



# God-Shaped Hole

*Tiffanie DeBartolo*

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When I was twelve, a fortune teller told me that my one true love would die young and leave me all alone. Everyone said she was a fraud, that she was just making it up. I'd really like to know why the hell a person would make up a thing like that.

Written with the snap, glitter and wit of *The Girl's Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, *God-Shaped Hole* is a memorable, poignant love story that will leave you weeping with laughter. It is told in the wry, vulnerable voice of Beatrice "Trixie" Jordan who replies to a personal ad, "If your intentions are pure I am seeking a friend for the end of the world."

In doing so, she meets Jacob Grace, a charming, effervescent thirty-something writer, a free spirit who is a passionate seeker of life. He possesses his own turn of phrase and ways of thinking and feeling that dissonantly harmonize with Trixie's off-center vision as they roller coaster through the joys and furies of their wrenching romance. Along the way they try to come to terms with the hurt brought about by their distant fathers who, in different ways, forsook them.

This story will prove so touching you will rush to share it with a friend or loved one or even a stranger.

## God-Shaped Hole Details

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Author : Tiffanie DeBartolo

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# From Reader Review God-Shaped Hole for online ebook

destini mia says

"You want to know how to make God laugh? Tell him your plans."

**Where to even begin?**

**I feel like I have so much to say but can't get it out in a coherent sentence.**

When I read a book (and decide to review it) I usually have a process I go through. As I go through the story, I have a sort of... outline in my head of what I want to say. So my reviews are usually a reflection of what I thought and felt throughout the whole entire book, while I was 'in the moment.' With *God-Shaped Hole*, I finished it without having any clue of what the hell I was going to talk about. All I did while reading this book was *feel*. This is a story that makes you think about *everything* and *nothing* at the same time.

It was a story about people with dreams. Dreams that never come true.

Anyone that knows me and has seen my shelf knows what type of books I read. I'm not too picky but I usually go for a story with some angst and a HEA... and by HEA I mean they get married, have kids, live in a place where there is world peace and die of old age together holding hands. Sounds corny and predictable but I go to my books to escape. Not to see more of the problems I have can find the real world.

However, there comes a day when I decide: *You know what, Destini? You haven't suffered in a while.*

And that's where *God-Shaped Hole* comes into play. I'm just going to let everyone know right now, it's **depressing**. I mean, you really have to be in the right frame of mind to start this one. Don't let that discourage you, though! It's a *beautiful* story.

"It seemed cruelly unfair to me, even then, how fast your life can change before you have an opportunity to rethink your choices. **We should get second chances on the big stuff.** We should come equipped with erasers attached to the tops of our heads. Like pencils. We should be able to flip over and scribble away mistakes, at least once or twice during the duration of our existence, **especially in matters of life and death.**"

I didn't choose this book to escape into. I chose it because I felt I could gain some perspective on a few things. And I did. This story... it's not like others. You're reading about this couple's life, which should sound extremely boring, but it wasn't. Everything was so *genuine* and I was immediately pulled in.

I was **there**. In the book, experiencing everything. I cried when they did, suffered when they suffered, laughed when they laughed, loved them as they loved each other... I **felt** it all.

Trixie and Jacob... I don't think I could have describe a more imperfectly perfect couple. They truly were *siamese soul lovers*. Trixie makes the list for my top heroines but Jacob... he was the one that really stole my heart.

He was such a kind, gentle soul but so full of life. I can't put it in better words than this:

[his eyes] ... they were older, wearier than his age let on. But I sensed in them a splash of irony, too; a proud acceptance of the fact that life can be a bitch sometimes, that some people feel things too deeply.

He was who he was and I loved him for it. Jacob was far from perfect and made some bad decisions but ultimately, he was good at heart.

"You try and act so tough, you think you're so damn **hopeless** and **godless** and **faithless**, but you don't fool me. People without hope aren't tormented by the world they way you are. **People without hope don't give a shit**. But I see it in you, in the way you look at things, even in the way you look at me sometimes, like I'm the coolest fucking guy in the universe, and I know it's in there. Reverence. Belief. **Something**. You have a lot more faith than you own up to."

This story deals with religion and faith but it doesn't make up the book. If anything, I would describe it more as discovering the meaning in life. The meaning for everything. The *reason* for anything being the way it is, why we are the way we are... and why some things happen to us.

Even though this is a tough read, it wasn't all depressing. Trixie and Jacob had a dry humor that had me wiping tears away.

And when it's all over and you look back, it's sad, nobody can deny that, but there are also good memories. Happy things that you remember. That leave you smiling.

"I know it's late but," he paused, "would it be all right if I came over?"

"Right now?"

"Yeah."

"Jacob," I said, "how long have you been waiting to ask me that?"

"Who knows?" he said, more to himself than to me.

"Maybe all my life."

**I would definitely recommend reading this book. It's a story that'll stay with you forever, that will still have you *feeling* years later.**

I've said everything in the best way I can but honestly, this is a book that needs to be experienced.

My song for *God-Shaped Hole*: Hallelujah

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**Karen says**

[image error]

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**Mo says**

**When I was twelve, a fortune teller told me that my one true love would die young and leave me all alone.**

**Everyone said she was a fraud,  
that she was just making it up.**

**I'd really like to know why the hell a person would make up a thing like that.**

This is the sort of book that you just need to read, without knowing too much about it. I have read this author's other book and really liked it but this one has a different feel to it.

**Trixie," he said. "Do you mind if I call you Trixie?"**

Most books that have references to music are usually a win/win situation for me. I love music and try and get to concerts on a regular basis.

**"I've only discovered four things that make life worth living for me.**

**My work is one of them."**

**"What are the other three?"**

**"Music, books and sex," I said. "Not necessarily in that order."**

**I discovered Nick Drake when I was in school but hadn't listened to him in years. His music was full of grief and torment and truth ...**

I have heard of most of the musicians mentioned in the book. If you don't know names like Nick Drake, Miles Davis, Jeff Buckley, Harry Chapin, check them out. On a side note my first time visiting the States, nearly 25 years ago, with my then boyfriend (now Himself) we took the train from NYC out to Long Island to visit Huntington and try and find the resting place of Harry. Himself was the big fan, not me ... aaah, the

things you do for love!!

**"Don't waste your time with fear."**

**"Fear won't keep you safe from being hurt."**

**Still waters run deep...**

I put off reading this one for a long time but Sharon and Karen's reviews finally got my ass in gear to read it.

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**Suanne Laqueur says**

UPDATE: Because Robin is reading it and it's popped up on my newsfeed again, I feel compelled to say this book hurt my feelings and I'm still not speaking to it. Pbbhtht!

"Annihilation starts from the inside out."

Yeah, no shit Sherlock.

I could give this book 4 stars for taking me to the summit of Mt Everest. I should give it 1 star for then stabbing me in the heart with an ice axe.

But I give it 5. Because.... I have to.

Jesus H Roosevelt Christ.....

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**Ash Wednesday says**

**4.5 STARS**

***"God is a concept by which we measure our pain"***

***-'God', John Lennon***

Tiffanie DeBartolo wrote 2 books, and if any of your friends recommend either this or *How to Kill A Rock Star*, take it as a compliment. Because TDB's books are those that won't coddle you with puff pastry dialogue or feed you saccharine lines and emotional scenes that you would squee over on your updates with a Zooey Deschanel gif (something I'm guilty of once in a while, surely). When someone recommends you a book of

hers, it means someone thinks you're a rock star.

The story starts with Trixie Jordan (whose name reminds me of Tracy Jordan from 30Rock, lol) answering Jacob Grace's personal ad looking for someone "with pure intentions, a friend for the end of the world". This sets off the starting point of an emotionally charged and tumultuous affair where the "Bad Guy" is a city and the goal is escape.

If Laini Taylor's prose reminds me of Clint Mansell, Tiffanie DeBartolo's is (pre-electric) Bob Dylan. A poet for the everyday. And in true DeBartolo fashion, *God-Shaped Hole* offers to take you on a trip that spans from the philosophical to the mundane, from heartbreak to laughter, from feeling you can conquer everything to asking why we even bother. This book will deliver you to that place in your brain, the one that makes the white noise sound in the day to day, the one we ignore unless we're high or drunk because sometimes it gets too overwhelming for a Wednesday afternoon.

Not bad for a debut novel.

*God-Shaped Hole* feels like the avante-garde first born who doesn't let the world dictate his behavior while HTKARS was the crowd pleaser who went on to win the Oscar. I could draw a million analogies between the 2 books but after reading this, I do feel (view spoiler) gripes that I personally had about that wonderful book. But by the end of GSH, I still had the same gripe about the same issue.

I'm such a fickle child, I know.

I'm gonna be going off to find a new book to fill the *God-Shaped Hole* hole inside me. A futile search with a 99.9% chance of failure because none of them will be written in the Tiffanie vernacular.

I'll end my review with a quote that should be included in the goodreads TOS, forced down the throat of every new author that trolls on the reviewers' comment thread:

***To Jacob, the act of critiquing art was essentially imprecise. That's why he didn't read reviews on anything he liked, be it a book, a movie, a record. He believed that any work an artist puts forth which contains the truth as he or she sees it is worthy of consideration, and any commentary of the work beyond that is nothing more than pure individual opinion and should not be considered relevant to the work itself.***

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**Rosalinda \*KRASNORADA\* says**

**“You wanna know how to make God laugh?. Tell him your plans”**

Dear Diary,

Yes, I know. I usually write in Spanish but guess what? I am making this entry public. Why, you ask? Well, I

want to review a book and this one felt so personal that I wanted to tell you how I feel after reading it.

This book... Nope, not this book. This author... OMG, holly hell this author!!! She'll make you change your life, she'll make you believe this life is worth it, she'll make you FEEL. How important is that? How many people read just because they want to FEEL something?

That quote about making plans? So fitting! And so true, right? I love it how we all make our plans but sometimes that upper hand is just laughing at us because we can make as many plans as we want, that won't mean they will happen.

This book tells us the story about Trixie & Jacob. Jacob puts an ad on the newspaper because he wants to meet someone 'special' and Trixie reads it and she decides to call. Crazy, huh? Sometimes you just need to do crazy things to be happy and Trixie did the right thing because having someone like Jacob in your life is one of the best things that could happen to a girl.

"We are all searching for something to fill up what I like to call that big, God-shaped hole in our souls"

I don't really want to spoil this one for you, I am trying to express my emotions about books when reviewing, instead of giving away too much info and specially with books like this one. I want everyone to go blind. To experience. To feel!

Tiffanie has the power to create the BEST heroes EVER! Ok, they are not the hottest guys with the best 6 pack but who needs that? Seriously! I want special heroes, intelligent ones, loving ones, I don't need two hotties falling in love just because. And Tiffanie knows how to deliver this.

**This is a journey about having a relationship, about appreciating what life is giving you, about living every single second, about understanding, about happiness and over all this is a book about love.**

There is nothing else I could say without spoiling the story so I will shut up now. But I beg everyone to read Tiffanie's books. They are the BEST. EVER.

You can't wait forever for something, and then say it's too late when the time finally comes

Listen to this song while reading this, PRETTY PLEASE! As Jacob would say, **'A good song can save your life. Don't ever forget it.'** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9ljy...>

**Keep going ladies, ALWAYS keep going! That is what this book is about...** Enjoy the ride!



**PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THE SPOILER IF YOU HAVEN'T READ HOW TO KILL A ROCK STAR & GOD-SHAPED HOLE .** (view spoiler)

THANKS DAWN & SHARON for making me read this one, I owe you BIG TIME. x

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**Baba says**

**4 depressing stars.\*\*\*\*Review completed August 8, 2013**

"(...) I think we are God. We all have that inside of us. And I believe we go on after we've turned to dust. Our souls, I mean."

(...)

"A search. We're all searching for something to fill up what I like to call that big God-shaped hole in our souls. Some people use alcohol, or sex, or their children, or food, or money, or music, or heroin. A lot of people even use the concept of God itself. (...)"

I have decided to not review God-Shaped Hole. The following paragraph about loss is all you get from me regarding this story. Also, I think that my pictures and gifs as well as the quotes and the poem do speak for themselves. I would like to add one thing though. While it is very obvious that God-Shaped Hole deals with fear, loss and the meaning of life, it also touches another sensitive subject matter: God & religion. This leads me to my conclusion that I'm not able to review God-Shaped Hole without getting personal. I have learned my lesson, and I'm not willing anymore to put my little self out there in the open.

Whatever you decide, God-Shaped Hole is a great book and so worth reading. Just make sure that you are in the right frame of mind before you delve into this heartbreaking story because it is not a book to be enjoyed. It's one of those to be experienced, and I'm pretty sure it's going to leave a hole in your heart.

***Real annihilation happens from the inside out.***

As expected the writing is eye-catching and great but God-Shaped Hole is frigging depressing. I knew all that when I read the blurb and yet...it's Tiffanie...you need to read her books, and I hope she will be writing

a lot more in the (near) future. She has a magnificent talent to engage me in a story and to keep me *there*. That's the true beauty and force of words; when they are powerful enough to haunt you for a long time after you've closed the book. Reading her thoughtful and poignant words is moving but at the same time also very upsetting. Everyone has experienced loss in their life. After all it's a natural process and unavoidable. Yet what makes it even sadder are the circumstances, the how and when loss occurs. The *why*. It's final. What remains are memories that, in the best case, will make you smile and in the worst case will aggravate your (almost) unbearable pain and grief. And the biggest bullshit of all is that time will heal your wounds. That's such nonsense and not true. You learn to live with loss and pain. And over time your pain fades and blurs but it doesn't go away completely. The open wound festers for a while and closes eventually, however, the scar is what will cause you trouble for the rest of your life. There remains a dull pain that flares up from time to time depending on how moody you are. Like rainy weather that is going to trouble your joints, you know? As long as you're alive that little pain will be your constant companion, and a part of that hole in your heart.

(view spoiler)

***"Come dance with me."***

(view spoiler)

"Jacob," I said, "do you think there's anything in life that can fill up the hole? And not only fill it up, but keep it filled?"

"That's the real trick, isn't it?" he said incisively. "It's easy to plant a seed and sprinkle it with water, but once the sun scorches the ground, and the earth soaks up all the moisture, you're left with nothing but a thirsty little flower trying desperately to make it out of the dirt."

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

You are the music, in the  
symphony of life.

You are the music in the peace  
solitude and stillness of the  
early a.m., for you are the  
song in my heart.

You are the music on an ocean's front,  
for you are the roar of the waves,  
the power of the sea,  
and the salt in the air.

You are the music amidst a crowd  
and the chorus of city sounds  
for that is my song,  
and you are the music.

You are the music in my thoughts  
of each new day, and the last image  
I glimpse, as my eyes are  
closed upon a feathered pillow.

You are the music, In that secret place  
called sleep. I search for you through  
all the songs of life. It is you that  
I search for, through shades of darkness  
and clouds of cotton.

When I think of you, the music is always and  
forever. Every moment of my life. And, when  
the final sleep does come and if there is music,  
I shall think of you.

© Joe Fazio

"If your intentions are pure I'm seeking a friend for the end of the world."

Recommended read.

P.S. I hope that (view spoiler)

P.P.S. Yes, *How to Kill a Rock Star* is by far the better book. Again, you should read her books.

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## **Stacia (the 2010 club) says**

If your intentions are pure, I'm seeking a friend for the end of the world.

Best...personal...ad...ever.

Tiffanie DeBartolo - her words slay me. This wasn't quite as good as her other book *How to Kill a Rock Star*, but I still can't believe this was her first novel. For a first effort, it was quite impressive. Hell, I can't believe more people haven't read her work. There is something about the way this woman puts words together which makes my brain hurt, but in a good way. We move from poetic to witty...from heartfelt to heartbreaking. I am in awe of how the words on the page have me smiling one moment and crying the next.

The very first lines of the book should have anyone intrigued about what's going to happen.

***When I was twelve, a fortune teller told me that my one true love would die young and leave me all alone.***

If you don't feel something when you are finished reading one of DeBartolo's books, I honestly don't know what to say. Be it anger, sorrow, joy, frustration, satisfaction...there should be some sort of emotion rolling around in your brain by the time you close the pages. I already knew how this book was going to end and still found myself emotional.

**Jacob** - How could anyone not love the offbeat tormented soul that was Jacob? He was the being which gave this book a life.

"Don't tell me Jacob is reckless. Jacob is not reckless. Jacob just wants to feel things. He wants to live, something you wouldn't know the first thing about."

**Beatrice (Trixie)** - She's unsettled, unsatisfied, and looking for a way out.

Maybe that was the dreamer in me. I try to find meaning anywhere I can. It's the only way I

know how to validate my existence.

Two broken people brought together by fate or coincidence? Even I had to stop and wonder about this.

This story was more than just a love story. It was a life story. We watched real people live real lives. We saw the good, the bad, and the ugly. I can't tell you much more than this. I HAVE to be vague. Just read the book and you'll get why this non-review says nothing other than what you will find out right at the start.

Minor complaints I have would revolve around a few repetitive scenes, some slight editing issues, and a few moments where the tone mirrored *How to Kill a Rock Star* in brief flashes. I don't have too much to complain about though. I know that it can be off-putting to see some of the constant complaining from the characters about SoCal and I get that, since I'm a native Cali girl myself, but DeBartolo gave props to San Francisco, so I was somewhat pacified with that turn of events. O.o

This book captured my heart and ripped it out at the same time.

I loved Jacob and Trixie. I shall miss them.

"You're the world's muse, Trixie."

"I just want to be your muse."

"Done."

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**Sharon ∞🐼 is an emotional book junkie 🐼∞ says**

Frickin' book....

Frickin' tearjerker...

and...frickin' cliffhanger.

**DON'T** read this book...or do...yes do...it's soooo good!

Ok rant over...here's the review:

Beatrice is tired of the same ol' same ol' dating scene so when she sees an ad that says:

*"If you're intentions are pure  
I'm seeking a friend  
for the end  
of the world."*

Well, her interests are peaked and she just can't resist answering it. That's how she meets Jacob Grace.

No news flash that I love emotional books but this book *killed* me just like I knew it would. If you're a fan of *How To Kill A Rock Star*, you will love this book. It's all that and more. And I know it's a pain because this book is not available as an ebook but just buy the book! And I really want to know...Why hasn't this woman written more??

Both Beatrice (aka Trixie) and Jacob have problems and they are a bit different...Jacob especially but he *is* a writer! They both have father problems and on top of that, when Beatrice was young, a fortune teller told her she would meet the love of her life but she would lose him to tragedy. Well, right there you know something awful is going to happen and I hated waiting for the bomb to drop. Ugh!!

Some of the things that Beatrice and Jacob said and did were a bit over the top and it took me a while to get into the story but somehow they reeled me in. I loved how they both knew all these music references and authors. But then, they both were jerks...again especially Jacob. I didn't really blame Beatrice for acting the way she did. But in a way, this just made their relationship more real because they weren't perfect.

There's a great cast of characters in the book as well. Both Beatrice's and Jacob's best friends, Kat and Pete, were priceless! And I really loved Sara. Jacob's Mom and Beatrice's family really rounded things out.

So when the bomb actually hits, it's really bad. It makes me sick just thinking about it. I actually thought that something else (*anything else*) would happen. On top of that, when the book ends, it leaves you hanging. You don't know what's going to happen but I guess that's how it's suppose to be.

I loved it and I hated it but I will **never** regret reading it.

\*\*on a side note, I spent my summer vacation in Santa Monica and I LOVED all the references...well, except the "bomb" one.

Favorite quotes:

♥ "God, you sleep a lot. I must've really worn you out last night."

♥ "We're all searching for something to fill up what I like to call that big, God-shaped hole in our souls."

♥ *Dear Trixie,*

*Will you come to Memphis with me?*

A) *Yes*

B) *No*

C) *I'd go anywhere with you because you f\*ck like a goddamn fire hose.*

D) *You're an \*sshole and I never want to see you again.*

*Circle ONLY ONE and give it back to me when you're done eating.*

*Love,J*

♥ "Contrary to what you seem to think, *Rosalita*, it's been a while for me."

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## Lo Bookfrantic says

4★★★★Stars

**Genre:** *Contemporary Romance*

**Type:** *Standalone*

**POV:** *First Person – Female*

*"If your intentions are pure I'm seeking a friend for the end of the world."*

Beatrice aka "Trixie" Jordan was a free spirit kind of person; an artist at heart. She occupied her time making and designing her own jewelry and she made it from the heart. They were precious to her. Her talent was well known and very fast her business bloom big time. Trixie loved music and wasn't the type of person that could deal with peoples crap. She just didn't feel that she had time to deal with people if she didn't have to and so she focus on what she liked best, books, music, making jewelry and having sex. The essentials of course (my type of girl) hehe.

Jacob Grace was a writer with dreams and super cool character. He was simple yet complicated because he knew what he liked and he was extremely honest. He spoke his mind and heart and that's why his circle of friends adored him. He was also a free spirit that loved to live in the moment making memories.

One silly newspaper add changed both of these two forever. They knew from the first day they met that they were meant for each other; they have found their soul mates in each other. Their relationship was super cool, fun, hot, real, and adventurous.

*"Here's the thing. I feel like we grew in the same womb or something. Like we've been connected from the beginning by blood and veins. Someone soul lovers, if there could ever be such a thing."*

I really liked all the side characters from heroine best friend who was hilarious and hero's circle of friends. Jacob struggle internally for not growing up with a father; things happened and he felt he couldn't opened up so he leaves Trixie for few weeks without telling her. Oh boy was she angry and was I pissed off?! Hell to the yes. I was so angry at him it really upset me. However when he comes back it was hard not to forgive him, still he left a sour taste in my mouth because I don't forget easily haha. The words he said; the things he

did though made him so unique and special.

*"We're all searching for something to fill up what I like to call that big, God-shaped hole in our souls."*

The end; well ever since the beginning and based on blurb and title I already knew how this was going to end. So when it happened I didn't cry; however the aftershocks effects were painful, the memories, what could have been gutted me till no end. I kid you not I cried in the shower for an hour, I cried myself to sleep that night and I'm crying as I'm typing this right now...but Shhh don't judge whatever. Haha!

*"Everyone feels that void. Everyone who has the balls to look inside themselves, anyway. It's what life's all about...A search."*

This book is unique, the writing is phenomenal, the characters are awesome, there are sexy times, hilarious stuff I laughed so hard reading this book. I can honestly say it is not for everyone though because if you are looking for a "HEA" you best stay away from this book. One thing I know for sure is that this story will stay with me forever.

★★I found the E-Copy on Netgalley, OMG I was so excited when I saw it with new cover and everything but same story otherwise I think I would have not been able to finish my paperback copy this year haha★★

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**Katy Loves Romance ♥? says**

**5+++++ Outstanding stars**

*Oh hell how do I review a book like this?? I simply don't per-se I'm going give you my thoughts but honestly you need to read this with no assumptions of what its about just ignore what everyone's said and READ IT!! this is good stuff.*



*Jacob puts an ad in the paper*

*And Trixie reply's*

"here's the thing," Jacob continued, "I feel like we grew in the same womb or something. Like we've been connected from the beginning by blood and veins. Siamese soul lovers. If there could ever be such a thing."

If there ever was a couple that were meant for one another these two ARE IT!!! Trixie doesn't exactly connect closely with her friends and family she's a loner she does have people in her life but not people I would say that are close by any means but she is a strong, Jacob does have friends and his mum who he's close to but still he's the kind of person that is a league of his own, he's all about the soul and together they live in their little bubble together from day to day, moment to moment, experience to experience.

**This is the kind of story that will make you FEEL, will make you think about life, it will gut you, make you laugh, make you cry, this is a story about LOVE**

*Do you believe in fate? I am a firm believer in things happen for a reason, I do believe in fate and yes I do also believe in God is that right or wrong? Well I don't think there's a right or wrong answer to that, that's just my point of view. But this story sure made me think about my life, made me thankful for what I have, make me glad I have the people who are in it, IN IT, and question what direction I'm going. And tell my family I love them every day. THIS STORY WILL MAKE YOU FEEL*

"It's all about now," he said. "Let's always try to remember how we feel right now."

## The writing

This author is outstanding, she has a way that will pull you in and take hold of your emotions, it's exquisite, it's like poetry in many ways, she writes emotion but she also wowed me and made me laugh.

## A highly recommended read I now need to read *How to kill a rock star*

p.s Thank you Shannon for your review and for pushing me in the right direction I probably wouldn't off picked it up for a good while otherwise... so cheers your the best <3

And lastly I will always love this song now for new reasons beautiful...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8AWFf...>

## That is all

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## Lewis says

There's never been a book that infuriated me more than *God-Shaped Hole*. Not because it's "edgy," not because it's "insightful" or "daring." It is, quite honestly, the complete opposite. It is a book about a narcissistic written by a woman so full of her own ideas about true love (none of which ring true in the simplest of terms) that it wouldn't at all be surprising if she had written that the character of Beatrice suddenly turned to the Heavens and yelled, "It's me! It's me! Tiffanie!"

And so *God-Shaped Hole* exists, about a lonely woman with a craving between her legs responding to a personal ad in the paper. It is a fluke (or as Tiffanie keeps berating us with, "fate"), where Beatrice meets the charming, too-good-to-be-true Jacob. They hit it off and, before long, are living together, complaining about the same shithole they live in (Los Angeles) and about its shallow inhabitants (though they are just as shallow as anyone they consistently condescend to).

They have there ups-and-downs, fights that come off like petty tenth grade drama because the other just won't open up their mouth and say something. It's a continuity issue in terms of Jacob's character, who is written like a God-like martyr who knows all the right things to say, knows just how to swirly his pelvis so Beatrice gets pleased like she never has before, and even calls her "Trixie." Ain't that just cute? But he'll go into mood swings and say things that aren't his character; they don't flesh him out as a character, the interactions just feel like plot contrivances.

And then there's that foreshadowing that rips any sort of suspense or emotion right from the awkwardly phrased final pages. From the very front cover ("When I was twelve, a fortune teller told me that my one true love would die young and leave me all alone...") to the "tear jerking" final  , we're supposed to fall in love with these characters that are so smitten with themselves and the other that they don't realize they are still as selfish and asinine as anyone else. The characters are not deep, they aren't organic. *God-Shaped Hole* is just another bout of soap opera-lite odes to the great, mysterious force called "love," and this one just happens to be one of the most inane of all.

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## Manju says

*Don't waste your time with fear.. Fear won't keep you safe from being hurt.*

took it's sweet time to really get started but once it did this story was hard to let go. Beatrice and Jacob were not perfect but they were perfect for each other. Came close to break off but soon realized that it's foolish to hurt the person you love because it makes you more sad and feel worse.

A bittersweet love story.

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## Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

The warning signs were shining like G.D. beacons that I would not enjoy *God-Shaped Hole*.

#1 – The blurb by Dave Eggers told me to expect a main character who was a 27-year old female Holden Caulfield. There are two types of people in this world – those who love Holden Caulfield and those who hate him. **I DESPISE HOLDEN CAULFIELD.**

#2 – The blurb was by DAVE EGGERS. YUCK.

#3 – The foreward claimed the inspiration for this story came from Jeff Buckley's album *Grace*, which no one should deny **is** a truly great album, but seriously . . . .

How fucking cliché can one book get?

#4 – Since I am an old lady who was familiar with Jeff Buckley before “Shrek” created the milkshake that brought all the girls to his yard, I was pretty sure I knew how this would turn out without ever reading the synopsis.

#5 – Then I read the first paragraph and it totally confirmed that everything I thought about how this would end was 100% accurate.

So why did I read it? Because my real-life book buddy told me to, we are generally of one mind when it comes to our reactions to stories and she promised this would fall into the “love it” rather than “hate it” category.

And on any other day there's a solid chance I *could* have enjoyed this more as I am most definitely a “right place and right time reader.” Unfortunately, even if I was in the mood for super saccharine love, there would have been one ginormo hindrance to my love-fest: **BEATRICE**. Now, I am a self-proclaimed asshole so I am definitely not opposed to characters who are assholes. Beatrice took it to a whole new level. From wanting to tell complete strangers that they were fat so they shouldn't be eating chips as a snack, to how everything smelled weird to her delicate senses, to people's decorating styles of the ugliest she'd ever seen,

to sales girls that must have cutlets in their bras to give them cleavage to how people were too stupid to understand her jewelry designs, Beatrice had nothing nice to say most of the time and I found her to be insufferable. Much like Holden Caulfield, I guess.

But to those of you who can either find her relatable or at least not so awful you are hoping her boyfriend will die and ruin her life, you might discover that this was the literary equivalent of the Miss Dior commercials. Do you know what I'm talking about? Natalie Portman is all gorgeous running down the beach with smokey eyes in a soaking wet ballgown . . . .

Or with a fabulous red lip . . . .

Where a love story is captured from start to finish in 30 seconds and things are both great . . .

And then not so great when he's all "I love you" and she's all . . . .

Which is "prove it" but for some reason I could only find it in Spanish and then she gets super shovey, but then in another one they're all . . . .

And I am just maybe too old for a story like that and that makes me saaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaad because I don't want to be old and also . . . .

But I didn't like it and it didn't make me have any feelings (aside from annoyance, but I feel that feeling nearly all of the time) so it only gets 2 Stars : (

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**Christy says**

**5 INCREDIBLE STARS!!!**

What can I say about this book? It kept me up all night reading. It made me think. It made me re-evaluate my own life. It moved me. It destroyed me.

Beatrix (Trixie) and Jacob meet by an ad. It's silly. Jacob put it in the paper, just because... and Trixie answered.

If your intentions are pure  
I'm seeking a friend  
For the end  
Of the world.

?Some people are just meant to meet. Meant to know each other, be in each others lives. Thats how it is with Jacob Grace and Trixie. They are just meant to be. From the first time they meet, they both know it. Jacob is different than any man Trixie has ever met.

I got the impression Jacob was an odd person. And I mean that as the best possible compliment  
I could give a guy.

Jacob feels something with Trixie he as never felt. He knows she is it for him.

*"Here's the thing. I feel like we grew in the same womb or something. Like we've been connected from the beginning by blood and veins. Siamese soul lovers, if there could ever be such a thing."*

Jacob is a writer working on his novel called *Hallelujah*, and Trixie makes her own jewelry and sells it to high end stores. I loved these two together. The time they spent together, the things they talked about. Everything.

"We're all searching for something to fill up what I like to call that big, God-shaped hole in our souls. Some people use alcohol, or sex, or their children, or food, or money, or music, or heroin. A lot of people even use the concept of God itself. I could go on and on. I used to know a girl who used shoes. She had over two-hundred pairs. But it's all the same thing, really. People, for some stupid reason, think they can escape their sorrows."

?They are able to communicate about life, love, their families, hopes, dreams, fears. Trixie has many fears... her biggest fear being death. Jacob, not so much. One thing he is afraid of...

"Everyone's afraid of something." I said.  
"Okay then," he said, trying to think of something quickly. "I'm afraid of sleeping another night without you. How's that?"

?I fell in love with Jacob Grace. He is a man unlike any other. He has issues, mostly with his father, but he is the sweetest, kindest, most soulful character. He is a lover, a dreamer, passionate, just amazing. You can't

help but adore him. He really is 'it' for Trixie. No matter what this couple goes through, there is never a question about it. They were made for each other. They have this intense connection, you just can't explain it. You can feel it. Jacob is everything Trixie has ever wanted, what she's been looking for her entire life.

Trixie and Jacob have a plan. They are going south once his book sells, getting out of LA. They have hopes, dreams, aspirations. Beautiful, beautiful plans. But you know what they say...

These two characters are not perfect- they are far from it. But they are absolutely 100% perfect for one another. They make mistakes throughout their journey, but they always find their way back to one another.

Bottom line: It's okay to screw up as long as you keep trying. The key is to keep trying.

I am gonna stop right here... I don't want to spoil the ending, and I can't really talk about it right now. You just have to read this one for yourself. Is it devastating at times? Yes. Will your heart break into a million little pieces while reading? Yes. Is it one of the best, most well written books I've ever read? Yes. Will I ever forget Jacob and Trixie's story? No. Never.

(view spoiler)

This book was incredible. Tiffanie DeBartolo may be the most talented author I've ever had the pleasure of reading. Her books are like nothing else. I can't describe how I'm feeling right now, but Trixie and Jacob's journey was beautiful, inspiring, heartbreaking... This is one of those 'More than 5 star' books. One thing is for certain- while reading this book you will **feel**. It's one of those books that will cause you to become an emotional wreck. Hot mess. But it's okay. It's worth it. A truly phenomenal and unforgettable read.

I would recommend this book, and Tiffanie's other book: *How to Kill a Rockstar* to anyone, but you should know, her books should come with a warning:

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