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Pages For You: A Novel



Synopsis

A wry, tender novel of sexual and intellectual awakening. Something made her risk a look at the reader, who took a sip of black coffee. And another. She turned the pages. She pursed her lips. Flannery abandoned her breakfast and watched the woman drink her coffee. It wasn't that she wanted the coffee herself. That wasn't it. Rather, she wanted to be the coffee: she envied the dark drink its chance to taste those lips. In a steam-filled diner in a college town, Flannery Jansen catches sight of something more beautiful than she's ever seen: a graduate student, reading. Flannery, a seventeen-year-old, new to everything around her -- college, the East Coast, bodies of literature, and the sexual flurries of student life -- is shocked by her own desire to follow this beauty wherever it takes her. By chance she finds herself enrolled in a class taught by the remote, brilliant older woman; intimidated at first, she gradually becomes Anne Arden's student outside class as well. Whatever the subject -- Baudelaire, lipstick colors -- Flannery proves an eager pupil, until one day she learns more about Anne than she ever wanted to know. A bittersweet, exhilarating, sentimental education, *Pages for You* confirms Sylvia Brownrigg as "one of the most exuberantly agile minds among younger American writers" (Dan Cryer, *Newsday*) and is her sexiest, most poignant work to date.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Some reviews say that this book didn't have enough character depth. I want to agree with this, yet it feels rather like a real meeting between real people. When you meet someone that has had a few year of experiences and you only know them a short time, you don't get to know the person as well as you might like. As House used to say, "Everyone lies." Everyone keeps secrets, too. My kids used to tell me that I shared too much. That soon became "TMI, Mom!" Even with someone like me, there are secrets. Sometimes you just don't want to relive certain situations, or risk hurting someone else, or live through yet another lecture, or other personal reasons. That is what happens in this book. We have a short time with these two people and they both have their own secrets. We only get to know what the characters want to share. And though I couldn't relate, age-wise with either of the characters, I've never had those experiences, and as 'old' as the older one was supposed to be, to me, she was just a child, too. But I think everyone could relate to new romance and the complications of that first love. And that is what makes the story come alive. Watching this young girl come to terms with her first crush and her own sexuality. It is fun to travel within the university and then around the US with these two women. I believe that many high school or college age, female students, might like this book. They could relate much better than this old lady. Just enjoy the ride.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I grew to love the main characters and the chemistry between them. After reading a few chapters into it, I forgot that I was even reading a story about a young girl who fell in love (at first sight) with a strikingly strange woman at a diner, whom she later discovered was her Teacher's Assistant that she later had one of those "once in a lifetime" opportunities to have not only a gratifying relationship (that wasn't meant to last...), but also a number of gem filled self discoveries and experiences to go along with it. This is very serendipitous! and at the same time "enlightening" to me. The story seemed very real (at times) and hit the right emotional spots (at others), and the writing is very good too... As the color filled language was enough to activate the primary and tertiary colors of my own imagination, while leading me further into the story's forrest like a deer panting by the water. I love the way the story ends too... As it became quite obvious to

me (in a gradual kind of way...) how much Flannery's character had "grown"... and showed significant signs of "being ready" to leave that little love nest she was hibernating in, in order to see more of her "new self" and more of the world that was growing kind of stagnate and stale with Anne in it (if you ask me)...But I will let you read it for yourself. I definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes to feel pages "breathe" when they read...Check it out if you can. It is both sweet and fulfilling. -Chana

Brownrigg has a beautiful way with words, and crafts a romance which delves into a debated part of culture many authors lean away from, decking it with the trappings of a Bildungsroman. Or perhaps it is the inverse. The rush of falling into love for the first time, the beauty of every moment of it, and then the torturous decline, and all of it through the eyes of uncertain youth. She tells you from the very start this relationship is one destined to break, but keeps you there despite your knowledge of the inevitable. Stylistically, I believe she could be a touch better in content. This is something of a coming of age story, yet at times it seems a bit too romantically focused, plagued by moments laden with potential that leers unfulfilled by simple lust. Yet, the emotion of the work is something gorgeous in its pleasures and agonies, pushing these flaws to the background.

Anyone who has had a first love can appreciate this story. Two women (one younger and one older) find each other and fall in love fast and. This story really encompasses the temporary blindness to the outside world we allow ourselves when we are so infatuated with someone. The telling of the story is realistic in that most love stories do not work out and the author foreshadows this throughout the book. The way the author describes their interactions really hit home for me not only because I am a lesbian but because I, like most people, have loved and lost. Some of the book almost seemed lyrical. I found myself crying and remembering back to my own experiences. You don't have to be gay to empathize with the characters. You just have to be human.

I found this well thought out, the characters well developed. It is a must read for anyone who had that first love in college. I highly recommend it. I hope this writer does something soon. I love how she writes.

This is my favorite line, "If Flannery was going to have to start listening for lies, not simply silences, didn't that mean it was already over?" There are so many insights about first loves, especially, women in love. Although I was reminded of my own first heartbreak with a woman and the book

made me sad, I don't regret reading it. I'm sure these characters will stay with me long after the "Pages" have been turned.

This book took a long time to get to my house and it says "withdrawn newton free library on the front page. Did I get this from a library or was it a library book that someone just sold. Inside the book there are several pages that have brown ink marks, and food finger print marks, that is gross. I am not buying from this seller again.

Easy read nice story. I wouldn't say it's a classic, but it was entertaining and held my interest.

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