



Girl in Pieces

Kathleen Glasgow

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Charlotte Davis is in pieces. At seventeen she's already lost more than most people lose in a lifetime. But she's learned how to forget. The thick glass of a mason jar cuts deep, and the pain washes away the sorrow until there is nothing but calm. You don't have to think about your father and the river. Your best friend, who is gone forever. Or your mother, who has nothing left to give you.

Every new scar hardens Charlie's heart just a little more, yet it still hurts so much. It hurts enough to not care anymore, which is sometimes what has to happen before you can find your way back from the edge.

Girl in Pieces Details

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From Reader Review Girl in Pieces for online ebook

Geo Marcovici says

O carte cutremur?toare ?i captivant?. Despre o tân?r? care se lupt? cu depresia, care încearc? s? se lipeasc? la loc dup? ce a fost f?cut? buc??i. O poveste despre curaj ?i for??. Despre dorin?a de a r?zbate.

Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

This was an okay read. Not really something that I would normally reach for, but I'm not mad that I read it. I will say that I had an EXTREMELY hard time getting into the beginning of this, but once the main character moved cities things really started holding my attention and I ended up enjoying it in the end.

Also: I read this for MissSassyKassie's book club for February! The live show will be on Sunday 3/4 at 1pm PST on her channel!

***TANYA* says**

It took me a minute to get into this story. The style and narrative are unlike anything I usually read. I quite enjoyed this book and I would like follow up to see how the characters evolved.

Laura Silverman says

I'm not one to write long reviews. This book is spectacular for many reasons, and there will be many reviews digging into those reasons. For me, there is one standout reason you must read this novel: there is no such thing as "all the way better."

Whether it's dealing with self-harm like the protagonist Charlotte, or an ED, or depression, or chronic illness, or alcohol addiction, or ANYTHING, recovery has no endpoint. You live with your physical or metaphorical scars forever. Yes, there are highs and lows. Yes, there is plenty of hope that you can be much better off ten years down the line, but when you battle with anything so deeply destructive and chronic, there is no such thing as "all the way better."

Girl In Pieces deals with this truth so beautifully. Too many books end with the character entering therapy and a false *nudge* to the reader that the character will then be miraculously cured of their ailment. Instead, the majority of Girl In Pieces takes place after Charlotte leaves the nest of therapy, and it explores the many, many, many, step ups and step downs to living with her tornado. It's chillingly real, hauntingly beautiful, and above all - a necessary narrative.

Girls, and all people, who are trying to OVERCOME need this narrative. Girls need this narrative. They need to not hate themselves for being unable to achieve the myth of "all the way better." They need to know, and perhaps more importantly their friends and caretakers need to know, "all the way better" is a myth. When

someone suffers from any type of chronic mental or physical disorder or addiction, it will always be with them. They can pull their life together, but the threat of falling backwards will always be hiding in the corner. Society needs to readjust their understanding of what "recovery" means, and I genuinely believe *Girl In Pieces* is a book that will help with that understanding.

I could talk about the million other reasons I love this book, but simply, beyond the importance of the message, Glasgow's prose isn't 5/5, it's 10/10. And I'm picky. I really am. But this is the type of prose that will inspire me to work harder, to become a better writer myself.

I'm so honored I had a chance to read this breathtaking novel early, and I hope all of you will read it too. I cannot wait to see what Glasgow writes next.

Dahlia says

This book is ridiculously good. It reminds me of everything I loved reading when I was a teen/early 20-something, most notably Mark Lindquist and Stephanie Kuehnert. It's realistic urban survivalism combined with the raw, real truth of girlhood, and all matters of second chances (and third and fourth) without taking easy paths. Yes, it shattered my heart over and over, as I knew it would, but never in a way that felt irreparable, which feels like exactly the point.

Maggie Stiefvater says

Although this book tells a story of people being cruel to themselves, it is a book about being gentle with yourself. It seems odd to call this novel kind, as it was often a savage read (it is unflinching in its portrayal of self-harm, homelessness, addiction, and desperation) but it has such a sweet heart, such a piercing desire for its characters to improve themselves in every way, that hope persists in even the darkest moments. Glasgow's use of adult characters to challenge, support, and mirror the teen characters is genuinely inspired, and the resulting fictional neighborhood dynamic felt intensely real. In general, the characters are wonderfully drawn, and although this novel is nothing like *Code Name Verity*, I think I might recommend it to folks who enjoyed that one. *Girl in Pieces* prioritizes characters and their complicated truths in a similar way. I'd probably recommend this one for older teens and adults who read YA, not because I believe in shielding kids from content, but because the characters in this novel make nuanced and morally gray decisions that might render them unlikable to a less experienced soul. I know I would have judged the narrator more harshly at 13 than at 18, and that would have been a shame.

This one earns a place on my keeper shelf. Will instantly pick up whatever Glasgow puts out next.

Stefani Sloma says

Haunting and heartbreak but so very beautiful. From Kathleen's author's note: "and sometimes the dark can get pretty dark, but it's filled with people who understand." Full review soon.

Simona Stoica says

Recenzia completă: <http://bit.ly/2tc4LLj>

„- Ar trebui să ni se spună încă de când venim aici că s-a terminat cu dorințele. Că după ce am făcut ce-am făcut, nu o să ne mai iubească nimenei. Nu în mod normal.”

Scriu următoarele rânduri cu ochii înotând în lacrimi. Lovesc tastele cu putere, furioase pe autoare, furioase pe mine, pe naivitatea mea, pe urină cu care am fost atrasă în poveste. Nu am fost pregătită pentru O fată din bucătăi. Suferința regăsită între pagini, probabilitatea psihică, spirituală și mintală a personajelor, recunoașterea și îmbrățișarea problemelor... cum poate un roman să cuprindă atât de multă nefericire, atât de multă durere și deznaștere?

Mă simt incompletă, de parcă am lăsat o parte din mine, o bucată de care nu mai pot lipsi, în carte. Privesc cu neîncredere coperta hipnotizantă, urmăresc cu degetele traseul lacrimilor și mă opresc de fiecare dată în dreptul ochilor. O privire pierdută și, aparent, supusă, glasul mut al unei tinere care trăiește într-o buclă de singurătate, de pe o zi pe alta. Însă aici se ascunde victoria ei, una pe care noi niciodată nu o vom putea învăța. Trăiește. A mai supraviețuită încă o zi. 24 de ore de-a lungul cărora a încercat să se vindece, să îi ajute pe ceilalăți, să devină o persoană mai bună, să își găsească un loc în lume. Numele ei este **Charlotte Davis**. și NU este o victimă.

Ne plângem zilnic de ceva. E prea cald. Nu am bani. Bluza aia e prea largă. Mama nu mă învăță. E trafic. Mă-am săturat de teste și de examene. Mi-a dat doar seen pe Facebook: de ce nu mă place? Îmi e sălbătică și mă ridic din pat. Nu vreau să merg la serviciu. Mi-ai săgeată comanda la Starbucks. Te săgeată să mă căruiască? că nu sunt probleme adevărate, că se pot rezolva, că nu sunt un capăt de drum. Dar e recomandat să te descarci din când în când, să te plângi de astfel de banalități, pentru că sigur le-ai duce dorul dacă ai face schimb de vie și cu Charlotte Davis.

Poartă tricouri largi și hanorace pentru a-i ascunde cicatricele. Sunt prea multe de numărat. Majoritatea aproape să au vindecat, însă Charlotte le simte. și le amintesc pe toate. Motivul, lama care îi-a trădat pielea, sângele ce îi sărsă printre degete, euforia pasageră, senzația de abandon, de placere și de fericire. Când se taie, uită. Uită prietenii ce au abandonat-o și familia pe care nu o mai are. Se droghează, fură și trăiește pe străzi. și este doar un copil.

„Prima dată când m-am trădat, cea mai bună parte a venit la final: mi-am curățat rana cu un tampon, am săters-o cu grija, am studiat-o, să-i pe dincolo, și mi-am crezută protector brațul, să ezându-l pe stomac. Gata, gata.

Mă tai pentru că nu fac față. E cătă se poate de simplu. Lumea se transformă într-un ocean ale cărui valuri se sparg peste mine, cu un sunet asurzitor, înimă mi se înecă în apă și mă cuprinde o spaimă cătă planeta de mare. Am nevoie să mă eliberez, am nevoie să-mi fac rău mai mult decât mi-ar putea face lumea și să-i îmi pot să-l alinarea.”

Emily May says

2 1/2 stars. An extra 1/2 star because I think a lot of readers will love this - it's just a certain type of storytelling that always leaves me cold.

The many fans of Ellen Hopkins should love this book. It's a dark contemporary dealing with self-harm and it's written in a mostly fragmented series of one/few paragraph chapters (sometimes they are longer). Glasgow is not afraid to *go there* and covers a whole range of topics, from cutting to abuse to suicide.

Firstly, **I didn't like the writing.** Another reviewer pointed out that it reads like short diary snippets, but I felt completely disconnected from the characters and the story. Charlotte Davis' story is built up in these short pieces of narrative, but there was something about them that made it feel more like a creative writing exercise than the emotional tale it was supposed to be.

As well as this, there are some sentence/wording choices that are not to my tastes. Sometimes it is reminiscent of *We Were Liars* - which I know will be a big selling point for many readers - but that book also irritated me. I find myself becoming detached when I read nouns used as adjectives, and phrases like: "*My eyes are fierce with water.*"

But the main reason I couldn't fully connect - and the reason I think Hopkins fans will enjoy this - is that I think there are **too many issues being brought in**, one after the other until none of them feel particularly meaningful.

For me, Ellen Hopkins' books border on torture porn. They never simply deal with domestic abuse, rape or drug use, but they deal with all those things happening, one after the other. A book about cutting should be dark, and it should be depressing, but when the author throws too many things into the mix (drug use, suicide, abuse, etc.) I feel distanced and cold. I can't connect with the sad self-harm story because it is dulled by the abuse, and so on.

The best contemporary books, in my opinion, are the ones that take their subject and work with that alone, exploring it in depth and turning it into something emotional and understandable - like *All the Rage* does for rape, and *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* did for the death of a friend. Books don't get deeper with the more bad stuff that happens, they don't gain depth from having as many varied "issues" as possible.

But for those who do enjoy books that cover a wide range of issues, and this style of writing, then I'm sure *Girl in Pieces* has a lot to offer. It's just not my cup of tea.

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Lola says

DNF

I think I'm a fairly patient person. I do, after all, tutor a nine-year-old girl who prefers to spend her time trying to make me laugh in any way possible during our sessions instead of doing the work I assign her. (She's adorable, though.)

But my patience has its limits, especially when it comes to books. There are so many types of books in the world, which is just perfect because there are also so many types of people. There are those books that have a plot, and those that don't.

GIRL IN PIECES seems to go nowhere. In the beginning it's interesting with the main character being

hospitalized for being a danger to herself. So many new characters are introduced to us. Some boring, but others really curious.

So everything went well, reading experience-wise. It was slow even then, but the writing is beautiful and it's true that many beginnings are slow. Sadly, when Charlie was released to the world again, I lost all interest.

Suddenly, things slowed down even more and the characters that I found worth reading about in the hospital disappeared from the plot. That's such a bummer. Right when you start getting attached. Shame, shame.

I felt sorry for Charlie, of course I did. What happened to her (the little we learn in 150 pages) sounded awful and obviously she deserved none of it. She seemed like a good girl, so I wished her the best. But I just felt like the author wanted to make the book TOO realistic.

How can a book be TOO realistic? Well that's when every single detail seems to be recorded in a book, when we all know there are daily activities (I dare go as far as to say "movements") that can always be cut. And we get it, the girl can think, but could she maybe keep some thoughts to herself? Not the major ones, but those that are repetitive, maybe?

This is definitely a heroine-driven novel. I read 150 pages and in those pages we know very little about the secondary characters (those that are still present, anyway) so it does seem to be all about Charlie and her struggles so far.

I can't. I'm bored. I want to play a Tomb Raider game because at least then I won't have to wait an hour to move from point A to point B.

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Jeff Zentner says

Moving, haunting, and harrowing. Reading this book is like standing in a pounding surf, or being caught outside in a ferocious storm. It will batter you. It will cause you discomfort. It will leave you awestruck over its sheer power that threatens to unmoor you and beauty that threatens to overwhelm you.

And when you're finished, you'll know what it feels like to survive what you never imagined you could and to walk into the light of a new day.

Laurie Flynn says

To say that I had been eagerly anticipating this book would be a grand understatement. I heard it pitched as a modern-day GIRL, INTERRUPTED, and that was enough for me to know I had to read it immediately. A fear sometimes exists with books you crave that badly- the fear that they won't live up to your expectations, but I didn't even have that feeling with this one. I knew somewhere in my soul that I would connect with it and love it beyond words. And I did.

GIRL IN PIECES is the story of Charlie, a girl who has lived an incredibly painful life and experienced more

sorrow in her seventeen years than most do in a lifetime. She's haunted by many demons- her father, her best friend, her relationship with her abusive mother, her time spent on the streets. Charlie carries scars both emotional and physical- she's a cutter, which is her way of dealing with the pain, and her skin bears the marks of her trauma. As she struggles to make a new life, Charlie has to learn to live in her own skin and make peace with herself, even as external influences threaten to bring her back to dark places.

This was a book that sucker-punched me in the first page, that grabbed me by the throat and didn't let go. Kathleen Glasgow has such a totally original, immersive way with words. This is the kind of writing that feels fully, shockingly inventive. Charlie's voice is raw and hurt and sad, so sad, but she can also be hopeful and funny and strong and dynamic. I love that she is an artist and uses her drawings to channel her energy, both positive and negative. The emotions she channels into her art are visceral. Every time she pulled out her sketchbook, or got excited about the prospect of creating art, I wanted to cheer for her and hug her and tell her how amazing she is. Because she is amazing. She is learning that she can be loved, despite being told girls like her, girls with scars, are unlovable. And she is learning about a different, very important kind of love- the love she has for herself.

The sentences in this book are haunting, lyrical, sparse, purposeful. While the words aren't easy to digest, there is so much raw beauty in them, a tenderness pulsing under the surface, a hope brimming through even Charlie's ugliest thoughts. Charlie is a survivor, and I don't doubt that her story will change lives. As a reader, I will certainly never forget her.

A heartbreakingly beautiful debut that I will be recommending to everyone. *GIRL IN PIECES* is nothing short of a masterpiece.

Kerry says

I had the privilege of reading an ARC of this book well in advance of its Fall 2016 release date.

This was such an emotional reading experience for me that I struggle to describe it well. The writing is like nothing I have ever read--so piercing and beautiful and brutal and raw and true--that it truly has to be experienced first hand. There were passages that were so stunning, so shockingly brilliant that it quite literally took my breath away.

The story itself is made of the darkest dark and the brightest glimmers of hope and the ever uncertainty of which side will win out. The main character Charlie is complex and tough and yet so vulnerable and deeply wounded that the reader aches for her to find peace and love and a world that is safer than the one she has known. The secondary characters are fully formed and realistic; the dialogue pitch perfect.

Overall an intense, gritty, gorgeous read. I suspect a lot of people will be talking about it come September.

C.G. Drews says

Wow this was a seriously heavy, but beautifully written book. Like I knew it'd be about dark things when I picked it up from the library, but it still made my HEART ACHE with just how much trauma and damage Charlie went through. Like, life really sucks sometimes, okay? I think this book did a good job of balancing

the dark realism of mental illness/addiction + a smidgeon of hope. Although I kind of feel like I've been smushed like a watermelon sundae. This was HARD TO READ.

So the themes are pretty heavy. It includes depression, suicide, self-harm, alcoholism, sexual abuse, and addiction. Charlie was living on the streets, nearly sold into a sex house, before she attempted suicide by cutting. It's her journey. It's equal parts about recovery and decline. It's not a pretty story.

I actually cautiously say...it didn't feel YA. DON'T GET ME WRONG: I am entirely confident that teens can handle this kind of book. Because teens cut themselves. Teens struggle with mental illness. Teens have lost everything. **So yes these kind of books should be available to teens!** But I just say I think it felt adult because (A) there's a lot of swearing, like *a lot*; (B) all the characters in this book, baring Charlie who's 17, are adults; (C) there's no innocence or *recent-loss-of-innocence* in this book at all, which I think is a theme a lot of YA books do stick to. SO I DON'T KNOW. IT DIDN'T "FEEL" YA READING IT IS ALL I'M SAYING.

The writing was just downright beautiful. When it wasn't being as slow as caterpillar in a pile of mustard. Because, dude, this book was seriously slow. BUT ANYWAY. There was just so many perfectly poignant phrases and word imagery that just *woooow*, I loved the writing.

But did I mention IT'S SLOW?!! Like this is the reason it's losing the stars for me: it was near-boring at times. It's basically Charlie + her life is a mess + detailed account of her working at a diner. And I just???? I wish there'd been more art, more experiences, just more *something* because the 38493 diner scenes got downright tedious. **Sure it's a character driven novel.** And I LOVED the characters and thought they leapt off the page so incredibly. But I just need a bit *more* in books. Or at least talk to me about how to make a coffee because, dude, that'd be helpful for my life skills.

Erm, and the romance? Yeeeeah. #nope Charlie ends up falling for Riley, who is 27. Yes. 10 years older than her. I WAS NEVER OKAY WITH THIS. I don't think the book condones the relationship and I think it *highlighted* that it was unhealthy a lot of the time. **But I just felt uncomfortable the whole time.** But, I mean, AT THE SAME TIME...I understood why Charlie made a lot of these bad decisions. So. *sigh* It's complicated.

ALL IN ALL: it's a beautifully written, emotional book...I just wish it hadn't been so tediously slow. It really delves into the thought-process of someone who's been abused. And, like, IT'S DEPRESSING but also has uplifting moments. I think it's an important story to be told, I just...eh. It's not a favourite. I understood Charlie was stuck in bad places with bad decisions and I cared about her. But it was sooooo sloooooow and tedious at times.

Sana says

I made it. **I finally made it through 400 and something freaking pages.** This book started out great, but as I read on, it just got worse and worse. I'm probably one of those 5% of readers this book didn't have an effect on.

Trigger warning: Self-harm, drugs, alcohol, sexual abuse

● I was okay with the writing. This book is written in three parts. (Honestly, I don't really get the point of

having it written in three parts.) Sometimes there was a paragraph a page sometimes it was long. I actually liked how it was written. I have read reviews where people had problem with the writing style, but I personally liked it. Kathleen Gasgow's writing is beautiful and heartbreaking.

●I loved how the author hits on the subject of self harm, but then as we read on, drugs, and alcohol are thrown in there. I felt like the author was trying so hard to include all these tough subjects into one book. I was starting to drift away from the story and I was starting to lose the plot.

●I didn't like Charlie's character at times. She would start self pitying herself and it was getting annoying. Charlie was one hell of a strong character though. She's been through abandonment, losing a father, losing a very close friend, and she was homeless for a year. She got the help she needed and was then released to her mother who gave her a bus ticket to Arizona to go fend for herself. Times were hard for her. She had to get a job. She had nothing. She was alone.

●I connected with Charlie. I felt her desperation for money and a job and a place to live, but I couldn't really connect with her pain and self-harm.

●This book was depressing. It was so depressing I wanted to freaking scream.

●I also felt like the author could have clarified a few things to us that are mentioned a lot in the book.

- Charlie's relationship with Mikey.
- Charlie's relationship with Ellis.
- Charlie's fathers death.
- Charlie's mother.
- A bit more information about when she lived with Fucking Frank.
- And rape.

This was a heartbreak story, but just not for me. It didn't affect me. I didn't cry.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

LIKE A BABY HARP SEAL, I'M ALL WHITE. MY FOREARMS ARE thickly bandaged, heavy as clubs. My thighs are wrapped tightly, too; white gauze peeks out from the shorts Nurse Ava pulled from the lost and found box behind the nurses' station.

Like an orphan, I came here with no clothes. Like an orphan, I was wrapped in a bedsheet and left on the lawn of Regions Hospital in the freezing sleet and snow, blood seeping through the flowered sheet.

The security guard who found me was bathed in menthol cigarettes and the flat stink of machine coffee. There was a curly forest of white hair inside his nostrils.

He said, "Holy Mother of God, girl, what's been done to you?"

My mother didn't come to claim me.

But: I remember the stars at night. They were like salt against the sky, like someone spilled the shaker against very dark cloth.

That mattered to me, their accidental beauty. The last thing I thought I might see before I died on the cold, wet grass.

There are many people out there with some kind of mental illness, I'm one of them. I have many disorders but I have never been a cutter. One of my friends of many, many years, was a cutter. It's not a pretty thing for anyone. She doesn't do that any more, thank God, but she still does have her mental issues.

I have known a lot of people throughout my life with mental disorders. A lot of them were older people, some have committed suicide, and one was the nicest old man I have ever met - but he had to have an older son live with him and his mom so he wouldn't have an episode and hurt her. He was schizophrenic, had a wonderful job until he retired and like I said, was a wonderful man until the day he died of old age. You don't really know people when your hidden behind the internet. Some have family members or friends with mental disorders and can or can try to relate.

I read these types of books to gain more insight into people with the different disorders. And the author's note is sad, I will add a little excerpt from it at the end.

This book is about Charlie Davis, she's a cutter and she tried to kill herself. She had a bad home life with her mother after her father died and she took to the streets. She was with some really messed up druggies at one point and almost sold to a sex house. She's only seventeen.

Charlie gets put in the mental facility after they release her from the hospital. I felt like she was slowly starting to find a little bit of herself. And then they just release her, I mean can we not focus on taking care of OUR people!

Charlie has friend from her past, Michael, that sends her a bus ticket to come and live in Arizona with him and his mom gives her some money too. She ends up finding a job washing dishes, moves into her own place (not a very nice one) and gets with some older man who is on his own downward spiral. I was afraid for Charlie there for a bit, but she is also an artist and Michael's landlord notices her because she is an artist too, has a studio, teaches, etc.

After a little bit of stupidity I like the way the ending happened and felt like things were finally looking up for Charlie, which she needed so badly.

Some places I felt the book dragged but that's just me. This isn't a book about happy go lucky times and fairies around every corner. It's just an author that is telling a story, an author that seems to know things from a personal perspective.

And remember, don't treat people with mental disorders like they are not real. Don't treat them like they are not lovable, not fun enough, too sad to talk to, blah blah blah. Show some kindness and respect what a person is going through. I'm not saying be their best friend, just don't be a bully or a jerk!

Portions of the Author's Note:

Years ago, I did not want to write this story.

Years ago, on the city bus, making notes for another story I was writing, I glanced up when I felt someone slide into the seat next to me. I planned to give her only the most perfunctory of glances and go back to my notes, but then my breath caught in my throat.

She had skin like mine. Feeling my eyes on her, she hastily slid down her sleeve, cloaking her thin, fresh red scars from view.

I can't tell you how much I wanted to pull up my own sleeves and say, "I'm just like you! Look! You are not alone."

But I didn't. Frankly, I was unnerved by her. After years of wearing long shirts, hiding what I had done to myself, in the hopes that I could "have a life," I found myself reeling back to when I was at the very depths of myself, more alone than I have ever been in my life.

Years ago, I didn't want to write the story of my scars, or the story of being a girl with scars, because it is hard enough being a girl in the world, but try being a girl with scars on your skin in the world.

I let that girl get off the bus without saying a word. And I shouldn't have. I should have let her know that even mired in the very depths of herself, she wasn't alone.

Because she's not.

You are not alone. Charlie Davis's story is the story of over two million young women in the United States. And those young women will grow up, like I did, bearing the truth of our past on our bodies. I wrote the story of Charlie Davis for the cutters and the burners and the kids on the street who have nowhere safe to sleep. I wrote the story of Charlie Davis for their mothers and fathers and for their friends.

Charlie Davis finds her voice, and her solace, in drawing. I find mine in writing. What's your solace? Do you know? Find it and don't stop doing it, ever. Find your people (because you need to talk), your tribe, your reason to be, and I swear to you, the other side will emerge, slowly but surely. It's not always sunshine and roses over here, and sometimes the dark can get pretty dark, but it's filled with people who understand, and just enough laughter to soften the edges and get you through the next day.

KUDOS! ♥

If you know someone who self harms, get help right now.

S.A.F.E Alternatives: selfinjury.com 1-800-DONTCUT

To Write Love On Her Arms: twloha.com

Mental Health America (MHA): mentalhealthamerica.net/self-injury

DEPRESSION:

Teen Lifeline: teenlifeline.org; 1-800-248-8336 (TEEN)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): nami.org

Teen Mental Health: teenmentalhealth.org

SUICIDAL

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: suicidepreventionlifeline.org; 1-800-273-8255

NEEDS A PLACE TO SLEEP

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

National Runaway Switchboard: 1-800-RUNAWAY

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)

Kayla Dawn says

4,5* - I'm normally very easily annoyed by characters who pity themselves all the time. But this wasn't the case with Charlie and I can't really explain why. It didn't really feel forced but natural and understandable how she felt and acted.

I pretty much liked everything about this book except for the ending. It was overdone and extremely unrealistic. At least for my taste.

I would totally recommend this to everyone who is interested in topics like self harm and mental illnesses. (So obviously, trigger warning for these things!)

Jacqueline says

4/5 stars

Honestly don't even know where to begin.

Well, pretty much I had really high expectations for this book and sadly it didn't live up to them. I myself self-harmed for two years. It's something very personal to me and when I read the author herself was inspired to write this book through her own experiences that gave me hope. I can happily say my favorite thing about this novel was how realistic Kathleen Glasgow handled not only the self-harm aspect but the mental illnesses found in this book as well. Overall, even though this book didn't exceed to my expectations I would definitely recommend if this sounds like something you would enjoy.

If you want to know more of my thoughts don't forget to check out my video review:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmPaB...>

Got a ARC of this book at BEA

S.M. Parker says

The first thing that gripped me about this book was the writing. Glasgow's style is so thick with emotion and yet sparse on the page. In places, it reads like poetry. I was immediately drawn in by Glasgow's words, the book's atmospheric setting. Then there was the character's struggle with her sense of self, her mistrust of others. Charlie's pain was so pervasive that it felt like layers of gauze being stripped away from a wound. Layer after layer we see what and who has hurt Charlie. Glasgow is an artist when it comes to building tension, revealing the ache. And there is a lot of ache in this book. My chest felt tight with fear and compassion for Charlie, a homeless 17-year-old cutter.

While Charlie is in therapy, her counselor reminds her to breathe. I had to remind myself to do just that as I read these pages because I wanted so badly for Charlie to survive. I wanted to heal her and comfort her and make the world a better place for her.

Glasgow's debut doesn't shy away from the physical act of cutting or exploring the physical and emotional residue left behind. We see Charlie hide the shame of her scars. We know Charlie feels unloved and unloveable because of her scars. And yet the thing she keeps so dear, so close to her is her "tender kit" the small safety blanket (shards of glass, gauze and ointment) that she uses to drain the pain from inside. Her tender kit is her comfort because people are unreliable. People hurt. Cutting transfers that pain for a brief swell of moments.

This is a book about survival. The horrors of physical survival when you are homeless: getting food, daily shelter, remaining safe in the unprotected dark. It is a book about emotional survival and how one teen works through the pain of abandonment and abuse. How she deals with the scars that her family, strangers, and even friends have etched into her heart. It is a book about embracing your art & your voice, finding a way to set the beautiful parts of you free in the world. For Charlie, that was her drawing. Her art was her language, and it was beautiful.

GIRL IN PIECES is an intense and gorgeously written book about survival and the kind of precious hope that can spring from the most desperate of wells. After being with Charlie on her journey of survival, it was a gift to see her gather her pieces and begin to thrive.

Beatrice Masaluña says

Thank you Penguin Random House / Delacorte Press for the ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Full review posted at Confessions of a Pinay Bookaholic

Charlotte Davis lost everything in her life; her father, her mother, her best friend and her direction in life. She became homeless and lived on a sex house where she witnessed abuse. She doesn't have a good relationship with her mother because she neglected and abused her. Handling all these is too much for her,

given she's 17 years old. It's indeed traumatic. **Every emotion and pain builds inside her. As a means of coping, she cuts / self-harming herself to release it and continuously do it until she finds peace.** Here, we get to follow her journey of vulnerability and healing from the mental facility to the real world where she meets new people and explore to find a sense of direction. She keeps herself busy and productive to distract herself on moments she's tempted.

A beautiful story filled with raw emotions and the heroine expressed it genuinely. She represents people who are unable to cope which lead them to darkness and struggles to find the light. Her journey isn't easy and she met people along the way. These people have their own dark stories that made them self-destructive too (alcohol, drugs, sex etc.) yet, they helped & motivated her to become whole again. **What's more admirable? Her strength to get out of that darkness even if it's trying to drag her down.** She let people in her life and she help herself not to go on that path again. I could never be more proud and I just want to cheer and hug her for all the things she'd been through. I am satisfied with the ending. It's realistic and I love it's not all about romance.

I want to praise Ms. Kathleen Glasgow for her courage to write this book. Her note at the last part is amazing.. So deep and hands down amazing. **This is a greatly written debut novel and an eye opener to self-harm.** These people want to voice out but no one is willing to hear them out, **WHEN WE SHOULD HAVE.** Worse, being judge of whatever problem they're facing. It's important we should not ignore these people and help them in every possible way. **For those who are experiencing this, express it before you explode. Don't let your burdens destroy you.**

Let me share my favorite quote in this book:

“Everyone has that moment I think, the moment when something so momentous happens that it rips your very being into small pieces. And then you have to stop. For a long time, you gather your pieces. And it takes such a very long time, not to fit them back together, but to assemble them in a new way, not necessarily a better way. More, a way you can live with until you know for certain that this piece should go there, and that one there.”

I gave this book 4.5 /5 stars. I am indeed recommending this book and I am looking forward to read Ms. Glasgow's upcoming novels.