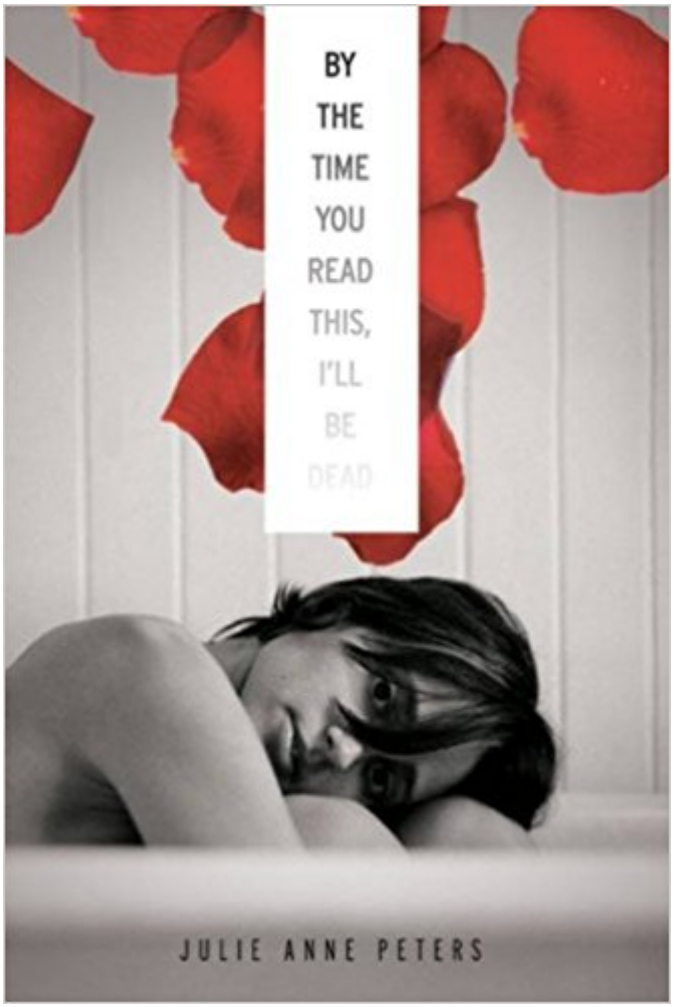
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By The Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead



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Synopsis

After a lifetime of being bullied, Daelyn is broken beyond repair. She has tried to kill herself before, and is determined to get it right this time. Though her parents think they can protect her, she finds a Web site for "completers" that seems made just for her. She blogs on its forums, purging her harrowing history. At her private Catholic school, the only person who interacts with her is a boy named Santana. No matter how poorly she treats him, he just won't leave her alone. And it's too late for Daelyn to be letting people into her life . . . isn't it?In this harrowing, compelling novel, Julie Anne Peters shines a light on what might make a teenager want to kill herself, as well as how she might start to bring herself back from the edge. A discussion guide and resource list prepared by "bullycide" expert C. J. Bott are included in the back matter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Daelyn Rice has been bullied her entire life, whether it was for her past weight problem or because she currently does not talk and wears a neck brace. She has attempted suicide several times in several different ways and is now more determined than ever to end her life. Daelyn discovers a Web site called Through-the-Light, which is for suicide "completers." There she communicates with others who share the same goal. The members share stories of bullying, molestation, etc., and encourage each other's ultimate goal. Meanwhile, Daelyn meets a boy named Santana. She wants nothing to do with him; his presence and determination to draw her out of her shell only annoy her. Over time and as new information surfaces (he has cancer), however, she finds herself drawn to him. Will their connection be enough to make Daelyn realize that her life is worth living? Readers are left not knowing what she will do. This novel is disturbing in that the teen

bluntly discusses her desire to kill herself with little to no emotion. She has a plan, and she is eager to carry it out. Also upsetting are the suicide methods that are explicitly detailed on Through-the-Light. However, Santana's presence is welcome, as he softens the unsettling subject matter. This book is definitely worth the read, but for older, more seasoned teens.Ã¢â ¬â •Sarah K. Allen, Elko Middle School, Sandston, VA (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Julie Anne Peters (www.julieannepeters.com) is the award-winning author of more than fifteen books for children and young adults. She lives in Colorado.

Grade: A+Daelyn, depressed and damaged after years of bullying and several attempts to end her life, finds a website for suicidal people to plan and execute their demise. She's unable to speak and barely communicates with her parents, doctors and classmates. She meets a talkative, quirky boy, determined to break through her stoic exterior, to be her friend. But all Daelyn can't allow herself to get close, not when she's supposed to be disengaging from people to make her suicide easier.BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, I'LL BE DEAD is heartbreaking, breathtaking look inside the mind of an extremely depressed teenage girl. Daelyn's parents love her, but they're ineffectual when relating and understanding her pain from the time she was a young child. She probably should have been in therapy from a very young age, but her parents didn't realize the depth of her self-loathing and inner torment. Daelyn was never honest about the depth of the bullying she experienced. A perfectly imperfect storm.Daelyn was so full of despair, she was unable to see the impact of her often cold behavior on her parents and those who tried to befriend her. I found her easy to root for, even though she stopped rooting for herself. I wanted to take her back in time and urge her to tell on the bullies and abusers, to show her she was worth more than the way others treated her.Santana proved to be the Yang to Daelyn's Yin. He embraced life with gusto and vigor and wouldn't let go of his desire to befriend her. His approach was so genteel and nonthreatening that she wasn't scared away.Some readers may find BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, I'LL BE DEAD depressing and dark, but Julie Ann Peters did a great job tempering Daelyn's despair with a subtly sarcastic, engaging voice. As I reader I had the hope Daelyn lacked. Just like life, there are no easy answers in this novel. Peters avoids the clichÃƒÂ©d ending of easy answers, sunshine and rainbows.THEMES: depression, suicide, bullying, familyBY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, I'LL BE DEAD is an unconventional story of a teen contemplating suicide.

By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead by Julie Anne Peters is a disturbing, yet fascinating look into the mind of a suicidal teen. I was immediately drawn into the story by the use of the website and the countdown to suicide.Although the connection with Santana was an essential part of the plot, it felt too convenient and a little contrived. She just happens to meet him as she's begun her countdown. He just happens to ask her to dinner as her countdown ends. What kept me reading were the brief glimpses into Daelyn's past. I wanted to peel back the layers of experiences that brought her to this point in her life. It was interesting to see her point of view on the many instances of bullying and abuse she experienced. Then, see how she slowly gained perspective through her growing friendship with her overweigh friend Emily.I found it particularly interesting that the suicidal teen was unwilling to engage with the physical world (i.e., taste, touch, smell), but she was able to use the online forums as a way to vent her frustrations, share her experiences, and react to the website questions.The book was well-written and used many interesting literary elements. Peters does a great job getting into the mind of teens and expressing their thoughts in realistic ways.I recommend this book for fans of realistic young adult literature.

This book is about a girl that had been bullied. She is never noticed by anyone. Her parents don't really even care about her. So she found this website were it tells you how many more days till suicide day. And she had like 25 or 30 days. But then there was a boy that was staring at her for a while then for the first time he came a talked to her she was scared and also shocked. No one seemed to care about her. As so she thought. By the time you read this I'll be dead, is and amazing page turner book. Trust me you will love it. It may be depressing but you won't wanna stop reading it till it's over.

This book was wonderful and horrible at the same time. It was horrifying to read the bullying that the main character described as she counted down to the day she planned to end her life, but it was also very introspective--for the character, as well as the reader. She describes the assaults and the "teasing" and "taunting" that she had gone through her entire life, but I think that by describing it and writing it out, she managed to also deal with it--or at least start to, because by the end of the book, she seemed more hopeful.It ends in a very open-ended way, so you don't know if Daelyn went through with the suicide or not. I guess that however you interpret it ends up saying more about you than it does about the book. In a way, I think that the book may encourage the reader to deal with past traumas, but I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who is easily triggered. This book should have

a big old "trigger warning" on the cover because it deals with a lot of touchy subjects.

Just a warning - the description at the top is WRONG. This is not about a girl named Kat trying to steal the crown jewels. The book is centered around Daelyn, a suicidal high school girl. After multiple failed attempts, she finds a website, through-the-light.com, which helps people go through with the suicide. However, soon after she meets a boy named Santana, and becomes conflicted about her plan to end her life.I knew that this was going to be a hard read, but I didn't quite expect it to be THIS depressing. Although the character Santana adds some lightness and humor, the main theme of this book is suicide and death. I won't spoil anything, because I can't - I'm not entirely sure what happens at the end, as the last chapter is kind of vague.I gave this 4/5 stars. I wouldn't exactly call it enjoyable, but it was a very heavy, thought-provoking read.

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