



Caller 107

Matthew S. Cox

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Natalie Rausch said she'd die for a chance to meet DJ Crazy Todd, but she didn't mean to be literal.

A bitter divorce shattered her family and turned her into a thirteen-year-old weapon in the hands of two people who want nothing more than to destroy each other. Once an accelerated student looking at early college, Natalie let anger at her parents lead her down a desperate path of self-destruction. No amount of rebellion gets her mom or dad's attention—or stitches up the hole inside her where love used to be.

She still listens to actual radio because her stupid mom won't let her have an iPhone. Whenever WROK 107.1 ran a contest, she and her best friend would always try to call in, but even that lost its fun.

Her wildest attempt to send her parents a message, falling in with a dangerous group of older teens, goes as wrong as possible. Karma comes full circle in the form of her favorite DJ. He gives her a few hours to make up for two years' worth of mistakes...

Or be forever lost.

Caller 107 Details

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From Reader Review Caller 107 for online ebook

Rae Sontheyon says

Written For All Who've Been Hurt By Divorce As Either The Parent Or Child. . .

Honestly I grabbed this book without reading much of the description thinking it was only to do with a teenager and her wanting to connect with a DJ. That is soooo not the case, this book is way more than I was expecting but in a good way. The plot feels confusing at first especially with the verb tense and perspective being a bit off, but as you read on and more of the situation is revealed, a reader can see such a depth to this book you may not have expected. I certainly wasn't, which made this book a great emotional read that has left a huge impression on me for life.

After a two year bitter divorce in which her two parents want only to destroy each other, left thirteen-year-old Natalie Rausch in the middle and alone, now she is nothing but hardened towards those around her. Natalie absolutely hates everything her mom says and does, since Natalie is convinced she is all to blame for destroying their family. She also hates her dad for cutting her out of his life and leaving her alone with the one person in the world she really hates. Natalie lets herself spiral out of control by dropping her grades, shop lifting, dressing like a punk and swearing worse than a sailor all in an effort to enrage her mother and get attention from her non-existent father. However, it's not until Natalie hits her lowest point by hanging out with a group of dangerous older teens that she finds herself in real physical danger. It's then that redemption in a series of tasks given by a spirit in the form of DJ Crazy Todd may be possible if, and only IF, Natalie can fix her wrongs in time. Natalie takes the offer of a second chance and winds up on a journey with her mother and father exploring where her family fell apart and why, but most importantly how they can move forward together, if Natalie completes her tasks and wins approval for her second chance.

Overall, this story has such a grasp on how much divorce destroys kids and families, that for me a person who has not experienced divorce firsthand, now feels more attuned to help the kids I do know who have gone through these types of messy divorces with more clarity. Now the plot flow, perspective, verb tense and story structure was a bit rough for me to get through for a couple chapters, but once I got a third of the way in I realized this book was emotionally golden. Natalie is hurting and expressing it as best she knows, which is basically wreck whats left of her life since her parents helped destroy what happiness she had once before they started fighting. So when they, as a family, finally get a chance to let the hurt and blame fall away, by allowing the whole truth to come out it helps them all heal. Natalie is clearly a thirteen year old girl who is trying to be older than she needs to be, but her life changed the moment her parents decided to divorcee. As an adult who helps kids, many who come from split families, I know the kids are always hurt from the experience and this book helped remind me their actions are reactions, which may be for attention not always self destruction. So if you were once an angry teen from a bitter divorce, or know a teen(s) that are angry at everyone and everything when the people in their world seem against them, than this book may be a good choice.

-----Read more of my reviews at: <http://heyitwasfree.blogspot.com/>-----

Daniel Cox says

First, I need to get the required disclaimers out of the way. Though we share a name, Matt and I are not

related, nor have we met; and I was not provided with any incentives or asked to provide a positive review of this book.

Whether it is 25th Century Parapsychology-SciFi thrillers, young adult paranormal adventures or children's fantasy quests, Matthew S. Cox delivers. When you pick up one of Matt's books. You are guaranteed several things: the book will have a strong story, with complex characters and believable dialogue. Caller 107 does not disappoint. The story itself is well-crafted, fast-paced and character driven. For a character driven story to work, you must have well developed, complex and realistic characters, which Caller 107 does.

Additionally, you have to have strong, realistic dialogue that makes sense. Again, Matt hit the mark. Even though Caller 107 is a paranormal based, young adult, coming of age, second chance tale, you do not have to suspend disbelief to make the story work. Anyone that has tried to be the Nth caller on a radio promotion knows the frustration the busy signal can induce. It is bad enough when it is for a pair of event tickets or \$107, but when it is for your life and soul, it is far worse. In a way, the story has a hint of A Christmas Carol meets Wolfman Jack. The strength of the story, from beginning to end, takes you on an emotionally charged, wild ride.

Like most of Matt's books, the primary character is a waifish female, though in this case, it is explained by the simple fact she is a teenage girl. You are probably not going to like Natalie in the beginning of the book, I didn't. If you've read any of his other books, you start thinking that Matt has a hidden teenage waif held captive in his soul. The character development of Natalie, as well as her parents, is complex and realistic. As the story unfolds and she makes her transformational journey, you grow to truly care for her. Not only is this a coming of age story for Natalie, it is a story of redemption, for her and the other characters.

Mark Junk says

Great read. It's not classified as YA, but I think many teens would enjoy this book and relate to the main characters situations of having her parents going through a divorce and feeling abandoned by her father.

Casia Courtier says

** I received this ARC for an honest review from Curiosity Quills Press**

CALLER 107 by Matthew Cox is a dark story about a teen going through difficult times. As the blurb suggests, the main character does die in the book, but it is the journey from before and after that death that is the huge impact.

I honestly hated Natalie, the main character, in the beginning. She was throwing her life away. Everyone around her was trying to help, but she seemed too pissy to understand. I understood where she was coming from, but I just wanted to shake the poor thing.

Be warned, the beginning is dark and will anger you. I was having serious anger issues towards the main character. However, that doesn't mean you should put down the book. Even in the beginning, the reader catches glimpses of the Natalie before the book began. You will see a girl torn and in pain. It isn't outright obvious though. The inner struggle she goes through that the reader sees is what makes the book extremely interesting,

In the end, I began to love her. She is a girl trying to find herself and love. In the process of all her anger she

loses that, but then finds it again in the end. I could tell you the process, but the book is an emotional torrent that is a must read through.

But seriously, this book is amazing. I love the ease it was to be pulled into the world. The dark elements of the story kept me going even when I wanted to throw my Kindle to the ground for Natalie's stupidity. I finished this book in one day. Seriously, this is a book worth reading.

Domoni says

Natalie is an angry 13 year old who hates her mom and takes her anger out on everyone who matters to her. Her parents have divorced and her father has abandoned her. She doesn't care about her old friends, or advanced placements, or being the good girl anymore. She is hanging out with new friends even though everyone else tells her the gang is bad news. She doesn't really want to do the things they do, but she doesn't want to be alone. When they make her get the door unlocked and be their lookout while they break into a house, she gets spooked and runs off before the cops can find her. Natalie knows that this is going to get her in trouble with her new friends, but after another rough fight with her old best friend and a blow out with her mom she doesn't care anymore and doesn't feel like she has anywhere else to go.

Etan, the leader of the gang, decides that if Natalie won't do the crime the only other way to put her in her place in the gang is to have his way with her. When Natalie fights him off and humiliates him, he won't let that stand and comes back with a gun. When the shooting ends Natalie staggers into the alley before she can't move anymore. Lying there she sees how much she has messed up her life. Now she is sorry, but is it too late? When DJ Todd shows up and tells her things might not be so bad if she does what he says, Natalie strives to make it out alive. But is her childhood crush, really who he appears to be and can she survive the night?

This story is an interesting take on the typical story of a ghost that tries to make amends. The author did an excellent job of creating an angry out of control 13 year old girl. I really felt her anger and pain. Even when I could see the stupid choices she was making, I felt like I would empathize and make those stupid choices as well. The characters of this story have a lot of life. None of them are perfect, all of them need to work together to get through the crisis they created in life and maybe stop Natalie's death.

Natalie's parents are not just filler characters. They are more than the stereotypical feuding parents in a bitter divorce. Their story is not one of love and reconciliation either. They are very human and very believable. Leah, Natalie's best friend from preschool to high school, is trying so hard to keep Natalie in her life even though she is the victim of Natalie's anger. Only Natalie can really save herself, and everything she had to face and accept in the fight of her life showed her who she really was.

I enjoyed this story, it was a shorter read but it captured my attention well. The characters and scenery were brought to life vividly. There were some very rough scenes, there was some content that was a little bit juvenile, and at times the story did wander into some trite places. Overall it was a good read and I liked it.

For this and other reviews you can check out my book clubs blog at <https://fangirlsreaditfirst.wordpress...>

Jeremy Hughes says

At first I didn't think I would like this. Then WHAM, out of left field this just grabbed me and wouldn't let go 'till the end.

Great Job Mr. Cox.

Kara says

This was a pleasant surprise and find. It came up for me on BookBub and I decided to buy it. The book pretty much drew me in from the beginning. At times it seems like it could be a cliche book but it never quite is. I very much enjoyed it.

Joan says

Living through a parent's bitter divorce can make anyone rebel but young thirteen yr. old Natalie takes it to the extreme and it could cost her the ultimate price, her life.

Natalie shuts everyone out and starts hanging out with a gang of older teens and that ends badly.

She has no one to blame for the horrific mess she's in but herself. Can she makes amends to the ones she's wronged or will she be lost forever?

I highly recommend this book if you like the YA genre with a touch of the supernatural. I'm definitely not in the YA age group and still really enjoyed this book that puts you through the emotional wringer.

Lady says

Finding The Escape Hatch

This is a stand alone novel.

This was an amazing and angsty story that still managed to be sweet and uplifting. It showcases how badly children of divorce can take their parents using them as a weapon against each other. Natalie was willing to throw everything she had worked so hard for away to pay back some of the pain her parents had caused her. While written about a young adult protagonist, I would not suggest this book as suitable reading material for any but the maturest of young adults as it deals with very serious issues and depicts graphic violence. It was an amazing reading experience filled with plenty of plot twists and a great ending!

Being a child of a very antagonistic divorce has caused Natalie to burn down her old life and look for new "friends" who fit the way she feels inside better than her old ones. She has blown off school and started shoplifting as well as hanging with a "street gang" to hopefully hurt her parents. Them fighting over her like she was some prized piece of property was bad enough... Now her father has abandoned her completely! Does he really not want her anymore because she is a "bad girl" and will ruin his "reputation"? Can she fit in with her new, rougher crowd? Or will she always be a wannabe? Will her parents ever see the damage they

have done and the pain they have caused her?

***This book is suitable for incredibly mature young adult through adult readers who enjoy action packed, drama filled, angsty adventures with plenty of violence and a bit of the supernatural :)

Heather says

I received a free signed copy of this book from the author, Matthew S. Cox, for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this book. Sometimes YA can be difficult to read as an adult but this one wasn't.

Natalie, the main character, is a 13 year old girl stuck in the middle of a nasty divorce. She starts running with a bad crowd, even though she doesn't really want to.

Cox, does a really good job, in my opinion, writing from the female perspective. Does Natalie complain and whine? Yes, she is a 13 year old girl after all. She also shows a lot of spunk, determination and forgiveness.

I found this story to be very entertaining and once I got a few pages into it, I had a hard time putting it down.

Kirsten says

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley and Curiosity Quills in exchange for an honest review.

Caller 107 was a pretty quick read, and I rather enjoyed it. I'm floating between 3 and 4 stars, mostly because I'm not quite sure what to do with a book like this. It's very different from my normal book and I am still a little muddled about my feelings for it. I'm writing this immediately after I finished reading the book, so maybe I'll get more clarity as time goes on.

This book is the story of a girl who's trapped in a pretty shitty situation. Her parents are divorced and she's caught in the middle of a pretty vicious fight. She's not handling it well, and everyone involved seems to have forgotten how to think of the feelings of the others. The friends the main character finds to help her through this difficult time aren't really friends at all, just other kids with shit in their lives. Anyway, things escalate and she finds herself in a bit of trouble, and then the book gets kind of weird. I don't want to say too much, so I'll stop there.

I thought the characters felt real. The family situation was brutal and, unfortunately, all too common. I felt like there was some nice "lessons to be learned" stuff going on, I'm not sure if it was a little too heavy-handed? Maybe I'm looking for "cheesy?" I don't really know, there was something that rang a little off with me as far as the development of the characters in the end of the book, but I can't put my finger on it. Other than that, though, I got quite into the book. I went through it quite quickly and felt myself getting pulled in to the head of the main character, which was really nice. It was a good book.

Quine says

I did not expect to go to the places this book took me. I did not expect to be ported back into the jumbled, crazy, scared, rebellious and wild feelings that being a tween can bring. Heck, tween wasn't even a word back when I was one. It's been a very long time since I was trying to figure out my place in the world, caught in that area of no being longer a child but also not yet a person who feels ok on that road to being my own person. Matt has the amazing ability to grab you by the feels and place you smack in the middle of your own feelings in your own life.

Natalie, the main character, finds herself being pushed and pulled by forces and emotions of events and people that she cannot control. The old stability of loving parents and a comfortable household has been shattered in the war of divorce. Lying in ruins, her mother, unable to deal with her own feelings of abandonment, is self medicating, alternately ignoring or commanding Natalie. Worst yet for Natalie, her beloved father has cut all ties with her, refusing to say why, not answering calls or emails. Natalie no longer finds value, attention or solace in getting good grades. She turns away from her friends and attaches herself to the outliers, the trouble-makers, the gangs. It seems that not even being brought home by the police makes her parents want to start paying attention to her. But finally, Natalie takes one step too far and finds herself in a situation well beyond her capacity to handle. The results are deadly.

The story doesn't end there; in many ways, the story starts here. Not sure exactly what happened to her, Natalie finds herself traveling through familiar places made strange. She is tasked with a journey, the outcome unclear. People, strange, real and fantasy, pop in and out, some helping and some less so. The goal is not clear and the landscape, though at times familiar, is like a bad dream.

I wholeheartedly suggest this book. Read it yourself, and leave it for the YAs you know. Use it to recall how you felt and how your decisions at that time of your life affected you, and check to see if your journey turned out as you wanted it. Use the book to develop a conversation if you are a parent. But most of all read it.?

Denise Keef says

Poor Natalie...caught in the war between her parents who are divorcing and both fighting for custody of her fights back the only way she knows how...to rebel! Once an A+ student with a bright future ahead of her in high school the anger she has building up inside of her towards her life brings her to the brink of a spiraling downfall with dire consequences. One fateful night when she decides to leave the gang...the life that Natalie once knew is drastically changed in the blink of an eye. In the ensuing story...Natalie must figure out what the clues mean that are delivered by a special means in order to get her life and the family and friends back that she had so bitterly turned away from herself before it is too late and her life is ended...for good.

This was a very thought provoking story of what ifs. What if you were given the chance to change things you have done in order to change your future? What if what you had thought to be true...wasn't? What if for some reason you were given that second chance at life...would you be able to save yourself? These and more questions were raised in my mind as I read this fantastic story written by Matthew Cox. His detailed descriptions of the scenes had me holding my breath at times and feeling the pain that thirteen year old Natalie was feeling...both the emotional and physical. Once I had started this book I was unable to put it down until I turned the last page. This is one of the best stories of life and hurting the ones we love and maybe...somehow...with divine intervention...able to change the outcome and get forgiveness.

This is definitely a book to be recommended and well worth reading!

Enrique Herrera says

Caller 107, after saying the title one wouldn't know what to think of it. It's the title that already starts the reader wondering what journey you are about to embark on. This whole story was quite the unexpected chain of events for the reader. You read, follow the plot, and boom! Matthew changes it upside-down and you are left speechless. You are smacked with such powerful emotions; you are just awestruck with the turn of events. I tried my hardest to predict outcomes of certain events, but am left with a complete plot twist. It's true; the author can twist our reality into a whole different perspective on life. This story really changed my views on the world beyond our own. Matthew states at the end of the book, the reasoning behind this whole story, and I'm very elated you decided to go ahead and publish it. It's truly outstanding, what one smidge of an idea, can become at the end. If you enjoy books that twist your predictions, and make you really attached to protagonists, then this is the story for you. Trust me; the title makes itself known once you read it. When I read the particular passage that mentioned the title, it was then that you were overcome with a sort of gratifying revelation. I recommend reading this book at night. It gives it that eerie feel, which blends together so smoothly! Caller 107 is one of those stories, that'll keep those pages turning, and leave you pondering whenever you reach an end to a chapter. I enjoyed the writing style, looking forward to reading more of Matthew's work.

Marjolein says

3.5 Stars

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Natalie's life hasn't been what she expected from it for the last two years. After her parents got a divorce, and she was used as a means by the parents to hurt each other she's grown into an angry teen that has nothing of the bright prospects she used to have. After another fight she finds herself with her no-good new friends but it may very well be her last night on earth.

This was quite an interesting story. Even though Natalie isn't the nicest of kids in the beginning of the story (I'm being very friendly here) you could easily see where she came from and how bad she felt. The Christmas-carol like ghost that lets her make up for some mistakes made for a nice twist to it.

It was a very fast and light read, even though the themes were definitely not something I'd consider light. I read another book (Prophet of the Badlands) by the same author a few months ago and was therefore drawn to this book, but they are completely different books, though both interesting and worth a read, IMHO.
