



Leaving Eva

Jennifer Sivec

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How can we erase the memories that threaten to scar us?

On the outside, Brynn Michaels appears to have it all. A successful career. A loving husband. A beautiful home. But nobody, not even her husband, knows the depth of Brynn's horror. Abandoned as a child on the side of the road by her young, drug-addicted mother, then later abused by her adoptive father, Brynn has spent her entire life hiding her physical and emotional scars. As Brynn struggles to overcome her past so that she and Adam can begin a family of their own, the darkness refuses to let her go.

The peace that Brynn has tried so desperately to cultivate seems just out of reach and even the love of Adam may not be enough to weather the storm.

Leaving Eva is the tragic and suspenseful story of one woman's battle to overcome abandonment and abuse. In this powerful novel, author Jennifer Sivec explores the human resolve and our ability to not only survive, but thrive.

Publisher's note: This story is intended for mature audiences. It contains scenes depicting graphic violence and strong language.

Leaving Eva Details

Date : Published January 2nd 2017 by Soul Sister Press, LLC (first published April 8th 2013)

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Author : Jennifer Sivec

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From Reader Review Leaving Eva for online ebook

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

Usually I write a review straight after reading the book. However this review has been a struggle. Don't get me wrong- this is a brilliant well written emotional read that tore me apart. I'm just hesitant to review as I don't want to spoil anything. So all I'm going to say is if your like me and your a sucker for an emotional read then I recommend this story.

Be warned this book touches on drug abuse and child abuse.
There is a cliffhanger but don't worry book two is already out.

Cranky - The Book Curmudgeon says

***** 5 Cranky Stars *****

Warning.... Tissues needed for this book.

Jennifer Sivec shattered my heart with this book and it's still in pieces. By the middle of the book, I had to send her a message to see if she has a support group in place for her readers. If I can offer any advice: Read This Book.

Brynn has had a rough life. I'm not sure how anyone can survive what she's been through but that seems to be all she's doing... Surviving.

Her Momma Rose is more the child and Brynn had to grow up way to fast while missing out on all the important life lessons that a parent should teach their child.

Though Brynn has been put through the ringer multiple times, she manages to finish school and college to boot. Book smarts are easy for her, it's personal relationships and her feelings that she struggles with.

Adam fell head over heels in love with Brynn at first sight. He knows that she's different and he lives to make her smile. He was raised in a loving family and wants nothing more than to share that happiness with his Brynn.

This is truly their story. A story of love, pain and loss.

It's hard to put into words how this book made me feel. I went through the gamut of emotions and at times found myself cringing and shaking. I can honestly say that this is the first book to evoke such intense emotions from me. I started reading it this morning and didn't stop until the last page.

I highly recommend this book and plan on stalking this author regularly.

Anna-marie says

I started this book & was so upset by it that I had to stop.

Then a couple of days later I started it again, with new eyes. I sat up till 3.30am & read as much as I could in one sitting.

This was an extremely emotional book from start to finish.

It jumped backwards & forwards a lot, but didn't detract from the story.

I found myself absolutely sobbing my heart out more than once.

A very beautifully written story about a very ugly topic, and how eventually things can start to mend.

Goodness knows what is in store for Brynn next.

DreamsAndScrems Bookaholics says

***** April's 5 Star Review ***** 5 Dreams and Screams

There is a secret pain lurking within all of us, waiting to consume us if we allow it.

On the outside, Brynn Michael seems to be living the perfect life. She's a successful businesswoman married to a handsome and devoted husband. But nobody, not even her husband and childhood sweetheart, Adam, knows the true depth of Brynn's horror. Abandoned on the side of the road by her young drug addicted mother, then abused by her adoptive father, teenage Brynn turns to the only solace she can find in the sharp end of a razor. She spends her lifetime hiding the scars, both physical and emotional, until she has no choice but to face what she has been running from her entire life.

Brynn must figure out a way to confront her past or risk losing Adam, the only true love she's ever known, forever. But in spite of it all, Brynn may not have the ultimate choice, as the past eventually seeks her out.

Leaving Eva is the heartrending story of one woman's battle to overcome her tragic childhood and the abandonment and abuse that haunt her. Caution: Eva's story it contains graphic violence, strong language, drug abuse, domestic abuse, and child abuse.

In this dramatically dark novel, Jennifer Sivec, author of women's fiction, delves into the selfishness and depravity of human nature, and begs you to question whether happiness can ever truly be attained once you

have been deeply scarred.

Leaving Eva is not an easy story to read, it is the kind of dark story that draws the reader in and takes them on an roller coaster ride where they will experience the gamut of emotions as Eva/Brynn's life story unfolds. What an emotion read. I can't put into words how I felt for Bryann. Growing up and going through what she did no woman or child should have to go through that. Leaving Eva tugs at the heart strings and stirs the soul as it explores the depths of the human spirit. It is a riveting story that will easily captivate the reader's attention and make them become emotionally invested. Leaving Eva is a moving story that will make you hold your breath with what Eva/Brynn endures in her life and yes there is a cliffhanger. Which will make you want to read more.

Terra James says

This was a very emotional read. Eva/Brynn is a very strong person to have gone through so much and became a strong dependent person. Unfortunately, this story is all to true of what some children experience with biological parents and foster/adoptive parents. It is heartbreaking. I very heartfelt read.

Kathleen says

Oh my goodness! If you want to read a powerful and compelling women's fiction novel that will take you on an emotional roller coaster ride, then Leaving Eva is that novel!

In Leaving Eva, author Jennifer Sivec weaves a haunting dark tale that engages the reader to follow the tragic life story of Eva/Brynn Michael. This heart wrenching story follows Eva/Brynn's life through her childhood and adult years dealing with abandonment, adoption, and living a life wrought with emotional and physical abuse. To ease her pain, she resorts to self-mutilation, until she finds comfort and love with Adam, her childhood sweetheart. Brynn and Adam marry, and while dealing with the struggles of normal adult relationships and issues, Brynn is forced to face the demons of her traumatic past, and come to terms with herself in order to get over her inability to trust and love.

Leaving Eva is not an easy story to read, it is the kind of dark story that draws the reader in and takes them on an roller coaster ride where they will experience the gamut of emotions as Eva/Brynn's life story unfolds.

The author weaves a well written and compelling story that intertwines the issues of abandonment, adoption, addiction, alcoholism, emotional and physical abuse (domestic and child abuse), self-mutilation (self abuse), friendship, dysfunctional family dynamic, overcoming past demons, forgiveness, and survival.

Leaving Eva is a multi-layered story that tugs at the heart strings and stirs the soul as it explores the depths of the human spirit. It is a riveting story that will easily captivate the reader's attention and make them become emotionally invested. It is a deeply moving story that will make you will hold your breath at the traumas and dark secrets that Eva/Brynn endures in her life, and with the cliffhanger ending, it will leave you wanting more!

Leaving Eva is the first book in The Eva Series.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author / publisher in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Chick Lit Plus Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Sharon says

Booktrope and NetGalley provided me with an electronic copy of Leaving Eva, in exchange for an honest review.

Life has not been easy for little Eva Elizabeth. She was born to a teenage runaway, Ellie Harper, and her dangerous drug dealing boyfriend. Eva had a few short years of happiness living with her grandparents and her mother, but was abandoned on the side of the road by her ruthless father. Renamed Brynn in foster care, she was taken in by Rose and Thomas, but there the suffering continued. With so much turmoil in her life, Brynn decides that she has to find a way to get past her horrific beginnings or risk losing the small measure of good in her life.

Leaving Eva has an emotionally charged and interesting premise which, unfortunately, did not materialize into a successful book. In an attempt to convey all of the horrors that made up young Eva/Brynn's life, the story ends up coming off flat. Dealing with tough issues such as drug use, abuse, and violence, this dark novel should have sparked strong emotions in its readers. The writing style provided the biggest obstacle for me, as some awkward phrasing and choppy writing left me unable to connect with the characters or the plot. For these reasons, leaving Eva was a miss for me and one that I cannot recommend.

Sarah Strawinski says

This book is kinda confusing. It jumps from person to person. You don't really know how they all tie together until you have learned about each person. At that point you have to look back in the book to remember what you learned about each person. Don't get me wrong this is a really good book, it's just kinda hard to follow sometimes. When you get to the end it all makes sense and it turns out to be a very great book.

Let me tell you a little about the book. It's about a girl that is abandoned when she was young. She is adopted when she's about 5 years old. It turns out that her adoptive dad is a heavy drinker and gets abusive when he's drunk. Her name when she was born is Eva but her adoptive mother changes it to Brynn. Brynn goes through a lot in her life. She marries her high school sweetheart. When they start having problems Brynn/Eva is forced to face her past.

It is a really wonderful book. It took me a while to read but once I got about halfway through or so I couldn't put it down. I needed to know what happened to Brynn/Eva. It really didn't help that it ended on a major cliffhanger. As soon as I was done I went to see if there was a second book. I was so glad to see that there was and I immediately bought it. It is a dark book, it deals with drugs, drinking and abuse but it does it in such a way I don't think I would mind if my 13 year old daughter read it. It's a great book everyone should read it.

Heather says

I feel like this book should come with a big "Trigger Warning" sticker on it. Sivec pulls no punches (excuse the pun....) in her depictions of abuse, alcoholism, self-harm, and more. And, I must say, that's why I liked

Leaving Eva so much. Nothing was watered down, but at the same time, nothing felt over-the-top and into the realm of exploitation. It just felt very real. I think fans of books such as Bastard Out of Carolina will really enjoy this one. I'm really looking forward to reading the sequel.

I received this copy via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Stephenee says

* I received an ebook in exchange for an honest review. *

This book was my first book by author Jennifer Sivec but it will not be my last! She has touched on some very hard, yet very real topics and she wrote about them in a real and respectful way. I felt every emotion that Brynn/Eva went through - It was real and emotional and I felt like I was in the story witnessing the events unfold.

The author had a tight knit plot that flowed quickly and it was on a twisting, turning, curving road that left the reader needing more while at the same time dreading the end of the story coming too quickly. The reader was able to feel the events as if they happened to them and in a way that made the events feel so completely real. Adam and Brynn were such well developed characters and they were so well suited for each other. Brynn needed the type of love that Adam offered and Adam needed Brynn like he needed air to breathe. Then it all started to unravel.....and the reader laughed, cried and yelled right along with the characters.

There were a few problems with the book, but the plot, characters and situations made up for the spelling and punctuation errors that the reader found throughout the book. The overall vibe of the story will more than make up for these and the reader will just bypass them when they come along. This story is a must read for anyone who enjoys a true romance that withstands all of the tests that are thrown at them. It will make you laugh, cry, gasp, and leave you with your mouth hanging open wanting more. Make sure you add this book to your TBR list and make sure you have a new unopened box of tissues next to you once you start it. You will need them!

***Review has been done in conjunction with Nerd Girl Official. For more information regarding our reviews please visit our Fansite: www.facebook.com/NerdGirl.ng ***

Jennifer says

This review is from: Leaving Eva (The Eva Series Book 1) (Kindle Edition)

As I go back in my mind, I realize that I have never read a book quite like this one. The style of the book is very different. I believe it's partially told from a narrator's view. Other times, from the character's POV. At times, I really had a hard time following all of the characters. There are multiple characters in this book and each one had a story about them, even if a small one. The hardest thing for me to follow was the back and forth time changes. I found myself rereading several parts thinking I missed something, not realizing it was a different time frame than the previous chapter or even a few paragraphs before.

The story itself was really good. This is a dark, sad book, sad throughout the entire book. Very emotional. The book ended with a major cliffhanger. I would like to know what happens next but only if the story is told in a continuous fashion instead of back and forth time frames & through multiple characters.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. 3.5 stars.

Susan says

Ebook given from the Author for exchange of a honest review.

The story of Eva later known as Brynn is a emotional read. It takes you on a journey of a young girl to adult hood that has been through an extremely hard life. It touches on some very hard subjects abandonment, drugs, alcohol, abuse. To read this girls journey is amazing but not only hers but you read everyone in her life's POV and at times I got confused but later in the story understood why I was reading their side of the story.

Despite her upbringing she finds love and it is a pure unconditional love but being broken doesn't make that easy to accept. So you see her journey of self discovery also.

This story is a must read I was a little reluctant at first but there is no doubt in my mind I will be reading Jennifer Sivec work from now on she has a way with words brings them to life and it's truly inspiring.

Thank you for allowing me to read your masterpiece.

This review was requested through Book Pimpers Reviewers~Susan
<https://www.facebook.com/bookpimpers....>

Tbird London says

About a year ago I came across the book Losing Eva. It was one of those books that you just know you will never forget. At that moment Jennifer Sivec became THE author for me. I have never met her, I really have never talked to her, but as soon as her name is mentioned, still to this day, I have memories of Eva and how Jennifer is still one of the few authors who can draw out every emotion a human can have with her books. I immediately knew I had to read Leaving Eva so I bought my copy and it took me four days to get through it. I would read till I was sobbing so hard, my heart felt like it was breaking into a million pieces and I just barely was able to function as a mother because I was constantly hugging my daughters and telling them how much they were wanted and loved.

I was so emotionally wrecked I couldn't write a review a year ago for this book, it was too haunting, words would never live up to what I felt for this book and Eva. When I had the chance to read and review it this time, I was still a wreck, but I can now write the review. This story never left my mind over the year, it still wraps itself around my heart and I even volunteered to be a voice for kids in the court system because of this story. This series has the power to change lives and open the eyes of those willing to hear the horrific events. I know it changed my life.

She did a fabulous job in the synopsis of telling you what to expect on the pages. There are no words to describe what an open heart will feel when you read Eva's story. Growing up knowing she wasn't wanted except by the one woman who can't protect her was devastating. She was abused, she was mistreated, lied to, battered, let down and she was used. No child asks for this when they are born, but she was the perfect example of an unwanted child with no one to care for her.

She learned at an early age that sharing her secrets made her vulnerable, that trust was not to be given lightly to others. She also learned her value wasn't worth much compared to others agendas and needs. Every time happiness or dreams knocked on her door, life would lock it before she was able to find her escape. Her true worth was not seen, because no one looked for it. She grew up believing her value to others was disposable at any time in life.

Eva became a hero to me, her will to survive; to still care for others was beyond remarkable. She was never taught compassion, yet she had it. She was never given a chance to show her talents, yet she developed them. She really did raise herself and she was beautiful. I would love to tell you that this is an easy read, but it isn't. It IS a book everyone should read, discuss, learn from and find a way to help the Eva's in the world. Jennifer not only became one of my favorite authors, she became a hero to me. Her words inspired me to risk my heart and sit in the court rooms and speak on behalf of kids like Eva. Don't be so afraid you close your eyes to stories like this, learn from them, embrace them and do as I did.....hug your kids a bit tighter and tell them they are precious and valuable. Nothing can replace any child put on this Earth.

Hooked On Books says

I started this book & was so upset by it that I had to stop.

Then a couple of days later I started it again, with new eyes. I sat up till 3.30am & read as much as I could in one sitting.

This was an extremely emotional book from start to finish.

It jumped backwards & forwards a lot, but didn't detract from the story.

I found myself absolutely sobbing my heart more than once.

A very beautifully written story about a very ugly topic, and how eventually things can start to mend.

Goodness knows what is in store for Brynn next.

Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says

I was looking forward to Leaving Eva and am not one to be overly disturbed by themes of child abuse, possibly as my own life circumstances and childhood have given me a thicker skin than most but I can understand why this book might upset others.

The book is narrated at the start in a child's voice (Eva's), similar to the style of Room however it's not done as well, and has a lot of rough edges to it. I think the word "mommy" was excessively used very early on the book, perhaps a touch of overdose. Eva's life is not good, her daddy drinks and when not hitting her mommy and smashing her around he turns his temper and fists to young Eva. **Mommy bothered me by letting Eva know that they could not leave daddy even though he is violent because they "need him" - basically to be looked after. I personally had an issue with that early on.**

The book seems to switch narration from first person to third throughout and is written with some timeline jumping. It's not a bad book but really didn't wow me in anyway. I read a fantastic book called **Mazie Baby by Julie Frayn** and it covered similar subject matter but I found it so much more realistic and believable. There was just something about Leaving Eva that had me not quite *connecting* with the characters and therefore fully engaging with my heart.

Eva has awful abandonment issues and not surprising so relationships will no doubt be frayed with difficulties based on very real insecurities, this is explored later in the book as Adam enters Eva's world, the way Eva sees herself and how Adam sees her is chalk and cheese.

Many have really enjoyed this book so perhaps it's just one of those that just did not float my boat. After all books and reviews are very much a personal perspective. I will leave this one in your capable hands dear reader to decide if it's one for you or not. I personally am not enticed to read on any further into this series. Three stars from me as an okay read.

Many thanks to Booktrope for an ARC of this book to read in exchange for an honest review.

For more of my book reviews, plenty of awesome books to win, and author Q&A events come to:
<https://www.facebook.com/BookloverCat...>

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