



Crossing Into Brooklyn

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To Find Your Future, You Have to Face Your Past

She knows what her parents told her. Now she wants the truth.

At sixteen, Morgan Lindstrum has the life that every other girl wants--at least from the outside. A privileged only child, she has everything she could ever want, except her parents' attention. A Princeton physicist and a high-powered executive, they barely have any time for each other, much less for Morgan.

Then her beloved grandfather dies, depriving Morgan of the only stable figure in her life. If that's not enough, she suddenly finds out he was never her grandfather at all. To find out the truth about her family, Morgan makes her way to Brooklyn, where she meets Terence Mulvaney, the Irish immigrant father who her mother disowned. Morgan wants answers; but instead of just satisfying her curiosity, Mulvaney shows her the people in his condemned tenement building, who are suffering and have nowhere to go.

He challenges her to help them, by tearing away the veil of shame, and showing her wealthy parents and her advantaged circle of friends a world they don't want to know exists. The temptation to walk away from this ugly reality, as her mother did, is strong. But if she does, can Morgan ever really leave behind what she learned when she crossed into Brooklyn?

Crossing Into Brooklyn Details

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From Reader Review Crossing Into Brooklyn for online ebook

Jan Blazanin says

Sixteen-year-old Morgan Lindstrum has a life of material privilege. Her dad is a physicist at Princeton and her mom seems to be always jetting from one important meeting to the next. Shortly after her grandfather dies, Morgan finds out he wasn't her "real" grandfather. In her search for the truth about her family, Morgan takes the train to Brooklyn, where she meets Terence Mulvaney, the Irish immigrant father her mother disowned. Instead of the answers Morgan wants, Mulvaney shows her the people in his condemned tenement building, who have nowhere to go. He asks for her help, but Morgan is afraid to let her rich friends see where her family came from.

This is a confusing novel that jumps from scene to scene with no transitions. Except for Clover, whose actual relationship with Terence is a mystery, and Terence himself, the characters are shallow. Morgan's friends seem startled that poor people exist. Her mother is estranged from Terence and unforgiving of his past mistakes. What little personality Morgan's father has is a watery vanilla at best. The premise of finding one's roots and helping others is a good one, but the execution of it leaves much to be desired.

Meredith says

Crossing Into Brooklyn isn't a whimsical coming-of-age novel. Rather, it is a gritty look at a teenage girl's quest to find her identity in a world that she doesn't understand.

16 year old Morgan Lindstrum has led a privileged life in sheltered Princeton, N.J. After the death of her grandfather, Morgan feels disconnected from her parents and her friends. She knows that her mother has been hiding something about her past, so Morgan begins to investigate. She finds a torn up letter in her mother's briefcase that leads her Brooklyn--it is here that Morgan is exposed to the harsh world of poverty. She also discovers that her family is not all it seems.

*I won this book from Goodreads in exchange for an honest review.

Salla (Books Told Me So) says

Your parents are drifting apart, a relative dies, and nobody is answering your questions. What do you do? You take matters into your own hands, even if it means crossing the bridge to Brooklyn.

Full review:

<https://bookstoldmeso.blogspot.com/20...>

Karen says

Crossing into Brooklyn is an engrossing book about a 16 year old girl, Morgan, who comes-of-age in a family filled with secrets and evasions. Once Morgan finds out the truth about her mother's identity and pieces together some of the reasons for the detachment and coldness that underlie her family dynamic she

immerses herself in a quest to understand her own complex feelings about her lineage, class and social standing, poverty and suffering. Another theme in the book is Morgan's developing sexuality and how to be honest in the face of social and sexual pressures.

In some ways, Morgan is like her mother. She is not particularly warm though she does have some passion. Like many adolescent girls it is hard for her to understand her mother's point of view but as she comes to understand more about her maternal grandfather she does feel some compassion for her. As she gets to know him she becomes more sure of herself, stands up to her parents, feels less shame with her friends and family and becomes more fleshed out with a fuller sense of herself.

I did not particularly understand the point about Morgan's friend/sometimes boyfriend Ansel. The virgin/whore split that Morgan felt and Ansel seemed to create felt pointless and underdeveloped. What seemed to be a good friendship became bogged down in this dynamic and I could not understand the reason. Otherwise, I was completely absorbed by Morgan's story and how in crossing Brooklyn she found herself.

Thank you Edelweiss for allowing me to review this book for an honest opinion.

Bri says

I had mixed feelings with this book. I loved how close Morgan was to most of her family and how she was trying to find answers as to why her mother didn't want her to meet her real grandfather. On the other hand, I thought it was kind of confusing and weird how her mother wouldn't really talk about her real family and how she wouldn't let her daughter meet her father.

I was completely wrong about what this book was about. I thought it might have some romance, and maybe some relationship drama. Instead I got a girl trying to meet her grandfather and her lying to almost everyone in her life- her mother about going to see her grandfather, her crush/boyfriend about having been with other people before... Morgan started to really annoy me and I continually wished that she would just come clean with EVERYTHING. There was WAAAYYYY to much drama.

I would have been fine with this book being about a girl meeting her grandfather and getting to know him. I actually would have loved to read a book like that but it seemed like the author kept adding more plot lines into it and just got in over her head. This made the plot jumbled and confusing and it just didn't work very well for me. I also feel not all the loose ends were tied up at the end and I really hated the ending. It seemed like the author just sort of gave up on wanting the characters to be happy and sort of gave them all really depressing futures. I don't want to give out spoilers so that's all I will say but it just seemed like a non-memorable ending that I know for a fact I will not remember a month from now. For most books a year from the day that I read them the only thing I will remember about the book is how the characters ended up. With this book I'm not sure I'll even remember anything about it. I might be happy rereading it though, especially to see if I like it more the second time around.

Overall, I might recommend this. I'm really not sure. It was an average book for me but you might like it more, or you might not like it all so much. All I can say is it really depends on your personal preferences and that if the synopsis sounds good to you then you should really try it out!

I received this book from the publisher via a giveaway on Goodreads. A huge thank you goes out!

James says

I received this book for free through Goodreads first-reads.

This is not the normal type of book I would reach for, but I'm glad I did. It is not a typical coming of age book that one expects from YA fiction, especially when reading the book's summary.

Morgan is a 16 year old girl who discovers that the man she has called Grandpa is not really her maternal grandfather. Her mother had been hiding that fact from her all these years. Morgan's mother and father are having issues of their own at the moment and Morgan discovering this just adds another log on the fire.

I enjoyed the descriptions and contrasts shown between Princeton, New Jersey and Brooklyn, New York. I could also feel the struggle that the newly found grandfather Terrence Mulvaney had been dealing with for the past two decades. I found myself reading in an Irish brogue once Clover & Terrence were introduced, a sign of enjoyable and appropriate dialogue.

My main concern with the novel was with Morgan's parents. They seemed too self important and lost in their own world, caring little about what Morgan was doing. Once they found out that Morgan had found out about the long lost grandfather, they did want her to see him or communicate with him anymore, but did little to dissuade her. The apparent lack of concern through parental inaction and the disobedience by Morgan seemed implausible, but that may have to do with my upbringing and the way I care for my children.

Overall, it was an enjoyable read.

Sierra Harper says

This was an amazing story. I would have liked a little more flow between the chapters, meaning that I would have liked less time skips. I really did love the story line and the sense of questions I got while reading this book. I would also love to read more by Mary Ann McGuigan.

n i c o l e ? d says

full review coming soon... :)

Megs says

I was a bit apprehensive going in to this book, since it's not kind of book I would usually choose. Unfortunately, in this case, my gut feeling was right. This book just didn't work for me.

The characters, especially Morgan, didn't feel all that real and relateable. Her parents were useless and annoyed me a lot. Her grandpa was a asshole. Morgan was spoiled and naive.

Also, I felt like this book majorly overemphasized the income and class gap. It was this huge deal for her to find out her grandpa was poor and another huge deal for her to visit Brooklyn. Maybe things are different in New York/New Jersey, but where I'm from, things are not that divided.

Disliking the characters was a problem I could not overcome in this book. If you can connect with the characters better than me, you might enjoy this one.

Sam Witscher says

Crossing into Brooklyn was a very slow book for me, and I found it very dull. It showed an interesting separation between the rich and the poor in the US, but was very slow. There are some interesting parts to this story, but I did not enjoy the book that much.

zapkode says

{My Thoughts} – Morgan is a teenage girl that has lived in a family that has given her a cushy life. They have provided for her, made her feel safe, protected her and did what they thought was right for her.

Morgan soon finds out that her nice life, it isn't what she had grown to believe is true. She learns that her family has been keeping a bunch of secrets when it comes to her mother's family. She learns that there is so much going on within her house that she is having a hard time figuring out what is real, what isn't real, who is real, who isn't real and how she is suppose to feel about it all in the end.

Eventually she takes matters into her own hands. She tries to find out what everyone has been hiding from her.

I appreciate Morgan's character in this book to an extent. I found her to be an overly opinionated, life isn't fair, why does no one tell me the truth person. I didn't like her constant whining throughout the book, I didn't enjoy that she thought she had the right to insert herself into her parents business. I don't think she had the right to act like her life was coming to an end, because her parents didn't share hurtful information from her past with her. I also didn't think she was a smart character for traveling from New Jersey to Brooklyn alone to meet people she didn't know from Adam and was warned by bother her parents weren't good in the past. I personally had I been her parent would have grounded her until her graduation.

There were some good points in the book. She had a nice friendship with her two best friends. She had supportive parents beside the fact that she constantly did as she pleased. She also did a great justice for some individuals that she hardly knew. It showed that she had the ability to be self less in a sense, but she had a poor way of coming to that realization.

If I were to recommend this book, I would only push it for those individuals that just need a light story to read. Those individuals that need to understand that life isn't always fair and sometimes your parents only do the things they do in order to protect you from the things they know may hurt you in the long run. There is so much that can be learned from this book, but a lot of the main points were glossed over, so it's hard to really sit here and determine what is good and what is bad.

Michelle Wrona says

This review can also be found on A Thousand Lives Lived, check it out for more!

Eh and meh. Those are two words to describe my thoughts of this odd-paced novel, Crossing into Brooklyn. When receiving it, I had a total different expectation on what the plot actually is as well as the premise. For some reason I even expected time-traveling to be a factor, though I was completely wrong. Expect a troubling family crisis and a girl trying to discover who she is.

Yes, this does take place in Brooklyn, by the way in case you were wondering. McGuigan mostly talks about Morgan's life when she mistakenly discovers that she has a long-lost grandfather who will turn out to mean so much to her and the rest of her family, excluding her annoying mother who actually ruined some of my opinion of this book. *Crossing into Brooklyn* turned out to be a boring, weird read that makes me wonder why it's stuck in the YA genre. **It's not my kind of read.**

"Morgan, don't ask me again. Please. Stop this,' she said. So I did, because I knew she was too twisted up to listen to reason. She didn't want to know what was happening to these people, any more than she really wanted to know what was happening to me." (Hardcover, page 115)

To tell you the truth, I probably wouldn't have picked this book up if I hadn't received it for review, now that my opinion's straight. Some may enjoy it, but it's surely not a me-read, and those count a lot for my reviews and ratings. Like I mentioned above, **this is about a sixteen year old girl discovering her grandfather who her mother hid her from.** I mean, this can happen in everyday-life, and happens to many people. I just can't fall for these kinds of reads because it's just formed with such an easy premise that's not intriguing or enjoyable. The only bright thing about the events was the romance between Morgan and Ansel. That's it. McGuigan's a great writer, though the idea of writing about this **just doesn't hit me hard in the heart.**

I feel like I don't even have to give you a proper summarization here, because I bet that you already just get it. It's 224 pages too long, actually. If this was shortened into a short story of 20 pages, maybe I'd give it a 4 star rating. But this? *Nothing occurring except a nice scenery, adorable romance and a nice protagonist.* Everything else deserves a 2 star rating, to be honest.

Since McGuigan gets readers to live in a world with a family crisis and issues, you'd expect everything what happened here. One parent who the protagonist can speak to (Morgan's dad) and the annoying, rude one who has no sense for their doings (Morgan's mom). **I hated Morgan's mom so much that it almost made me shut the book by the middle.** SHE HAD NO BACKUP SUPPORT FOR HER REASONING. Some little excuse of her father's past made no sense for keeping her daughter away from her real family and lying to her for sixteen years and she'd still be doing it until Morgan would find out on her own. And the way Morgan discovered it? It was in a mistaken matter, and the mother definitely should've known better.

I felt so much sympathy for Morgan. The girl has been lied to her entire life and everything gets blamed on her. Her parents are so overprotective and she basically is afraid to speak the truth because she'd get so hated on that she can't stand it anymore. **But she was strong as well.** Not every girl has the ability to smarten up and show love to someone who she's forbidden from liking. She ruled.

"Mr. Mulvaney didn't give her much to go on. He was a hard man to read, and I was sure he was a very different breed of cat from the people she was accustomed to working with. He seemed neutral, almost indifferent, about which ones she chose to display, at least until she took out the one of a woman with a baby." (Hardcover, page, 219)

Mr. Mulvaney's such a cool guy. He did beat all of the stereotypes of a guy who lives in a basement and drinks, or at least, that's what people say of him. **A grandfather-granddaughter friendship's pretty cute to read about**, though I rolled my eyes at some points when I reminded myself of what the book was actually about compared to the books I usually read. You call this contemporary-romance? I call this YA fiction about a grandpa. It's completely cheesy and I'd rather listen to people say "see you later alligator" ten thousand times than see this stuff.

This is your dysfunctional happy ending. It wasn't happy whatsoever, and some of the conflicts hadn't even gotten close to being to close. **But then again, it gets readers thinking about what would happen next.** And we are left off thinking about prejudice and stereotypes in different families, and the beautiful setting of Brooklyn of course. Though the boring, slow plot and annoying mother-character is what kind of left me raging in the end, there's always some kind of good quality in a book, and sometimes we just have to think about it and find it.

A finished copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thank you so much!

Rebecca says

This book has so much potential but the white savior narrative ending was an unfortunate choice

Pam Mooney says

This is a great book! I love secrets and showing how they impact family and friends and especially children. I loved the teens empowering themselves and finding answers and helping the adults in their lives. All of the characters are endearing and you pull for them all as there really are no bad guys. This book would be rated 4 or 5 stars if only for the sexual contact related to teenagers. It felt like an add on and keeps the book from being a good read for all.

Samantha says

Crossing Into Brooklyn ventures into a smorgasbord of important discussions from gender issues to socio-economic prejudices to highly dysfunctional families. The author, Mary Ann McGuigan, does a remarkable job of presenting realistic situations of societal issues that demand attention in an open, inclusive manner that never overwhelms the reader. Morgan's journey is not one all have experienced, but her story and the stories of the characters around her are certainly relatable for many and eye opening for others.

This book is riddled with unlikable characters, all of which are tremendously frustrating but also brilliantly realistic. Readers who thirst for stories that contain all the grit, messiness, angst, and hope of humanity should pick this one up immediately. I often found myself wanting to pound my fist down on the table in anger at the characters, but the story provokes the anger and even annoyance in the best possible manner to cause the reader to reflect on why those emotions surface and to encourage the reader to take a closer look at the situation.

The plot drags a little in areas, but the descriptions of Brooklyn life and the characters are usually worth the slower pace. The ending is not for those looking for a happily-ever-after, but it does contain the perfect mixture of good and bad that life often leaves people with in real life. Some areas, particularly the romance, left me feeling a little dissatisfied, but once again, I couldn't ask for a more true to life story line.

Perfect for readers who seek very realistic young adult novels, Crossing Into Brooklyn will break hearts with human heaviness but leave just the right amount of hope to keep going. Though the story has its flaws, I am overjoyed to read this excellent example of how to use unlikable characters to their fullest and best extent.

Originally posted at YABC: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/yaficti...>
