



## 34 Pieces of You

*Carmen Rodrigues*

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**34 Pieces of You** Carmen Rodrigues

**A dark and moving novel about the mystery surrounding a teenage girl's fatal overdose.**

There was something about Ellie... Something dangerous. Charismatic. Broken. Jake looked out for her. Sarah followed her lead. And Jess kept her distance, and kept watch.

Now Ellie's dead, and Jake, Sarah, and Jess are left to pick up the pieces. All they have are 34 clues she left behind. 34 strips of paper hidden in a box beneath her bed. 34 secrets of a brief and painful life.

Jake, Sarah, and Jess all feel responsible for what happened to Ellie, and all three have secrets of their own. As they begin to confront the darkest truths about themselves, they will also find out what Ellie herself had been hiding all along....

### 34 Pieces of You Details

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Author : Carmen Rodrigues

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## From Reader Review 34 Pieces of You for online ebook

### Miranda says

#### 4.5 stars

So many people said they read this book in just one sitting. I wasn't expecting that to be the case for me, what with all the homework and studying I should have been doing. But needing a break from Karl, Max and Emile I cracked open (well clicked open) Carmen Rodrigues' *34 Pieces of You* and now here I am, a bit past midnight, emotionally drained.

There was not a single character in this story that I couldn't relate to in some way. The troubles they went through were real and some touched very close to home for me making this a book that I'm sure I'll be thinking about for quite a while. This isn't an easy read in that all the characters are pained and hurting in some way and reading it you just wish you could help them. And obviously they're just characters, but they represent real issues that people are going through every day like depression, guilt, loneliness, trauma, etc.

I guess I'm not really sure what I'm trying to say here, except that you should definitely read this book. It's sad, and it's good, and it's real.

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### PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

Ellie died of an accidental overdose (maybe), leaving her brother Jake, best friend, Sarah, and best friend's sister, Jessie to deal with the aftermath, each feeling responsible for her death. She left behind a box with thirty-four messages about herself, clues to why she became so self destructive. Sarah also OD'd, but survived, psychologically traumatized. Jessie thinks her secret caused Ellie's OD, and Jake believes he should have rescued Ellie. Instead of relying on each other, they isolate, feeling more alienated.

The book is written from the POVs of Sarah, Jessie, and Jake, and my only criticism is that the first person accounts weren't unique. I enjoyed the fluidity of the writing, short sentences and over all pacing of this novel. Jessie, I felt was the most developed character. I wish Rodriguez would have made the other main characters more multidimensional.

This is a cautionary tale about trust, secrets, and the painful choices some teens feel they must make. I highly recommend.

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### Shania Schiff says

What drew me to this book was the fact that it said it was like the brilliant "Thirteen Reasons Why".

Expecting it to be like that, I bought the book without much hesitation. Now I before I begin to rant of how shallow and terrible this book was i just wanna say it was nearly nothing like "Thirteen Reasons Why".

When I started this book I had high hopes that it was going to be amazing and make me fall in love with the characters. This did not happen at all. I found most (if not all) the characters annoying and just not relatable. I really tried to like them but it was just so hard because they were all so whiney.

But despite my lack of liking for the characters I kept reading on expecting the book to get better because again I was expecting something like "Thirteen Reasons Why". As I kept reading I could not feel for these characters at all and I didn't even care for Elle. The notes that she left I thought would be explained in some way like they are in Thirteen Reasons Why, but it wasn't and I was so confused.

Anyway I do not recommend that you read this book at all; it just makes me so mad that on the book they put that it was like *Thirteen Reasons Why* when it definitely wasn't at all. This book was one big groan of disappointment.

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## **Nancy says**

So the premise of this book is that two 17 year old girls overdose on pills and one dies. The story is told between alternating narrators that include Sarah, the girl that lived, Jake, Ellie's brother, and Jessie, Sarah's younger sister. Timelines are all over the place. The marker in time is the night Ellie died in November. Then the three narrators take turns telling pieces of what happened to Ellie, secrets they carry, and guilt that burdens them. They all let Ellie down in one way or another but I found the story dissatisfying and pointless.

Like the book has been advertised, it is similar to *13 Reasons Why* or it could be entitled, "How Ellie's Death is All My Fault." To be fair, the main characters eventually learn something from the events but not enough to warrant my time. Ellie is a deeply scarred and disturbed character that for reasons I can't fathom was popular and like able. At the same time, her dark side was ignored, even though people saw it.

All of the characters had secrets. All of them hid their deepest thoughts and desires in a proverbial and figurative box but only Ellie wrote hers down to be discovered. Yet I connected with none of them. Their parents failed them. Their friends fail them. Nobody cares. Okay. Got it. It's angst at its best.

Language is severe. A lot of swearing.

Sex is moderate to severe.

Dialog is heavy.

Subject matter - very heavy yet none delving deeply into any of the broached subjects of suicide, cutting, drug and alcohol use, molestation, sex; both hetero and homosexual, depression, bullying, peer pressure. Basically, it touches on everything but explores nothing. Which led me to where I ended, wondering what was the point of the book.

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## **Lori (Pure Imagination) says**

I hadn't heard much about *34 Pieces of You* when it showed up in the mail. The first line in the the summary called it a dark and moving novel. I'm always in the mood for dark contemporaries and it's been a long time since I've indulged. I was sucked into this book from the first page. It was a fast and very gripping read.

*34 Pieces of You* is told from alternating perspectives. There's three main characters, Jess, Sarah, and Jake. All three of them have been greatly affected by Ellie's death in very individual ways. These aren't your sweet innocent teenagers. There's a lot of bad in all their lives. There's drugs, sex, and all the gritty stuff that's sometimes sugarcoated in YA. These characters were very realistic and raw to me. They were easy to connect with even if, at times, they weren't the most sympathetic.

The story is a tragic one. It's heartbreaking that Ellie's death has already happened when the novel begins, because you're looking back at her life and learning the horrible things right along side the characters and none of it can possibly be changed. Carmen Rodrigues really captured the feeling of finality that comes with losing someone close to you.

If you're like me and like dark, sad contemporaries, I highly recommend *34 Pieces of You*. It's a very fast

read and even though it's a sad book I didn't find it to be a horribly heavy read.

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### **shady boots | #WatchPOSE says**

Just what in the world was the point of all of that? The characters were all so lackluster and I couldn't connect with any of them. The plot was all over the place. The alternating chapters made me dizzy and the three protagonists' voices blended together. And I didn't learn anything in the end, nor did the characters. And barely any of my questions were answered. If anything, I have even *more* questions.

This is like the dull version of *Thirteen Reasons Why* that lacks the gut-wrenching-ness that that book had, in my opinion. No shade to the author, but I am just being as brutally honest as possible: I thought this book was a hot mess. I guess it was trying to go the emotional route? Either way it didn't work for me. I didn't feel any emotions reading this book besides confusion. Oh, and disappointment.

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### **Jennifer says**

Reminded me of 13 Reasons Why and Why We Broke Up. A girl spiraling down and destroying herself with her reckless behavior because of something that happened to her as a child. Realistic and perfect teenage read.

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### **Whitney says**

My first thought upon finishing this young adult novel was that I really wish they hadn't ripped off the title of 13 Reasons Why for this book - yes, it's definitely in the same vein, but it completely holds its own. I feel like the title is a gimmick the book doesn't need. In the end I actually liked it more than the Jay Asher novel.

Rodrigues hits nearly every teen "issue" you can imagine -- suicide, drugs, abuse, cutting, eating disorders -- but rather than feeling like overkill, the story shows how pain and self-abuse can snowball for desperate teens. I thought the characters were really well fleshed out, and the story compelling. Finished it in one night.

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### **Risa says**

Reminded me of Looking for Alaska. This book will hook you right from the beginning. But get ready for some sad, depressing and hurtful moments. Told from four perspective views. You will find yourself in a maze trying to understand the time frame but you will get it once you go through a few time slots. :p I still have a lot of unanswered questions, though. Hmm. Anyway, I liked this book. Read it if you are looking for something to wake you up and appreciate your life more. \*shrugs\* If you are already awake, read it anyway. <\_<

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## Isamlq says

Technically it took me but three hours to finish this one (does that entice you at all?) This is despite the initially confusing jump between the pasts and presents of those three voices. Perhaps it's because of the speed at which I got through this that I felt little invested in most of them (or maybe not.) All those 13 Reasons Why comparisons pushed me to read this except beyond the tragic deaths in both, I didn't feel for this quite as much. In 13, Hannah recounts in specific and sometimes painful detail how a body played a role in her life; this one focuses on how those left behind are affected. *Steamrolled* seems apt.

*So there were three.* Ellie has left behind a world of hurt and the question of did she or didn't she. Mostly this was about how she factored into their lives and how her being gone has left them feeling. We have her older brother, her best friend, as well as her best friend's sister to contend with. There's a lot of history to mine through as well as a complicated set of connections on how *this one* loves that person and how *that one* doesn't want that one. The one that's easiest to comprehend is that between Ellie and Jake.

*Two sides to her brother,* one side tugging at my heart a little stronger than the other. Ellie hasn't had it easy, and him as big brother is compelled to make things right and be there for her. It's this (making things right or making things better) that was sad and real at once. But that eventual wanting of more was what rang most honest to me. The need to be his own man, not just her older brother and not just their mother's son was the most honest thing about him. It would seem that her brother has the most straightforward heartbreak... that's not how it plays out though because other aspects become clear, that while Ellie is the life of the group, other things were happening as well:

Sarah and Jake's own history is complicated to say the least; there's obviously something more between the two... and it takes ages to understand why's and who's and what now's because though they may have (had) a connection, neither of them were angels. And still Jake and Sarah (alone or together) left me feeling little. In fact it was Jessie who inspired more than interest in me, the pain she takes away from this was a different sort... and unexpected. That despite being younger than them all, she's the one who sees another side to Ellie. To most Ellie is the center of it, the charismatic one who pulls others to her, this may be true... but Jessi sees more, and as we learn, knows more as well.

3/5

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## Brandy says

34 Piece of You is a Dark & compelling novel of sex, friendship, attempted suicide, and the burden of secrets.

The story opens with Jessie explaining the accident that happened with Ellie (her friend) & Sarah (her sister) and is told in the points of view of Jessie, Sarah, & Jake (Ellie's brother). All three feel responsible for what happened to Ellie. Carmen does a wonderful job of getting into the minds of the three main characters and expressing their feelings of love, loss, guilt & confusion. Anyone who has lost someone close to them can totally relate to the feelings of these three.

I really enjoyed reading 34 Pieces of You and I would highly recommend this book to all high school aged kids whether they have lost someone close to them or not; teen age years are vry trying and confusing and that is captured perfectly in this book.

Bravo to you Carmen!

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### **Anna says**

Dieses Buch war total schnell durchzulesen und ich habe es in einem Rutsch durchgelesen.

Es gibt keine unfassbar konkrete Handlung, sondern eher verschiedene Aussichten von Personen, die mit einer bestimmten Sache, die ich nicht spoilern möchte, klar kommen müssen und auch, wie ihre Vergangenheit war, bis diese Sache passiert ist.

Obwohl es nicht das emotionaleste Buch auf der Welt war hat es mich trotzdem berührt und die Einzelschicksale waren spannend und interessierten mich.

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### **Carly says**

Meine Meinung: Ich habe etwas Anderes erwartet, etwas in der Art von Tote Mädchen lügen nicht, weshalb auch immer. Wahrscheinlich wegen der Selbstmordthematik, den hinterbliebenen Freunden und den Notizen, die Ellie hinterlassen hat. Allerdings schafft dieses Buch es nicht, den Leser in einen Strudel aus Spannung und dunkler Vorahnung hinein zu ziehen.

Das Problem sind die Charaktere, zu denen ich keine Bindung aufbauen konnte. Sie wirken viel zu statisch, zu flach und zu sehr in sich selbst gefangen, ohne damit den Leser zu beeindrucken. Die inneren Konflikte und Gedanken erreichen den Leser einfach nicht. Obwohl die Perspektiven, die sich abwechseln, sich im Rahmen halten, bleiben alle Charaktere fad und langweilig. Sie besitzen nicht das gewisse Etwas, das ihnen Leben einhaucht. Man kann sich nicht mit ihnen identifizieren, da ihre Motivationen nicht immer klar sind.

Alle Charaktere haben schwerwiegende Probleme, die im alltäglichen, echten Leben ernst zu nehmende Themen sind, dennoch reicht es nicht aus, um die Charaktere ernst zu nehmen. Die Probleme lassen sich eher wie eine Aneinanderreihung von Konflikten lesen, die keine Gefühle im Leser auslösen. Durch dieses Hinwerfen der Probleme, fehlt dem Buch auch ein klarer roter Faden, der sich durchzieht. Ein Konzept, wie bei Tote Mädchen lügen nicht, hätte zwar die Komplexität geschmälert, jedoch hätte es Du bist das Gegenteil von allem Substanz verliehen.

Dazu kommt noch die sehr einfache Schreibweise, die nach einigen Kapiteln ihren Reiz verliert, da sie zu schlicht ist. Sicherlich ist der Lesefluss dadurch sehr rasch, jedoch verliert das Buch dadurch an Atmosphäre. Hier und da hätte ich einige Ausschmückungen ganz nett gefunden, um mir ein Bild von den Charakteren und ihren Gefühlen zu machen.

Ein Highlight stellen die Notizen dar, die, die Kapitel einleiten und der Geschichte immer wieder neuen Auftrieb verleihen. Leider reichen sie nicht aus, um für konstante Spannung zu sorgen.

Bewertung: Die Idee ist keine neue, dennoch ist sie gut, das will ich nicht abstreiten. Jedoch fehlt es dem Buch an essentiellen Punkten, um das Leseerlebnis in Unterhaltung zu verwandeln. Leider zieht sich die Geschichte, trotz der einfachen Schreibweise, somit ♥♥ Herzchen.

## **tarawrawr says**

Review originally posted on my blog <http://hobbities.net/2012/08/34-piec...>

Well, I typed up this very long review of *34 Pieces of You* by Carmen Rodrigues and then I closed Microsoft Word, whoops. Devastated and what not. Which is kind of how I felt while reading *34 Pieces of You*, ironically.

Because *34 Pieces of You* is a brilliantly done book. The story is heartbreaking and touching in every possible way and the writing style itself is freaking beautiful and the way Carmen Rodrigues organized it is so creative and purposeful. Everything about *34 Pieces of You* spoke to me.

There's so many issues in *34 Pieces of You*. Carmen Rodrigues touches on drugs, alcohol, sex, overdoses, suicide, self-mutilation, sexuality, rape – a lot of real life issues that affect teens in a direct way. But she doesn't smash these issues in the face and tell you to look at them. The issues, rather than the focus of *34 Pieces of You*, are just another part of the story that's being told.

I loved the way Carmen Rodrigues told *34 Pieces of You* from three different perspectives with huge time jumps all over the place as well as the notes Ellie left behind. You would think that would get confusing, but I had absolutely no problem following along with *34 Pieces of You* and each POV change and time jump made the story even more beautiful.

*34 Pieces of You* had me in legit sobs. For the last quarter of the book I had to keep taking breaks because I couldn't see the words through my tears. When I closed *34 Pieces of You*, I immediately ran through the house crying to get on Goodreads and Twitter to tell everyone how beautiful and heartbreaking and sob-worthy *34 Pieces of You* truly is.

And, for those of you who like kissing, there is a bit of a romance thing going on in *34 Pieces of You*. And it was an awesome romance because it was so organic and slow-building and wasn't super rushed. I thought Carmen Rodrigues did a fantastic job with that.

*34 Pieces of You* by Carmen Rodrigues is dark, but beautiful story. I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to read a book that will make them feel. *34 Pieces of You* is a brilliantly written book with such depth and importance and I can't wait to read more from Carmen Rodrigues.

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## **Stephanie (Stephs Stacks) says**

Full review and more at Steph's Stacks

Ellie is a girl on the edge. The type of girl that takes you out for the time of your life and brings you out of your shell. She also encourages you to make poor decisions and can cause you to lose yourself in the glare of her spotlight. She is an enigma, complicated and troubled. She is also now dead, due to a tragic night that is somewhat shrouded in mystery.

Through a series of cryptic clues, Ellie's friends try to put together the pieces of her life and discover the truth of the events leading up to her death. *34 Pieces of You* is told from each characters' perspective and

Rodrigues is brilliant at teasing out the details and the secrets that each one is hiding as well.

Each sad, lovely character has a unique and true voice (including Ellie). I laughed and cried right beside them. Rodrigues has created a world that is true to the modern teen experience. While she does not shy away from the dark side of being a teen, none of it is a gimmick or device to seem cool or hip. The final revelation of Ellie's full story is heartbreaking and beautiful.

*34 Pieces of You* is an exquisite and heart-wrenching tale of the dark side of growing up, loss and finding yourself.

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