



Wintergirls

By Laurie Halse Anderson

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***The New York Times* bestselling story of a friendship frozen between life and death**

Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in fragile bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the thinnest. But then Cassie suffers the ultimate loss—her life—and Lia is left behind, haunted by her friend's memory and racked with guilt for not being able to help save her. In her most powerfully moving novel since *Speak*, award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson explores Lia's struggle, her painful path to recovery, and her desperate attempts to hold on to the most important thing of all: hope.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—After the death of her former best friend Cassie, 18-year-old Lia slowly spirals toward her own death, drowning in guilt while starving, cutting, and running on a treadmill in the middle of the night in this emotional novel (Viking, 2009) by Laurie Halse Anderson, winner of the 2009 Margaret A. Edwards Award. Her father is in denial and her mother is distant; her stepmother and little sister look on helplessly. Lyrically visual, this starkly truthful and chilling first-person tale is narrated convincingly by Jeannie Stith, who perfectly mimics the sarcasm and angst of a teen girl's struggle with anorexia. An interview with the author concludes the audiobook. Recommended for Anderson's fans and those who enjoy books by Sonya Sones and Ellen Hopkins.—*Terry Ann Lawler, Phoenix Public Library, AZ*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Problem-novel fodder becomes a devastating portrait of the extremes of self-deception in this brutal and poetic deconstruction of how one girl stealthily vanishes into the depths of anorexia. Lia has been down this road before: her competitive relationship with her best friend, Cassie, once landed them both in the hospital, but now not even Cassie's death can eradicate Lia's disgust of the "fat cows" who scrutinize her body all day long. Her father (no, "Professor Overbrook") and her mother (no, "Dr. Marrigan") are frighteningly easy to dupe—tinkering and sabotage inflate her scale readings as her weight secretly plunges: 101.30, 97.00, 89.00. Anderson illuminates a dark but utterly realistic world where every piece of food is just a caloric number, inner voices scream "NO!" with each swallow, and self-worth is too easily gauged: "I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through." Struck-through sentences, incessant repetition, and even blank pages make Lia's inner turmoil tactile, and gruesome details of her decomposition will test sensitive readers. But this is necessary reading for anyone caught in a feedback loop of weight loss as well as any parent unfamiliar with the scripts teens recite so easily to escape from such deadly situations. Grades 9-12. --Daniel Kraus

Review

Anderson illuminates a dark but utterly realistic world...this is necessary reading. --*Booklist*, starred review

The intensity of emotion and vivid language here are more reminiscent of Anderson's *Speak* than any of her other works...an almost poetic stream of consciousness in [a] startlingly crisp and pitch-perfect first-person narrative. --*School Library Journal*, starred review

Due to the author's and the subject's popularity, this should be a much-discussed book, which rises far above the standard problem novel. --*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

As difficult as reading this novel can be, it is more difficult to put down. --*Publishers Weekly*

Readers will be absorbed by this gripping tale... ---*BCCB*, starred review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Lapham:

What do you think of book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't be pressured someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Wintergirls. All type of book could you see on many methods. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

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Larry Turner:

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