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Miriam's Well



Synopsis

A terminally ill teenager is forced to choose between her religion and her life. Adam doesn't think much of it when Miriam faints in class. She's an oddball, a student who hardly talks, never makes eye contact, and wears clothes that seem straight out of the 19th century. She says she's fine, and he wants to believe her. But when she passes out while they're working on an English assignment, Adam takes Miriam to the last place she wants to go: the hospital. Miriam has bone cancer. She believes that God will heal her, but if He doesn't, she plans to let herself die. Miriam is a member of a devout religious sect in which women have little power and medicine is strictly forbidden. In order for Miriam to forgo treatment, Adam's father sues the state on her behalf—even as Adam himself tries to convince her to accept the doctors' help. As her illness rages on, Miriam will teach Adam the meaning of love and faith—and he will give her a reason to live.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am glad to see I'm not the only reviewer who was bitterly disappointed by the ending of this book. Miriam and Adam had been through so much and were so much in love and she ends it with him because of religion? I know religion is very important to people, but come on! Adam wasn't even that devout in his religion anyway. I'm not one of those people who always has to have a happy romantic ending, but I sure expected one in this case. The book was very enjoyable up until that point. I especially enjoyed that both Miriam and Adam were allowed to relate their versions and perceptions of the story in alternating chapters. It was nice to see what they were both thinking and feeling and how they both saw the events that took place. Often in books you only get one side of things-the narrator[s]. You only know for sure what they are thinking and feeling. So it was great to get that dual viewpoint. The book is a great fictional study of a young religious girl with cancer caught between so many factions-her family, church, state and the swirling conflict of her own desires. Just don't expect a happy ending between the main male and female characters. In the end, it doesn't happen.

This is the story of Adam, a fairly non-religious Jewish teenager, and Miriam, who belongs to a religious sect who doesn't believe in medical treatment and who is seriously ill. They're thrown together by the infamous 'class project' trick writers use (so overused and predictable!), and Adam is drawn to her, even though he's dating the sexiest girl in school. Very interesting read, told in alternating chapters in Adam and Miriam's voices. A disappointing, but inevitable ending, I thought. I had to say I was a bit surprised by it, because I hoped that somehow things would have managed to be different. I highly recommend this book. A very worthy read- Ruby is very talented, able to get into the minds of young adults and yet each of her characters have distinctive styles. Good book.

I thought this was a great book with the chapter switching and a very good plot. I couldn't put it down! What would you do if you had cancer and belonged to a church that wouldn't let you have medical treatment? Would you just see if a miracle would happen? The whole book was wonderful except the last chapter: Lois Ruby, I thought you'd do better with that! I know plenty of people who are married because of different religion! Think of Romeo and Juliet. Their families didn't get in their way! I mean I know Miriam was deeply religious but still....true love is true love. Anyway this is a good book. Pick it up!

I thoroughly liked this book. I personally don't love reading, but this book kept my attention. The story makes a person feel for each character. I loved the way the book was written. The chapters

would switch off who is talking between Miriam and Adam. This way, the reader is able to know the point of view of each character, how they feel and what they are thinking. I would recommend this book to just about anyone who is looking for something to keep their attention.

Miriam, shy and deeply religious, and Adam, popular and easygoing, are paired to work on a poetry project until Miriam gets very sick. When she is diagnosed with cancer, her family refuses medical treatment, which helps her relationship with Adam grow close, and also spurs the local courts to order medical treatment for Miriam's good. After some chemotherapy, some therapeutic touching and lots of prayer, Miriam's examination shows no cancer, leaving people wondering what cured her illness. This book is for mature readers only as there is offensive language, and subject matter that is adult.

Miriam's well presented a lot of religious baracades that can keep the public from outer life. Miriam's well shows signs of all people and how open they are to the modern world.

I thought this book was really stupid and boring. It had too much praying in it. The only thing I learned was not to judge somebody before you get to know them.

I recommend this book. It is Fabulous. When I was finished and went for another book I couldn't stop thinking about Miriam's Well and had to read it again. This book is sad and if you cry (which you probably will) Don't say I didn't warn you. Poor Adam!

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