



CHLOE CALDWELL

I'll Tell You in Person

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Flailing in jobs, failing at love, getting addicted and un-addicted to people, food, and drugs—*I'll Tell You in Person* is a disarmingly frank account of attempts at adulthood and all the less than perfect ways we get there. Caldwell has an unsparing knack for looking within and reporting back what's really there, rather than what she'd like you to see.

I'll Tell You in Person Details

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From Reader Review I'll Tell You in Person for online ebook

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

Full review to come.

Jill says

So fun to read these essays. Chloe Caldwell has a knack for picking out the minute details of a life that give the greater themes of her essays life and color. This feels like the older-sister companion to her first collection of essays, "Legs Get Led Astray" (which is funny, since I read the first in my earlier 20s and am reading this now, at 28) and is extremely relatable (except it sounds like Chloe's been to way cooler parties than me). Felt like getting a series of eloquent emails from a friend.

Anna Pulley says

"We loved each other, but we loved ourselves more." What a short, sweet burst of choppy malaise, literal and figurative ecstasy, and making peace with the mundane. A great, quick read, full of heart. And drugs. But mostly heart.

Michelle says

"I'll Tell You in Person" is a perfect title for this quirky and fascinating book, is also a selection of Emily Books which specializes in publishing, sales, and the promotion of women's writing. Author Chloe Caldwell, now 30, recalled the decade of her 20's in these intimate confessional essays. In starting and stopping both college and various jobs, she worked in a jewelry store as a top salesperson, was befriended by a popular celebrity, visited and stayed with her brother in Berlin, and much more.

On Martha's Vineyard, Caldwell participated in a writing residency workshop-- though it wasn't clear if she was a teacher or student. There are many quotes from other writers that have inspired her own work, some of it seemed clichéd. Caldwell certainly has her critics, she has been accused of writing TMI. It is unsettling that anyone can google her name and read the online details she has openly divulged about her sex life. In embarrassment and shame, she has warned family members not to read parts of her books. Confessional writing often goes in that direction, and it is just as easy for readers to appreciate her truth, genuine honesty, and sense of humor.

* From the book... "Non-fiction tastes best with a bottle of Charles Shaw Cabernet!"... However, Caldwell is just as quick to remind her readers, despite making some very bad decisions while drinking (in her 20's) she no longer drinks alcohol. With a writer friend they discussed the subject of "crazy stories"-- that is, compelling stories that will be good and interesting in print. Unlike some of her friends, Caldwell explained she hasn't gone skydiving, been divorced, donated eggs, cut her wrists, and never had cancer or a baby. Instead, she wrote about sleeping on the floor at Penn Station, with no other place to go or stay when her ex-

boyfriend didn't accept her call. * From the book... "As the cliché goes, I've always counted on either dying young or never dying at all. I've displaced my enormous anxiety onto dogs, electrical outlets, Mack trucks running me over, and, apparently essay collections."....

Caldwell's best writing wasn't about her inspiration from the essays of Miki Howland, but rather her friendship with NYC novelist Maggie Estep, who passed away February 13, 2014. "I'll Tell You in Person" is Caldwell's fourth book. ~ With thanks to the Seattle Public Library.

Lauren says

Two of the highest compliments I can give to a book are that they make me write, and that I recognize pieces of myself in a story about a person who is quite different from me. This book did both.

Caldwell is funny, and has lived a life that is both quite ordinary and altogether memorable at the same time. About essays her Dad declares, "All essay collections should be called the same thing 'Feel Sorry For Me: I Fucked Up Eighteen Times and I'm About To Do It Again'" and appropriately sometimes I thought things couldn't get worse for Caldwell, and then naturally they did, but with a lot of wise reflection strewn along in the wake of it.

Not every essay was memorable to me, but Caldwell's personality is not one I'll forget. My favorite essays were, "Failing Singing", "Sisterless", "The Music and the Boys", and "The Girls of My Youth" but I think different ones will connect with different people, and all of them connected with me on some level.

Emily Wood says

I think I read this at the exact point in my life that I needed it. I devoured this book and cried a lot and felt like I was less alone for a while. Thank you, Chloe.

Cortney Cassidy says

am i the girl with the white streak in her hair and the Escher tattoo that she and her friend saw walking with a maybe girlfriend or maybe sister O_O

Mary says

"I'm also the type of person who gets mistaken for an employee no matter where I am: the Gap, a coffee shop, a bookstore, an Applebee's. People come up to me and expect me to wait on them. 'I don't work here,' I say. But I used to."

So much good stuff. Thought-provoking, fun, relatable. I could read these all day long.

A tad name-droppy at times but it doesn't spoil the 5-star rating.

Vicky Griffith says

I can't believe I read this whole horrible book.

Ryan Mosseau says

Read halfway and couldn't do it anymore. Sorry, Chloe.

Jason Diamond says

Never thought I'd miss being young, broke, and trying to find my way through this world, but damn does Caldwell make it all seem really romantic and wonderful.

Nikki says

I don't like most personal essays because they don't feel personal enough. They skip right over the shit I actually care about. Or they have no point at all. These essays were interesting, funny, and personal - like long emails from a really close friend. It's not just a bunch of Now I'm Going To Tell You About the Time I Did Something Foolish in My 20s that Only My Mother and Perhaps My Therapist Will Give a Shit About (And the Latter Only Because I Pay Her But It's On a Sliding Scale Because I'm Poor Just Like You). There IS some of that though - but she pulls it off beautifully. I never once thought, "Oh my god, would you please shut the fuck up." Which is pretty much all I ever think with these things. Most of the time, I was actually thinking, "Wow, I can't believe I like this! I'm liking something! Hooray."

Dae says

Relatable and a quick read, I finished it in one night. I confess I don't understand all the rave reviews here on Goodreads; I wouldn't call it a series of essays so much as a collection of anecdotes - competently written, granted, but so self-focused that I felt it was a little self-indulgent; name-dropping and reminiscing for the author's sake. It read more like journal entries for Chloe to come back to in her 40s and 50s. It didn't have a larger thematic import. I understand the essays are meant to be a portrait of adolescence and young adulthood, a series of sketches reflecting the confusion of figuring out your identity, the difficulty of struggling to find a sense of belonging. I didn't expect her to reach any sort of conclusion but I wanted some more wisdom, more observations and insights, I suppose, less narrative.

Kathleen says

"I do not consider myself a political person. I never have been. A female author—I cannot remember who—once wrote something like, ‘I’m not political in my writing, why should I be? If you look at my life, I’m political in the way I live.’ It comforted me to no end. I do not watch the news. I read a little. I’m too sensitive for it and too dumb. But when I read that, I thought, Yeah! I don’t talk about women writers needing to be read, but I wrote a book that didn’t have any men in it without even noticing. Not tooting my own horn here, expressing my naïveté."

Mel says

Chloe Caldwell really knows how to get a reader invested in the story and then twist the knife! I was impressed with the casual hooks she'd use to make her story accessible and when it took a turn towards surprise or heartbreak I was still right there, feeling all the feelings I'm sure she wanted me to experience. I had a great time reading/learning about her and I look forward to more memoir/nonfiction in the future!
