



## 22 Scars

*C.M. North*

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Raised with apathy and spite, Amy's life is a monotonous drone of deep despair, broken only by coffee and nights out with her best—and only—friend. She battles depression daily, fighting to keep her sanity in a world that, to her, is set on destroying her soul.

Her future is bleak, overcast with shadow and doubt; her past harbors terrible secrets that even those closest to her couldn't begin to guess. When tragedy strikes someone she holds dear, will she succumb to the crushing weight of despair, or will she find the strength to fight—to live?

22 Scars is a story of what it takes to live daily with depression - and how the scars of a lifetime can pass through generations and beyond.

Can the past ever truly be forgotten?

Can depression ever be beat?

## 22 Scars Details

Date : Published October 28th 2017 by Christopher North

ISBN :

Author : C.M. North

Format : ebook

Genre : Young Adult

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## From Reader Review 22 Scars for online ebook

### Julianne says

I thought this book was well written. I really hit home and i can relate to some of it. I couldn't put it down.

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### Amii Morrison says

I was given this ARC from Voracious Readers for an honest review.

TRIGGER WARNING \*\* This novel deals with depression, suicide, mental and physical abuse as well as rape. If any of these are a trigger for you, please do not read this book.

This novel was really good. I felt like I knew Amy and everything she was going through. I could feel her pain and all I wanted to do was help her.

There are to different storylines that come together in the end. You do not know that until you start reading a chapter about a party. Once you figured out there are 2 stories it becomes easy to figure out which you are reading.

The second story is about a couple, how they met, fell in love, got married and the the bad stuff in between. You really start to despise the husband.

This novel was a harrowing tale about the bad parts of life, and what it is like when all the good is taken from you. It is a very good read.

If you want to read my full review, along with spoilers of what happens please check out:  
<http://bluntandhonestopinion.blogspot...>

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### S-Reads says

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author through Voracious Readers\*

\*Trigger Warning - This book mentions, self-harm, suicide and rape\*

This is a unique portrayal of a characters journey through the struggles she experiences in her life, and the emotions and thoughts she grapples with every day. The novel is brilliant in a subtle way, focusing primarily on understanding and developing the character of Amy, through events in her life, but also he lives of her parents.

The beginning was a bit slow and confusing, but it helped me properly understand Amy's daily life and get as comfortable as possible in it. Then the novel gradually delves deeper into her life and her struggles, slowly building my sympathy and understanding towards Amy. The further I got into the book, the more intrigued I become, but the harder it also became for me to read it, because the further I got in the book, the more it focused on events that shaped her into becoming the way she is. Including events in the lives of her parents

that resulted in them being the way that they were.

The way the book was written took a while to get used to, but the detached way that it's written highlights the way that Amy feels about life. Essentially adding another dimension to the book which helps in setting the mood

This was an absolutely amazing and beautiful read in its own unique way. It ended in a bittersweet way that left me speechless. You should definitely read it if you enjoy these sorts of novel's.

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## **Megan says**

*I recieved a free copy of this ebook from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review*

This was a novel which dealt with some very serious issues and fortunately did so in a sensitive manner. It was cautious, engaging, informative and the characters were very intriguing to read about. I enjoyed my time reading this, although it was about a very dark subject.

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## **Vesper Dreams says**

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Upon seeing 22 Scars on NetGalley and VRO, I was really interested in seeing what this author would do with a story regarding such an emotional and sensitive subject like depression, self-harm, and more. Having been a victim of both depression and self-harm, I requested it in hopes to find a book that will help open up people's eyes to the mental illness while providing an emotional story.

Unfortunately, this book didn't live up to my expectations. I've been telling myself a lot recently that I should stop expecting anything from the books I read so that I can't be disappointed, but I always fail to do that.

I got my copy off NetGalley and the version I received was riddled with weird formatting issues that turned quotation marks into a cluster of symbols which made it extremely hard to read and determine what was dialogue. Maybe that's the main reason I couldn't truly finish it (I mostly skimmed the rest because my eyes and brain hurt from trying to decipher the poor formatting job).

Anyway, let's get on to the actual story. I first want to touch upon the fact that it seemed like two different people wrote this. Some sentences flowed well, while others were broken up into tiny sentences when they could have been drawn out. I hate tiny sentences. It's so hard to read. It also makes me really annoyed. Do you see where I'm going with this? A previous book I read did this and I absolutely could not stand it.

The scenes moved back and forth, and it made it so hard to follow who we were supposed to be following. One moment, I'm reading Amy's story, the next, it's a couple getting married? What? Look, I see that it was an attempt at doing multiple perspectives to, in the end, connect the two, but it wasn't well done. Most good books with multiple perspectives tend to make it easy to tell what's what, but this just left me confused, irritated, and ready to just stop reading.

I tried not to DNF. I tried to keep going, I really did. I feel so bad leaving this review because of all the shining reviews left by other people. Maybe it was solely the corrupted formatting issue. Maybe I'll go back when/if I decide to get the published Kindle copy. With the format issue combined with the feel that it was written by two different people and the bad multiple perspectives, I just couldn't bring myself to finish. I'm sorry. Unfortunately, for now, this is my review.

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### **TamaraLynne Stewart says**

I'd read this book again for sure it's a good read and it gives info that would help you better understand a person going threw depression so bad it feels better to them when they hurt themselves , these people are not alone and this book shows that ! I'm glad I got to read this book thank you for writing it C.M North helping people understand more of what it's like can only be a good and helpful thing

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### **Isabel says**

I received a copy of this book for free through VRO.

Overall, it was a unique and cleverly done story. I found it difficult to get into at the start, as it jumped around between plots and characters, but am glad I kept reading and really enjoyed the second half of the book, where it felt like the characters had come more alive. I would happily read more of the author's work in the future.

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### **Julie Parks says**

This book deserves 5 stars for originality alone.

I initially requested it through NetGalley but their file didn't work, and after reading the Amazon Sample I actually bought the Kindle version. It's that good!

It reads a lot like The New Yorker for YA. And the depression is approached internally not only externally on the screen - as in, while you're reading, you're pretty much feeling as confused and disoriented and unsure of anything as Amy herself.

Many will scorn that. I think in today's literary world of too many similar books, that's sheer brilliance.

The writing style is raw and frank, and authentic. And I am literally DYING to read anything else by this author.

If you're a reader tired of predicting exactly what happens or where the book goes - this book is a whole new joyride for you.

Thank you NetGalley for connecting me to this author.

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## **Karen • The Book Return says**

Read this review and more on my blog.[The Book Return Blog](#)

I received this book for free from Author (via YA Books Central) in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Amy leads a tortured life. She has a monster for a father and a distant mother. Amy self-harms and has suicidal tendencies. Then tragedy in her life leads her in a dangerous direction.

'22 Scars' highlights mental illness in teenagers. With recent events, I think a young adult book that focuses on mental health is an important thing. '22 Scars' did an excellent job taking on this difficult topic. I did read '13 Reasons Why' and found it somewhat lacking. Not only was the plot unrealistic and contrived, I don't think that it really approaches the underling mental illnesses that drives someone to suicide. I think '22 Scars' approaches this subject better. Not only is Amy's deep seeded problems explored but it also shows how her mental illness progresses through time.

'22 Scars' has two storylines. The connection between these storylines is not realized until late in the book. I found both storylines interesting although I did find that the one not involving teenage Amy more interesting. The main issue I had with teenage Amy's storyline was the plethora of characters, especially Amy's friends. There were so many I could not keep them straight. Also, the character of Beth's father helped the reader understand that someone can have major flaws and still be an ok parent, he didn't really add a lot to the story other than that. I would have liked to have read more about Amy's boss. I felt like there was more to him as a character. From the few times he is mentioned he seems interesting and kind and I would liked to have heard more of his story and maybe, even his point of view.

'22 Scars' is a wonderful story that takes on the subject of domestic violence, mental illnesses, and teen suicide. I really loved the way this novel approached each of these subjects. I highly recommend '22 Scars' and recommend it as an alternative to '13 Reasons Why'. This review was originally posted on The Book return...

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## **Amanda Cole says**

As a person who has struggled with mental problems my whole life, this was hard to read. I like the way it educates the reader on depression and shows that many people throughout the world have it. Very emotional. Will stay with you for a while.

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## **Katie Lacombe says**

I received this book as a part of the Voracious Readers book club.

I was really excited about this book when I read the description. I work in the mental health field, so I was interested to see how this author depicted depression and all the crazy emotions of high school. I think for me, it did a good job of showing how dark life can be for someone suffering from depression.

Overall, the structure of the book was hard to follow. I think with the changing perspectives, it took me a while to follow, and I found myself trying to figure out the relationship between the characters rather than the plot as I read. I think this was intentional to help show the confusion associated with mental health issues, but it still made it somewhat challenging.

I also think this did not give an accurate depiction of what high school is like. I'm sure some kids are getting drunk at a very young age, but I don't know who would believe a fake ID that some 15 or 16 year old would present.

Despite all this, I did "enjoy" this book. I say "enjoy" because it is quite dark. I think it could be a good read for someone trying to understand someone's experience. It gives a perspective of the person suffering, and I think it could help friends and family of the depressed understand. I wouldn't recommend this book for everyone, but I think for a lot of people this could be a very emotionally educational read.

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### **Laura Henderson says**

This novel seems to be more character driven rather than plot driven which is fine, however the character driven aspect was kind of slow. I felt that sometimes it was hard to discern what Amy was really thinking at times. Also note that the book is hard to get into at first, however later on the book does pick up. Not a one click read but still glad i read this book. The mental health side of this book was very well done. I've read a lot of books where manic depression/suicidal thoughts and tendencies are glamorized and this novel does not do that. Instead it shows you what it is, its ugly side and what its like to live with it. I look forward to reading more by the author in the future as I think they can easily climb the charts if a few skill are tweaked.

3.5/5 Stars

**\*\*I received an e-copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\***

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### **Danielle says**

I got a free ebook copy of this from voraciousreadersonly.com in exchange for an honest review, and quite honestly I feel weird giving this such a low rating compared to the other reviews. There wasn't a ton of plot, which was fine. Some books are great at just being character driven rather than plot driven, but usually then you get a deep dive into what the character was thinking at all times. This book didn't really go there - at least for Amy - until the end.

Also, it felt kind of disjointed. I knew there was a purpose/reason for the book randomly cutting to the couple (and I had kind of pegged it early enough), but it was kind of jarring. What made it feel that way even more was the way the male was never named. It was a bit distracting and just generally weird.

I do think a strong part of the book were the diary entries. They sounded like stuff I could've written when I was a kid, and it really helped to show the progression of how the depression came on. So that I did like and it really kind of hit a note with me.

All in all it wasn't a bad story. I just think it skirted too much around some major events that truly impacted

the main character (like not giving enough detail/showing enough thoughts/reactions from Amy in response to it).

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### **TRACY-ANNE PADDOCK says**

I received a copy of this book from voracious readers. Took me a fair while to twig about the couple in this book and link them in with the main character as it really could have done with a '15 years ago' chapter heading when it was about the couple so you know where you are. But have to admit it was bloody heartbreaking and I did shed a gallon on tears. A tad dark but considering the title and front cover of the book, you can figure out what the book is about so if you're prepared to go on this journey with the main characters then read on.

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### **Melissa says**

\*I received a complementary copy of this book from the author through Voracious Readers\*

\*Trigger Warnings - this book deals contains self-harm, rape and suicide\*

22 Scars is the heart wrenching story of the daily struggle of living with depression. It portrays the life of 17-year-old Amy's struggles through life and the emotions she deals with on a daily basis. This books is told through key events in Amy's life and the lives of her parents that shapes the way Amy and her parents are. The book as two story lines, which is kind of confusing, until the connection is made later in the book. The detached style of writing took a while to get used to, but added an extra layer to get a real feel of how Amy sees life. It is written in a way that you are left feeling as confused as Amy is about life.

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