, kind of horror either. There was no bustier and singing. This was more like Jason and hockey mask)."PLEASE stop pretending you don’t know the answers in math class! It’s okay to be smarter than they boys. Really. They’ll get over it."

I am reading this book to help my son with his book report,I though I would not like it but I do.This book shows these teenagers that they are not alone, that even us as parents have felt they way they do now and I’m hoping this book I makes a good impact on him.

I think this book is more suitable for older or sophisticated teens. Very frank and forthright about the issues girls face "grwing up".

My daughter had to read this for high school. It was like pulling teeth getting her to read it. I read a few stories and have to agree.

I've been a frequent follower of the Dear Teen Me website since its start. Therefore, when I heard about the Dear Teen Me book I was beyond excited! I couldn't wait to see what letters and other fun tidbits they would include. Luckily, it was everything I expected, and lots more.Let me list the reasons why I LOVED it:(1) The format: I loved the way they presented each letter with the letter itself as well as a picture of the author as a teen and their bio. It was cute, and I just adored all the colors. It made reading the book a very enjoyable experience.(2) The selection of authors/letters: I've seen some of the letters included on the website, but the majority were brand new to me! I loved the variety in them from the funny ones to the sad ones to the heartwarming ones...there was just about every category featured.(3) The Q and A feature: LOVED all the embarrassing moments/first jobs!(4) New authors: A lot of the authors I hadn't heard about before, I made a mental note to find out more about them and their books! :)In all, the Dear Teen Me anthology is an heartwarming and pitch perfect addition to the YA lit world. Best of all, teens as well as adults will be able to find themselves in these letters!

We've all been through those awkward teen years (or are going through them now, for all of you who are still in your teens) and this book really shows that you're not alone. That the things we go through, we're not the only one. Because there's SO many authors sharing their stories, or writing letters to their teen selves, we get a large variety. From those who were mostly homeless, those who grew up in a good home but never fit in, to those who struggled with being LGBT, and the list goes on. I think there's some story in this book (well, letter) that each of us can relate to. I personally was able to connect with many of them.Over and over again I was brought back to my teen years and the feelings and emotions I experienced. Most of this was good, as I remember particular movies mentioned, music, styles, etc. I'm in my 30's now (yikes, that still scares me when I say that) and so a lot of the 90's references were awesome for me.This is a book that I read over a month or so. Since it's not a continuous story I didn't feel a strong urge to keep reading, but I would pick it up and read several letters, feel satisfied and set it down again. I could have maybe read it straight through, but I like my fictional stories, so I kept going back to them. But this is not a negative thing. I think this is a good book for teens to have, to pick it up occasionally and read a few letters to be reminded that they will grow up and so many of things will change. And that they aren't alone, they

aren’t the only one struggling through certain things.I recommend this book to every teen (and adults will enjoy it too, of course). I think it will be helpful to many, inspiring to many, and will help many through difficult times.

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