

REVIEWS

PRAISE

CUSTOMER REVIEWS (AMAZON + GOODREADS ++)

67 READER REVIEWS (4.64 OUT OF 5 STARS)

45 5-STAR REVIEWS

"genuinely extraordinary"

20: 4 STARS - 2: 3 STARS 1: BLAST FROM THE PAST

67

5 out of 5 Stars

A.L

January 1, 2018

WILD RIDE!

This book is an adventure! I have never read a book like it nor do I think I'll ever find anything remotely similar ever again. It was witty, and tragic, and funny and serious all at the same time. It takes a very quirky mind to write this way and the author pulled me in from the very beginning and did not let go! If you are not sure if you want to give this book a shot, do yourself a favor and read it just because it's a memoir doesn't make it any less interesting on the contrary, I think it makes it even better knowing that what you are reading is not a work of fiction. It reminded me of some of my favorite shows where the characters talk about a thousand different topics all in one conversation and I've never had a problem keeping up, if you want a good read, this is the book for you.

66

5 out of 5 Stars

C Huff

December 27, 2018

A WILD RIDE!

This book is laugh-out-loud hysterical! “Driving in Reverse – the Life I Almost Missed” by author Lindsay Wincherauk really makes you think you’re driving backward in a busy parking lot. It’s chock-full of sarcasm and humor and has an unbelievable storyline. The author claims he buried his parents, but they came back to life sixteen years later. He’s having a streak of bad luck and steadily heading toward a midlife crisis. He’s lost two friends and members of his family, not to mention his girlfriend dumps him. So, he’s had enough and decides to head to Europe with Dave, his friend. But when he tries to renew his passport, his life comes apart. He discovers he’s the protagonist in a dark family secret. So, he sets off on a wild ride and visits eleven countries in a month. Along the way, he meets up with a slew of shady characters.

This is definitely a book almost anyone can relate to. As I read it, I felt that the author was writing my life story instead of his. Most of this hit home with me. When Author Wincherauk finally made it back home, he came to the realization that the only way for him to survive was to write his story. Tell the world what happened. And that’s what he did. And that’s what this book is about.

I highly recommend this book to anyone. I’m sure there will be a part or parts that you can relate to. You will laugh, and you’ll hold your breath as you go on the adventure of a lifetime with this author. You’ll be glad you read it because it’s definitely unforgettable!

65

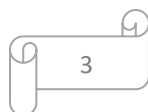
4 out of 5 Stars

Jessica Gadd (Goodreads)

December 10, 2018

Great Read!

This is a big book that is so unique! Loved it! Such an honest look into the authors life that will keep you up reading late into the night. This memoir is funny, entertaining, and takes you on a wild ride! Its really amazing what someone can endure and still come out of it with love and a positive outlook on life.



Great read!



5 out of 5 Stars

James H (Verbal Review)

November 26, 2018

Extraordinary, brilliant, hilarious!

Wow, awesome, brilliant, I loved it!

Hey, James.

I'm talking about your book. It's amazing. I loved it. Even with the sensitive subject matter I found myself struggling to contain myself – I laughed so hard at times. It really is a fantastic read. You are one funny man, smart. The story blew me away. It took me a bit to get into it but once I did, I couldn't put it down. I didn't come in for jobs on Thursday and Friday because I became so engrossed in the story. It reminds me a bit of Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, but funnier.

I'd lend it out to friends to read but I don't know many people who can read!

Thanks, James, I'm glad you enjoyed it.

I loved it. I can't wait for the next book. Are you writing another book...you are, great! You tease the story in this book. That's unfair.

James, I'm still alive. The teasers will end when –

Lindsay, thank you. I loved it. Fantastic job! Great book!

I could really see your story on the big screen!

4 out of 5 Stars**Roses at Sanford**

November 23, 2018

Intriguing, heartfelt and inspirational!

After finishing this book, I feel like I have made a friend in Lindsay. In a tender, heartfelt memoir, as he notes throughout the story, he truly makes himself vulnerable to the reader and invites you into experiencing his life story - a phenomenal one at that. It is a panorama of the twists and turns of the emotional rollercoaster of life, amplified by the pain, confusion, and courage Lindsay exhibits when he discovers an earth-shattering family secret that few people can truly understand. It is also a glimpse into the mind of a soul that knows firsthand the feeling of brokenness, aimlessness, and despair, and Lindsay's story is one that can shine a light of hope for other people who are experiencing upheaval, family turmoil, or descent into the madness of drug use or the party lifestyle. Lindsay demonstrates a certain cynicism of the world around him due to a difficult life, but in contrast to this somewhat clouded view of the world, he exhibits a tremendous sense of empathy and a growing sense of understanding of his - and every person's - place in the world that he pieces together along his journey.

The book took me a while to finish because the writing style made it a bit difficult for me to follow, comprehend, and connect the dots of the big picture at times, but despite that, this was a worthwhile piece and I'm glad Lindsay decided to share his story with us, the readers. It's a fascinating and gripping account, and it tugs at the heartstrings, as both an introspective autobiography and a message of love and hope for those who have experienced soul-crushing darkness of their own.

Overall, this quote by Lindsay towards the end of the book stood out most to me (and actually brought a tear to my eye because it resonated with me due to my own life experiences):

"I've shared my story because I've determined we're supposed to bring light into people's lives, not darkness. We are simply supposed to be kind to each other."

I can't explain or put my finger on why, but these words struck me as not only very poignant but as a very authentic synopsis of a sense of purpose, the words of a human being, once lost in the wilderness and broken to the point of living on a razor's edge, now determined to triumph and be the hero that writes his own happy ending. Thank you, Lindsay, and we hope for a sequel someday as an update on your journey!

5 out of 5 Stars
Reading Momma
November 19, 2018

Good Read!

Good Book!

5 out of 5 Stars

Melinda

November 12, 2018

Hit the brakes we have a show stopper!

Maybe, keep the hair? Actually, he's attractive either way. *Driving in Reverse - the life I almost missed* by Lindsay Wincherauk was actually, a great memoir. I don't generally enjoy memoirs but this one spoke to me. Maybe because of how raw and real it was. The book didn't feel overly glorified or forced. It was almost like sitting down with a new-found friend and shooting the breeze. Lindsay touches on everything from suicide to sex, love, and numbing substances. I have a profound amount of respect for an author that just so blatantly put it all out there. The dry humor throughout was also a real pleasure! Any writing that gives me the feeling that I'm in on a secret is an easy win for me.

I would strongly recommend *Driving in Reverse - the life I almost missed* by Lindsay Wincherauk. I would recommend the book for anyone that wants a good read and anyone that wants to know they're not alone in the struggles they face. While some of Lindsay's of course are unique to him, the essential essence of the problems, we all face. Sometimes it's just nice to know that everyone struggles and you're not crazy. I do however feel that the format in which the memoir was written was something not to be desired. Writing in the format that Lindsay did is hard and not easily pulled off. I thought it would have been a much better read if it was written in a regular format. All and all aside from that, I loved the book and the context of it was amazing. 10/10 would recommend

Lindsay hit it out of the park!

4 out of 5 Stars

James

November 11, 2018

Review for Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed by Lindsay Wincherauk

I have to say much of the lead up to reading this book, I felt was just hype, however; I was never more pleasantly wrong. *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* by Lindsay Wincherauk is certainly lives up to the “hype” and then some. It is a dark, twisty, and tumultuous story. And, it truly is stranger than fiction, which I believe is how one knows it is true. You simply cannot make this stuff up, it must be lived and experienced. And, it is a huge asset to the studiers of the human condition that such authors as Lindsay Wincherauk exist to recount such epic tales.

Let me first say that I feel the title of this book “*Driving in Reverse*” does not do it justice, I believe the original title was so much better and appropriate to the contents here within “*Russian Clowns & Drag Queens - Seed’s Identity Tour*,” now there is a title I would pick up. Cause as this book is, I am a huge fan of reading stream of consensus and for lack of a better term, gonzo reporting. Which I believe if not fully, at least slightly, Lindsay’s *Driving in Reverse* falls into.

It is a “trippy” journey from suicidal construction workers, battles both internal and external with cancer, death, life, birth and everything in between. I do recommend joining in on this journey and picking up Lindsay Wincherauk’s *Driving in Reverse: The life he and we almost missed*.

5 out of 5 Stars

Yes, that Maria

November 8, 2018

Funny and touching!

Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed is a memoir that blends humor and mystery by Lindsay Wincherauk. It tells his story of loss and rediscovery while highlighting Lindsay's sharp wit and often self-deprecating humor.

I have to admit that I am usually not a huge fan of memoirs, especially those about figures I do not know. However, I was initially drawn to this book because of Lindsay's humor which I find to be similar to my own (e.g., sarcastic and often self-deprecating). Well, I am surely glad I did read this book because it somehow managed to blend memoir, mystery, and humor into ultimately a book about loss and rediscovering yourself.

Much of the beginning of the book is surrounded around letters to a fictional figure named "Ed." I thought that this was a brilliant way to start a memoir as it made it feel genuine as though the reader were getting an inside look into a personal aspect of the author's life despite Ed not being real. I don't want to reveal too much about the book's "whoa" moments, but overall, I really appreciated Lindsay's honesty in dealing with loss and life-changing events. There is no flowery diatribe on discovering his new self or "seeing the light," which I found strangely refreshing and genuine to my personal experiences. Often, we look at events and their aftermaths with a sense of general reflection that doesn't include a singular profound moment. Although I didn't the exact same moments that the author did, I was able to deeply resonate with many of his reflections and the results of those events.

This is a great read about life's and your own personal mental difficulties, and how to use humor to make sense of it all.

5 out of 5 Stars

Amazon Customer

November 8, 2018

Please fasten your seatbelt...

“Driving in Reverse – The Life I Almost Missed” by Lindsay Wincherauk is a frenetic dive into the unusual life of the author. Imagine yourself literally driving in reverse, very fast, through a crowded parking lot and there you have it – the author’s life. However, as he is driving in reverse through this imaginary parking lot, he stops along the way. These stops are both real and metaphorical at the same time. They are real in the fact that this is his actual life – his truth, and metaphorical because at the same time the life lessons that he learns are important to his finally driving forward.

He begins by writing letters to “Ed”. These letters go back and forth in time. Ed is like a friend who Wincherauk feels completely and utterly comfortable with. Ed give him is undivided attention as Wincherauk recounts memories of his life.

Chapter 2 onward begins the “meta memoir” of his life from birth to present. There are photographs sprinkled through his narrative which helps to draw the reader in as he recounts his highs as well as his lows with one of the lowest being the death of his father followed closely by his mother and a close friend. This was a heartbreaking part of his story. Then on a trip to Europe he finds out about “family secret” that nearly levels him completely. There are bouts of drugs, a torn ACL, and many, many loves in his life. Just when you think Wincherauk’s life can’t possibly get any crazier, it does, but he preservers.

This memoir is not for the faint of heart, but well worth the ride!

I enjoyed it and highly recommend it!

4 out of 5 Stars

Morag Totten

November 8, 2018

Hectic, honest, and uplifting!

Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed is a crash-course in humility. Author Lindsay Wincherauk opens with scenes of his childhood on the vast Canadian prairies. Early life as the youngest (and rather unexpected) child was challenging. Living with an alcoholic father, an overworked but loving mother, and in the shadow of his older brothers, Lindsay maneuvered his way through government sponsored housing projects, rural life, and the unrelenting teasing of school children.

To say that this book starts with childhood and progresses into adulthood would be misleading. Rather than following a linear timeline, Wincherauk weaves a web of life experience resulting in a narrative as scattered as his life sometimes felt to him. While he sacrifices a certain kind of organization, he rewards the reader with honesty. Wincherauk is candid from the very beginning that the original version of his memoir was a stream of consciousness, unedited accounting of his memory. He has since combed through his original draft and his efforts certainly show. Having said that, I give this book 4 stars instead of 5 because his narrative style takes some getting used to. I very nearly put the book down once or twice but at the end of each chapter... he left me wanting more.

Throughout the course of his life, the author struggles with rejection, loss of friends and family, existential questioning and longing... all of life's challenges. Perhaps it's the benefit of hindsight that allows the author to examine these hurdles in a new way, whatever the case, Wincherauk transforms what could be dark days into a certain kind of lightness. Upon first reflection I found myself thinking that the author was missing some overall true-ism about life, that he needed to condense his experience into some sort of wisdom. Now that I've finished reading this work, I realize that his wisdom is more soft-spoken than distilled bits of truth found in poetry and philosophical text. The true joy of this book comes from the openness with which the author shares his experience and the willingness he demonstrates in engaging with life, even when circumstances might suggest it would be easier to check out.

It seems an overall theme of this work is an invitation for readers to find the silver lining in all of life's experiences, no matter what happens. My advice is to stick with it, laugh when times are up, commiserate when times are tough, and share our lives with others!

5 out of 5 Stars

Kennedy JNR

November 7, 2018

Very bitter but sweet story

I love this book.

The story is so much of a tragedy that I pity the author or narrator for that matter. I just wondered why a parent could do something bad like that to his/her child. I remember watching some movies when the main actors play dad so as to come back with a triumphant entry!! But this is a child. So much of a pity. The loss of parents, friends, and confusing life can really make one lose focus for life and turn out to do the unexpected. Everything in the story just stands out. I like the story so much, I must refer this book to my friends in my reading group.

The title of the book is so outgoing. *Driving I Reverse*, it gives you many thoughts; the usual one being driving a car in reverse, that's what my friend said when she saw the title. But now going deeper like how is the reverse driving depicted in the book?? Is it the truth coming to light? A truth hidden for a very long time and you never had chance to know about it!! I got myself thinking, you have your life but really don't understand the same life...haha so funny right?? Get that feeling from the book, I started with pity, but the story grew so nice that now I want to read it again and again. I should just say it is a wonderful story, true of creativity, it is a great read.

5 out of 5 Stars

Sophia Gilstrap

November 2, 2018

HARD TO PUT DOWN

This book amazed me at every turn. I kept checking to see if it really is a memoir because the story is so much more exciting than an average person's memoir. I have to say I loved the writing style of the author. I felt like the author was really talking to me personally. By the first few pages I was already so connected to the author, like we were old friends. Then the further I read, the more I enjoyed it. There's a lot of very interesting events that kept the story going and the mystery is going to blow your mind when you read this. Which I would highly recommend.

I don't want to give anything away, but the way the author handles all difficulties in the book were really pleasing to me. I've personally had some hardships that are a bit like the authors. Not near as exciting but reading how he dealt with them and how his life went on touched me personally. I could really feel what the author was feeling. The way he expressed his joy, sadness, grief, and every other emotion packed into his life was beautifully written. It could have been much harder to read, but he really captured everything in a way that made me feel comfortable reading things that I generally might feel uncomfortable hearing about.

I would definitely recommend getting this book. I have it on kindle and I'm considering buying the hard copy. It's a whirlwind of an amazing journey, and it was a pleasure to read.

4 out of 5 Stars

Alex V. Strang

Sept 26, 2018

Easy to identify with...

Lindsay's memoir is an easy story to identify with. He begins by sharing these one-sided letters he writes to a man he has never met, and it almost feels like reading a friend's journal. He is forthcoming about his intentions and feelings, a pattern of communication which he keeps up for the rest of the story even after the letter-sharing part subsides. True to his word, this story does feel like it is just as much about him as it is everyone.

I would recommend reading *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* if you're travelling, or on vacation, or want to feel like you have stakes in a stranger's life. There are some sad parts, but the author approaches, muddled through, and in the end faces the issues, feels relatable and rewarding.

Also! Lindsay's memoir has an interesting set-up in terms of how he bolds/centers words, makes lists, and includes pictures. It is definitely unique in that aspect, and surprisingly adds a lot of character!

4 out of 5 Stars

Amazon Customer

Sept 20, 2018

Different from the rest...

Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed is a thought-provoking book. I did notice some formatting errors, but it was not a big deal to me. One of my favourite things about this book is how it is written differently than many other books in the same genre. The author does a good job of writing in a way that makes the reader feel without following the typical rules of writing a memoir. Honestly, this book was not what I expected, but it was still inspiring to read. There were a few moments in the book that I felt a little lost regarding what was going on, but I do get the overall picture and point of the book. Those moments felt like I was in the middle of chaos in the mind, but it is a different writing style that is authentic. I really didn't like the pictures in the book. I felt like they were sized wrong and slightly distracting. Some sections of the book were highly entertaining. You could feel like you were apart of this crazy journey even with the unique format. I felt the emotion behind some of the characters like the part of him searching for his birth father. I found myself really hoping for the best for him when he endured so much.

Overall, this is one of the most unique books that have interesting layers that tell a one-of-a-kind story.

4 out of 5 Stars

Peter Lipentine

Sept 19, 2018

Great insights into the author's life!

Driving in Reverse written by Lindsay Wincherauk is non-fiction book written about the author's life. Developed from the concept that when his parents died they weren't even his real birth parents, watching a man die in a car crash, and a suicidal carpenter telling his problems.

To not sound traditional, the author has created his book with a twist similar to the movie *Big Fish*. Written in the style of a letter to a fictional character called Ed, this book helps describe the day in the life of the author. Being offered NHL tickets, and watching TV on a Monday night might sound like what we all do but as the book progresses we find out some great insights into the author's life. Having a flashback to 1981 when he was a quarterback of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Football Team when he was told by one of his team mates that he was going bald; looking for cures of baldness like some stuff from: a Brazilian Frog and Ginger – twenty years later, and his hair is still the same. So, many more insights are scattered throughout this book as it progresses to the final end of the book where the X-Files was been launched onto Television.

This book is very everyone – who wants to have an enjoyable read!

5 out of 5 Stars

Tyler B

Sept 15, 2018

A unique read!

I am in awe of the style of writing this book takes on...with its fast-paced change of scenery and intense wisdom from a life-changing event. It is truly a read that will make you rethink your life; as I did many times throughout the story. The story can be somewhat hard to follow as it is formatted in such a way that it seems he is writing his story out in a letter and then switches quite abruptly to consciousness writing. Overall though, the format of the story is very interesting and unique, making this book a must read for anyone looking to be captivated by a wild story.

I loved this story because it covers great self-discovery topics such as love, family, adoption, and finding strength through sharing your story with others. The descriptive writing makes it ridiculously easy to submerge yourself in the author's life story starting from early childhood. This book is full of wonderful characters who are well-rounded. If you are looking to read a life memoir that takes you on a fast-paced journey that will leave you increasingly curious and surprised as the events unfold then this story is the one for you. A truly wisdom-filled read with the only issue being it can be hard to grasp the writing style at times.

4 out of 5 Stars

VT Reviewer

Sept 10, 2018

This is a wonderfully sarcastic view of life!

"Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed" by author Lindsay Wincherauk is just an amazing story. It is strongly sarcastic, but in a way that is outlandishly comical. Wincherauk's sharp wit is great; his storyline is sad but honest. I loved this combination. The book is, in my opinion, a brilliant metaphysical trip into the past, into 'the life he almost missed.' I found similarities to my own, somewhat emotionally tortured childhood, and feel that many will identify with Wincherauk's comments. Most of us just don't have the ability to express them as does he. I could relate to the author's feelings and emotions and love the way he writes.

The topics discussed in the book are very 'adult' and should be accepted as such. He discusses what life really is, not what we wish it would be. He often got really bad deals, or had bad luck, and doesn't mind relating those things to the reader.

The book is a true example of ultimate perseverance in life. Things don't always work out perfectly, but life is still good and worth working for.

I am happy with my purchase of Mr. Wincherauk's book and hope to read more of his work in the near future. I recommend *"Driving in Reverse-"* to any adult reader with a desire to experience a written example of truth and a spirit of determination.

4 out of 5 Stars**River Writes**

Sept 8, 2018

One wild ride!

Wincherauk takes us on one wild ride in his memoir *“Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed.”* Thankfully the reader is prepped during the introduction for the dark, difficult, enlightening journey ahead. This memoir does not read like the well-known, novel-esque memoir you’ll likely find on your local bookstore shelf. Rather, Wincherauk prides himself on having worked with an editor who encouraged his artistic, stylized story. For example, we actually start off in Chapter 1 reading letters that Wincherauk wrote to the fictional “Ed,” who is a collection of people named Ed from across the country. This first chapter is a wonderful insight into how Wincherauk’s mind works, and his ability to creatively take a hold of his life (for better or for worse).

That being said, you should be warned: if you’re a die-hard fan of chronological pieces, this won’t be the memoir for you. The book skips around in time, pieces together different stories, information and thoughts. If you love thought-provoking, somewhat mind-twisting reads, then I highly recommend this book to you! I have no doubt that you’ll find, by the end and through the twists, that you are satisfied having listened to Wincherauk’s story.

Although dark at times, Wincherauk maintains a humorous, self-aware tone throughout the novel. Whether I was laughing, scoffing or holding back tears, I was consistently turning the pages to get to know Wincherauk better. In the end, I feel as though I’ve read a memoir that will stick with me. I would argue that I have connected with Wincherauk through his words and am incredibly thankful for the work that he put into this enthralling book!

4 out of 5 Stars

Michael Mahoney

Sept 5, 2018

A deep memoir told in a very personal style!

This book is unusual. Let me say that I enjoyed this read, though it wasn't for the reasons I expected.

I'll be honest, the first few chapters, had me confused. Once I got past them, I began to understand; this book is intimate. It is a raw telling of Lindsay Wincherauk's life which made me feel as though the two of us were sitting at a bar, speaking over drinks. The way Wincherauk tells his story reminded me of the stories others would tell me. Those big stories that deserve to be told. Those stories that are engraved in that person's mind. *Driving in Reverse* isn't some over-thought memoir squeezed into a mold for the mass market. It is an emotional recollection of this man's life told on a deep, personal level.

Wincherauk shares the same desire as the rest of us. He wants a life where he can live and be happy. Rather than having antagonists show up to make things difficult, I got the impression that life itself was his antagonist. From the moment he was born things have been incredibly challenging for Wincherauk. His is a life filled with darkness with an occasional beam of light. The author's ability to not give in to his depression (excusing at least one failed attempt) is incredible. The challenges thrown at him would wear down most, but Lindsay endured and came out better for it.

I recommend *Driving in Reverse* by Lindsay Wincherauk to anyone looking for an intimate, personal story of one man's turbulent life story. No, it isn't perfect. Yes, it might even offend you. That's life though. There is inspiration in every story.

5 out of 5 Stars

Christine Patriarca

Sept 2, 2018

A FUN READ!

Upon finding this book I was unsure about what I would find. But when I began to read I was delightfully surprised! This author is witty, quirky, and best of all: ORIGINAL! I love this. I was hooked at the introduction and had so much fun reading. Instead of penning your typical novel or bundle of short stories, this author writes letters to random individuals.... all named Ed. In these letters, "Seed," Lindsay W's pen name, approaches these people as if they were his personal diary, and an old, dear friend. Lindsay has a natural talent for amiably forming connections with these Eds while babbling on about his personal life.

I really can't give this guy enough praise. Everything he writes is so creative, inventive, and a total pleasure to read. I am not bored for even one paragraph.

I absolutely recommend this fun book!

4 out of 5 Stars**JC Ahern**

August 28, 2018

An entertaining and heart-wrenching memoir that hits to the depths of your soul—

What first drew me to this book was its intriguing book blurb. I thought, "This looks like an interesting mystery."

I soon discovered that it was a memoir, a memoir mystery. With each page, I read, I was more intrigued, from the way the author decided to format his story--as if he is writing a letter to someone named Ed and telling his story to that person--to his stream-of-consciousness writing. Of note, his stream-of-consciousness style is sometimes hard to follow, but it sure is interesting to read. Even more riveting was the build-up of anticipation as he regales the reader with his experiences with drugs, alcohol, sex, and death. One begins to wonder, what could this dark family secret be, that is worse and more soul-wrenching than what he has already shared?

My mind thought this and as my mind does, it came up with all the possibilities that could be worse. I won't say if I guessed the family secret or not, but I will say, that life is stranger than fiction, as the author himself says at one point in his memoir; that's not just the name of a movie. You won't be disappointed. My reason for four stars instead of five is the amount of debauchery depicted, not because I'm a prude, but because after so much it begins to seem redundant. Get through that, however; and you have an entertaining and heart-wrenching memoir that hits to the depths of your soul. It also ends on a cliff-hanger, for the life he is living and is going to live.

5 out of 5 Stars

Britanni H

August 24, 2018

A Heartbreakingly Raw Journey—

“Driving in Reverse” by Lindsay Wincherauk is the author’s raw and beautifully tragic journey through life. You could say Lindsay was given the short end of the stick when he was dealt his family. As the youngest of seven kids, Lindsay craved the attention of his parents and siblings, but, in turn, was only handed a lack of affection and adoration. When his father became ill with cancer, Lindsay stayed at his bedside to care for him. And ironically, his mother fell victim to the same fate just a few years later. Sixteen years after the death of his parents, as Lindsay begins planning a trip to Europe with his friend, Dave, a shocking realization comes to fruition when Lindsay realizes that the people he thought were his parents, were never actually his real parents. You’d think that another frustrating blow like this would set this man back even more, but Lindsay suffers and changes in a way that truly saves his life. Through tales of drugs, alcohol, emotionless sex, heartache, and rotten luck arise compassion, kindness, and beauty. The ending offers no emancipating realizations, but even so, it wraps up a life story that many readers can relate to.

The writing style changes throughout the memoir and can be a bit jerky at times, especially at the beginning, but the details and wit that are peppered in all make up for it if you stick with it. If you are someone struggling in life, this book is a perfect journey to remind you that something good does exist, and if you stick with it, you’ll find the light that will lead you to it.

4 out of 5 Stars**Mali**

August 18, 2018

A refreshing escape from the same, unoriginal stories of success and –

In my opinion, this was a well-written book. Some things were a bit out-of-place or unclear, but the memoir itself was very compelling. Joined by his family and friends, readers can see Lindsay's journey through his eyes. His story is unlike any other I've read. It's full of sadness and his feelings of Guilt, paired with happiness and motivation to overcome all of the hard times. Many people I know would do well to take tips from Wincherauk, whether it be on his ability to conquer his grief or what not to do in certain situations. Like everyone else, Lindsay isn't perfect. He's done some bad things, but he owns up to them. He put them out there for the world to see and he wasn't afraid to share his story, no matter how unusual it was. From experiencing loss to coping mechanisms to finding love and being accepted, this memoir covers it all. That, I feel, is what makes his memoir so exceptional and what made it such a good book to read. It wasn't like all the others, singing their own praises and making themselves akin to saints. Those are the books that, for me, are difficult to read. They're not realistic, nor are they interesting. Lindsay's book was a refreshing escape from the same, unoriginal stories of success and never-ending happiness. Though it had its occasional flaw, it was filled with originality and raw emotion that separates it from all of the others.

I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone.

5 out of 5 Stars

David Gunner

August 11, 2018

You will laugh out loud. You will cry.

One day while driving a suicidal contractor to work, Lindsay realized that his story was important. Thus, began the long arduous journey to arrive to this book. The efforts were well worth it. This book is inspiring and occasionally hilarious. The author leaves nothing hidden. His telling of his life story is candid and transparent.

Lindsay knows loss. He worked two jobs like most people. When he thought he had gained a momentous break, he was hit with a big blow. Something that would upturn his life. A shock that would also explain a few incidences in retrospect. He survived through all of it. The end is a happy one. He is alive and well. He overcame. This is a tale of strength despite thorns pressed into the flesh.

The author's style of writing is a bit unique. He does not follow a traditional structure. His writing pretty much mimics his thought processes, which is an interesting experience to be a part of. His writing is colored with emotion and intricacy. Everything from the style to the structure is specific to him. His highlight of characters that might seem mundane is special, as the reader will realize the importance of this later.

You will laugh out loud. You will cry. This book will not leave you alone even after you have finished reading. It will always nag at you. You will find yourself mentally referring to the lessons therein. The fact that Lindsay Wincherauk is brave enough to share his triumph. The hard work that went into writing this book is evident in nuances and resulting literary experience.

Five Stars for 'Driving in Reverse.'

4 out of 5 Stars

Heather Conlin

August 8, 2018

Delightfully organized chaos!

Driving in Reverse: The Life I almost Missed is a very uniquely written memoir of the author's life. When I first started reading this, I wasn't sure I was going to like it - it's written in a very almost chaotic way that makes it hard to follow at first. Once I settled in however, that's what I liked most about reading this book! The Author includes flashbacks and anecdotes along with reflections of his life. It's sarcastic and crude at times - but you could definitely feel the real, raw emotions. Lindsay Wincherauk has plenty of interesting stories and life events to tell about!

There was a teaser of a major family secret that he tossed out in the beginning and didn't fill us in on until the end of the book, and that definitely kept me turning the pages to see what was going to happen.

The book is relatable, and interesting. I think we can all relate to some of the author's experience at some level, and it was interesting to read about his emotions and how he handled the struggles that life keeps tossing his way. I'm glad I read this - and actually, look forward to reading the sequel!

INTERACTION WITH A SOON-TO-BE-READER
VIA INSTAGRAM

JC

July 24, 2018

HILARIOUS + POIGNANT!

Amazing!

I've read a lot about you and can't wait to read *Driving in Reverse*!

May I ask where you've read about me?

I looked you up online (your website). Some stuff was hilarious, other was quite poignant. You absolutely have much to share – not only have you survived, but you have thrived!

Congrats on the 32 5-STAR REVIEWS. That just confirms what I already thought, your book is well worth the read.

5 out of 5 Stars

Amazon Customer

July 21, 2018

Achingly real and insightful!

What do you do, when life hands you lemons?

Add them to your drinks!

This is the tale of Seed (aka the author Lindsay Wincherauk) and how time and time again he gets dealt a bad hand after being on the upswing in life for a brief, shining moment. At an early age, he was taunted by his older brothers as not being 'one of them.' He excelled at sports only to need repeated knee surgeries. He falls in with some less than savory characters that become his friends and winds up working small jobs and drinking his way to his 40's - often being homeless or just on the brink of it several times. Then, he meets Trish - a fun gal who is also into drinking and drug use. After their messy breakup, Seed learns that his real mother was actually his sister and that he was raised by his grandmother and grandfather (but he thought they were his mother and father). He has no idea who is real father is. This devastating revelation along with the death of his aunt (and an inheritance) makes him run away. Traveling anywhere fate takes him. Seed is compelled to write this memoir after driving a suicidal man to work one day and realizing that in order to move forward, he needs to come to grips with the past.

This wonderfully real recollection of the author's life is a testament to the tenacity of living and the gloriousness of growing comfortable with your own path.

INTERACTION via FACEBOOK

I absolutely loved your book. I felt like I was listening to an old friend tell me his story. Thank you for sharing.

ME: Thank You!

5 out of 5 Stars

Jessica Bone

July 19, 2018

He writes from his soul...

Author Lindsey Wincherauk is down on his luck and headed for a midlife collapse. Working two dismal jobs to pay his trendy Yaletown rent, grieving the sudden loss of two friends and family members, and his dumped by the love of his life, Lindsey looks for the buddy Dave. By a twist of fate, his life turns completely upside down when he attempts to renew his passport and discovers he is the main character in a dark family secret. Reeling from the shock, Lindsay grabs his bags and blasts through 11 countries in 31 days.

Wincherauk's story moves at breakneck speed as the author describes his flight through pain and madness spinning into surreal side trips, where he meets an inferno of wild characters. He comes precariously close to self-destruction and knows that until the hidden pieces of his life are uncovered something would be missing.

I was blown away by his story. If you are looking for a traditional biography you will be disappointed. He is far from a traditional biography writer, he writes from his soul which bring you closer not just to his characters but himself, which takes you on a range of emotional ups and downs from his sad childhood to his heartbreaks of adulthood. I found his unique story resonated with me, I may not walk his path but the depth of his sorrow throughout his life when dealing with the Big C, family lies, and deaths.

This is one biography that should not be missed.

5 out of 5 Stars

DP - Arizona

July 16, 2018

*His childhood was truly tragic,
and it would have been painful to read about in isolation.*

According to "conventional wisdom," Lindsay Wincherauk's childhood should have left him a bitter, lonely, and hateful sociopath. His childhood was truly tragic, and it would have been painful to read about in isolation. But you see, Mr. Wincherauk is a master storyteller. Resilience, hope, humor, and strength are a common thread to which the reader can cling while reading the darkest passages. As for me, I developed a deeply personal fellowship with the author as I turned the pages. I sensed that he had entrusted me with his most intimate memories and reflections because he somehow knew that I would withhold judgment and refrain from offering advice. So, I did just that and I must say, I was reluctant to read the final chapter, because I so enjoyed the hours spent listening to Lindsay share with me the trials and triumphs that define who he is today.

This is a powerful memoir that will move you and challenge your assumptions about life and love and happiness.

Enjoy!

38

A REVIEW IN PROGRESS (ALMOST LIVE) + A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

(5 out of 5 Stars)

TM

July 13, 2018

Wow, bro, nicely done!

You can't golf worth a (expletive), but you can write a book. Read a little last night. Wow, bro, nicely done!

Taking it to the beach on Sunday with some red wine. Nice read, cheers, good for you!

To be continued –

37

A REVIEW IN PROGRESS (ALMOST LIVE) + A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

(5 out of 5 Stars)

LF

July 11, 2018

A little visit with you!

Reading the book is like having a little visit with you.

To be continued –

5 out of 5 Stars

Karen E. Proctor - United Kingdom

July 10, 2018

Very uplifting

Anyone experiencing a run of ill luck in the life would do well to pick up this gem of a book. Like most people, I have developed my own coping mechanisms for when the going gets tough, but it always helps to get a different perspective because we all cope in different ways. *Driving In Reverse* hammered home the need to take positive action when life feels overwhelming. This is a wonderful account of a man who has done just that, and the results speak for themselves.

35

5 out of 5 Stars

Joanna E Johnson – United Kingdom

July 9, 2018

An Excellent Read

I think I was drawn to this book and its title because I was a little down, but it proved a real tonic. Bad things happen, things don't go to plan, some people embrace the challenge of change. Lindsay Wincherauk definitely falls into the latter category, albeit by a circuitous route, but the end result is a genuinely uplifting read. The book's blurb talks of Lindsay writing his way through the dark chapters, with wit and candour to break through to the other side – “reborn” - but if you invest in his words as a reader you will find yourself experiencing a paradigm shift in the way you see things.

An excellent read!

34

5 out of 5 Stars

Leo Flentje

July 13, 2018

This fun, crazy, wild and at times edgy book –

This fun, crazy, wild, and at times edgy book, has you captured in the life of Lindsay and takes you into his life as a child and young adult. This book was a constant page turner for me as Lindsay's telling of his troubles and persevering as a young adult and shows a powerful message to all readers that although your life may not be perfect, it's what you do during those times to make it to a better place and stay yourself. His book is filled with vulgar language and edgy situations, and I love it, as it adds a more realism to his novel that makes you feel more inside the book and more engaged. It makes you reflect upon your own life and about the choices that you've made throughout it. Growing up you always make certain decisions or are put in situations that you probably wouldn't want to be in today, and Lindsay takes those parts of his young life and puts it on paper, and it works great!

The loss of Lindsay's father in the book really stuck with me because he writes his novel in a way that glorified his father while also being brutally honest about the life he lived with him. He does this for all of his family, sending a message that life is never always charm and happiness and that you do have conflicts with your family. This adds a realism to his book that you don't really see in other books. Overall, I'm giving this book 5 Stars as it is a compelling read about a man who throughout the years has experienced things both good and bad and persevered throughout.

33

3 out of 5 Stars

Kathryn

June 25, 2018 (POSTED: July 10, 2018)

A POWERFUL AND INTENSE MEMOIR

This is a powerful and intense memoir. By all rights it deserves 5 Stars, it's someone's life-story after all. It was riveting, and I definitely wanted to find out what happened. Written in a Hunter S. Thompson - Gonzo-style, be prepared, for the reader goes along for the ride.

I think the book might find more readers if it weren't so big like a text book, but for those who take the plunge, they will be amazed by what the author endured.

32

5 out of 5 Stars

D Brent

July 9, 2018

Thank you, Lindsay,

Lindsay Wincherauk had a tough time, but boy did he do something about it! I am not sure I would have had the fortitude to do what he did but reading *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* has made me realise we only have two options when fate deals you a rotten hand. Do nothing or do something and the latter is by far the best option. I have tended to become immobilized by events in my life but am resolved to do things differently when fate next conspires against me. It may not be as radical as Lindsay but with so many pearls of wisdom in this book I know I will be better equipped and come out the other end far stronger for it.

Thank you, Lindsay!

31

A REVIEW IN PROGRESS (ALMOST LIVE) + A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

(5 out of 5 Stars)

Dale

June 28, 2018

Not like anything I've ever read.

At this point in your memoir, you're in NYC and are discovering that your core is solid. I find myself cheering you on, even though I met you two days ago and now you're going to get through all of this. You were correct; this is not like anything I've ever read.

June 29, 2018

#@%! Ed

I've never had the opportunity to interact with an author as I was reading his or her work and love it.

Your description of Crack Land in Amsterdam is SO vivid, I feel it. I sense it. The Aqua Man photo (Day 9: 16 October 2003) makes me wish – But the hottest thing about you is knowing about past participles! (deign)

Just want you to know that I appreciate being part of your journey. I really do feel like you're telling all of this to me, not some random Ed guy(s). I'm a way better listener than Ed. #@%! Ed.

July 2, 2018

... your humour is often rooted in pain...

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall was quite uplifting, but then I realized I was about to read *The Last Key-Stroke*s and forced myself to stop because –

I kind of picture being on a barstool next to you as we drink, and you share your stories. I feel so comfortable here. You make me laugh a lot, and sometimes that comes with a bit of guilt because much of your humor is often rooted in pain. But face it, you're just pretty-damn funny!

What comes to mind is when you wished people were paying more attention to how good your feet look. <eye roll>

I've always been empathetic to a fault, so as I listen I feel your feelings, though obviously not with the same intensity. You've given me a lot to think about. Like the nature of

happiness. Is it even about seeking a happy life? Or is it more realistic to seek happy moments, and be mindful when we're having one?

Much to think about the nature of love, too, but that's deep and I'm trying to wrap up this email.

More later, when I cross the finish line.

Happy Canada Day.

July 12, 2018

Be kind; for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

Anyway, I finished ~~your~~ our book last week. It was a helluva journey!

A couple of themes that really stand out – (1) The human capacity to love must be innate. Love wasn't expressed to you or modeled for you in your "formative years" (maybe all years are formative?) but you do love, and you love generously. (2) Your capacity to overcome and then to heal. It's quite remarkable.

You've reinforced the advice I've been seeing on social media, "Be kind; for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." You said something to that effect when we chatted.

I'm so glad you found your happy. Though my story is much less interesting, I found my happy at the age of 58 when I finally acknowledged my sexuality. The six years since then have been my new beginning.

Thanks for trusting me to read without judging or giving advice. You're a truly good soul and I'm glad to have connected.

A LOVELY BLAST FROM THE PAST

AG

July 6, 2018

The past and the present come together!

I just ordered a copy of your book *Driving in Reverse*.

I was up in Saskatoon last month and saw an article about you. It sure brought back a lot of childhood memories. Over the years I have wondered what became of the people that lived in Sturby Place?

I found some old class pictures of us back in public school at Alvin Buckwold. I remember you, me, Kerry Archibald, and David Renfrew, walking to school and always playing ball or hockey. You had a crush on Linda and I had a crush on Colleen.

I also remember the arrow in the roof of the car incident we got in a bit of trouble over that.

I am looking forward to reading your book!

Thanks for bringing back the memories.

30

5 out of 5 Stars

Darryl Wacker

June 27, 2018

Riveting and heartbreaking

Revealing and inspiring for this reader as I found out about an important part of my life that I have missed...

29

(5 out of 5 Stars)

M G Andres via Facebook

June 20, 2018

The cover of the book is so overwhelming. It pulls the whole story together!

28

(5 out of 5 Stars)

Jill via Twitter

June 20, 2018

I read it - Great book!

27

(5 out of 5 Stars)

CH - SE

June 6, 2018

Holy smokes what a great piece of writing!

I read your book on my iPhone on Monday night and was really, really, impressed with your storytelling and humour and honesty. The way you painted pictures with your words, I felt I was with you on your journey. That said, it would have been really creepy for me to be there for the bedroom scenes!

After reading the book, I'm not sure 1,000 words or thereabouts (feature) can do it justice.

5 out of 5 Stars

Karen Lynn

June 5, 2018

Mesmerizing, maddening, funny and true!

Get ready, folks. Lindsay Wincherauk's writing style is in your face. His prose is spot on when capturing how people relate to each other, especially when discussing dating, sex, difficult family issues, his blindness in one eye, use of drugs, trips to sandy beaches with a war waging on, as well as his perpetual visits to operating rooms (his knees are toast).

This book is packed with exciting stuff ... plus a bombshell concerning his family. There are hints of a Holden Caulfield here, which this reader welcomed.

Wincherauk makes friends easily, some of them caring, others, not so much. He seems to trust what all people say, but the truth is he's just hoping they aren't lying. He cried for 64 days, straight, due to losing his unfaithful lover. Yes, you want to scream, "Enough, snap out of it!" And it's right at that point when the author, given his deprecating humor and true love of humanity does snap out of it, if only for a brief respite ... Then, you turn the page and he's off to a drug room maligning him for going to a drug room. It is his glaring humanness, open and bloody at times that reels you back in.

This Canadian-born memoirist is especially adept at describing visitations with some random people, like a fellow he befriended on a park bench who was a better listener and more caring than people he'd known most of his life. There is goodness out there. Right outside your door. Life is like that. You just know somehow that Wincherauk will find his way. Hold onto your seat.

5 out of 5 Stars

Robert Confiant

June 1, 2018

Witty, sarcastic and funny

I know Lindsay. Well, I thought I knew him...

His story, as told in this book, took place before we met (in a bar of all places haha).

He's a good man. How he managed to stay that way considering what he has been through... I have an inkling – laughter and humour (trust me, it works).

Although a serious story, "Seed" sells it with wit, sarcasm and humour.

I could not put it down once I got into it (to the detriment of my own writing time).

You should read this unique story; it is definitely: a one-of-a-kind-story.

You won't be sorry you picked up this read.

5 out of 5 Stars**Alex Reads**

June 1, 2018

A CRAZY LIFE --> DEPRESSION --> A JOURNEY

Lindsay's memoir draws you in from the beginning. The intro puts it all into perspective, where he is coming from, the struggle to publish and sticking to his guns about the style necessary to express his life in a way that gives it an authentic voice. Those with a bit more Avant Gard or creative flair would enjoy the very different format it is written in. It took a while to adjust, especially with the beginning letter. But as you get to know Lindsay, you understand why he does it. Whether it's the alcohol, the drugs or depression, his fragmented voice adds to the story.

You do feel like you know him, and I found my mind reeling from his stories - from childhood and his heartbreaks. Seeking love, Lindsay doesn't give up and I found myself cheering for him throughout. His story is a testament to how having a good support system is necessary, whether it is family, friends or lovers.

You move through the story and long for his happiness. Lindsay is sarcastic and honest, sometimes a bit too honest and the characters in his life at times seem larger than life. That a person can look back years and really reflect on their life to the extent that he has is impressive. I wish I had read this in paperback as the photos on Kindle were hard to see, as they wouldn't enlarge when touched.

I've recommended this book to friends who struggle with depression, to remind them that they aren't alone, there are others with similar experiences and that it is possible to fight for yourself to heal.

23.25

Robert Confiant is currently reading it

May 17, 2018

progress:  (25%)

"THIS BOOK is interrupting my writing. I am a writer. I should be writing.

Although the story seems to be woven haphazardly with the story flashing back and forth through the timeline of his life, it works. It is a gripping and telling story. I am having trouble putting it down.

I have other things that need doing today. Luckily, I have plenty of time on Transit this week to finish reading the book. I cannot wait." – 19 hours, 6 min

5 out of 5 Stars

By Olaak

May 27, 2018

Writing through depression

Lindsay Wincherauk's book is real, raw and emotional. The first few chapters of the book are chaotic and confusing, but I think that was a reflection of Lindsay's own life. Very incoherent. The story is about life of a young boy growing up in Canada. All his experiences, chronologically expressing all the good and bad times. The youngest of his siblings. His story is so relatable. The inferiority complex he felt as a child, disdain, that I personally interpreted as jealousy from his older brothers. The sad and gut-wrenching experience of watching his parents literally waste away from illness. Still knowing that they are going to die does not prepare him for the loss. The reckless of mind, spirit and body as grief takes over and pushes him into depression. It was a remarkable read for me. Very emotional as I have experienced a little bit of that in my life. Lindsay takes us all the way down to drunkenness and drugs, self-destructive behavior and then back up to the moment that he begins to heal – for all the pain and make peace with his life and experience. I will recommend this book to anyone having a hard time or struggling with depression. You are not alone and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

5 out of 5 Stars

By Rae Capri

May 22, 2018

A life full of ups and downs

It's true, you'll never really know what someone has been through if you've never walked a mile in their shoes. People go through so many ups and downs in life that sometimes it's hard to keep score. Would we have more empathy for individuals if we had at least a glimpse into their life?

We may never know but at least we can witness per se and learn about how someone came to be the person they are today. In **"Driving in Reverse,"** author Lindsey Wincherauk invites his readers into his life as he tells his story from day one. Already into the first couple of pages, you're greeted by an adventurous person that is both serious and kind.

Since birth he's experienced being looked down upon by his older siblings, the guilt from putting his parents through struggles in their golden years and you can only feel sorrow through his tale. I have sympathy for growing Lindsay because all he wanted to do was be given the amount of love and care without feeling as if he's a burden to someone. The friendships he experienced did lighten his mood at times, distracting him from his home life by having fun, but when the fun was over he returned to his sadness. I would say that he suffered from some form of depression because in the beginning chapters he has mentioned a marathon of crying. This made me want to reach through the book, hug him tightly, and let him know that it's not his fault things are happening in his life that isn't full of happiness at the moment and it will get better. Time is no one's friend, something we feel we have lots of, yet no one knows how much we actually possess. Based on his well-written descriptions of his travels, the experiences he had, and the journey leading him to manhood, although life was tough he did the very best he could to make it meaningful.

I enjoyed learning about the author's life growing up. It has definitely been a rocky journey and he embraced it the only way he could.

I recommend others to consider reading about this man's life, some moments might be more relatable than you think.



PAINTING BY: SU JIN

5 out of 5 Stars

By Katy Nicola

May 5, 2018

Thought Provoking

Lindsay Wincherauk's book, *Driving in Reverse*, really made me stop and ponder life. Sure, *Driving* is entertaining, as it is filled with cynical fun, literal highs, and so many self-described poor choices; but it is also deeply marked with pain, heartache, and death. Although written in a stream of consciousness style, this intriguing memoir is well-organized and easy to follow. Lindsay uses such openness and vulnerability as he writes that I feel comfortable calling him by his first name.

This creatively woven story plays with the timeline in an entrancing manner. Different scenes pause and crisscross, although the reader, is not abandoned or left confused. Lindsay takes the time to provide the dateline and offer a brief catch-up/check-in, for reference, which surprisingly lacks any and all redundancy. As a reader I felt involved and valued. Reading reveals a man who has a knack for inviting people into sharing with raw honesty. His life roams through multiple employers and international experiences and always seems to include friends, girls, drugs, alcohol, death, and adventure.

Ultimately this book is about a soul seeking to discover his true identity as a simple rip in a page leads to family revelation. The family secret is continually mentioned as a carrot hung in front of your little beady reading eyes. Don't worry, the answer eventually appears, and you'll not find boredom in the journey along the way. Lindsay is very forthright in his descriptions regarding his life lived while seeking stability and kindness, so I would recommend this book for an adult audience only.

4 out of 5 Stars**By D Malone**

April 21, 2018

...and one that should be taken with great patience. You can almost feel the frustration and...

While at first, it felt as though the authors thoughts came about in a disjointed manner, I found the insight to his manner of reflection rather interesting. The first couple chapters had been a flurry of chaos in which it was difficult to really understand what was going on because it kept switching time frames. Once he started talking directly about his family, his parents in fact, his thoughts became much clearer. It was obvious that his upbringing was littered with tumultuous events and nightly fights between his mother and father, leaving him basically alone.

His college adventure made me really feel for him. Not only dealing with Cancer knocking on his door as it ate away his father's life... but to live in the shadow of his brother and be treated as though he were going to be making the same mistakes. When his mother passed on, his life seemed to go in a downward spiral. You almost think he's going to climb out of it, but even that breaks. Then, to top it off he accidentally finds out that he's adopted. Now you get taken on a journey of finding his real parents. (He finds his father).

It's a hell of a ride, and one that should be taken with great patience. You can almost feel the frustration and grief through the words the author shared. The pensiveness over meeting his father. The silence that followed. It's a good read that I'd recommend.

4 out of 5 Stars

By Julie S

April 19, 2018

Driving in Reverse Can Inspire Good to Come from Worse!

Name of the Book: Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed

Author: Lindsay Wincherauk

Publication Date: December 5, 2017

Book Length: 452 pages

A Close Look at the Plot/Story -

The premise of Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed is one that is original and honest in approach. The best kinds of reads are those books that offer insight and encouragement to all who can come into contact with them. What this autobiography does very successfully is to tell the story of someone who has a one-of-a-kind life story that is monumental. The narrative is spot-on and delivers too.

Who is the main character or goal in this book?

The main character is no other than Lindsay Wincherauk. Lindsay Wincherauk is an interesting person in his way. The author invites readers into his life. He can face the darkest aspects of his own life with grit and determination. Truth is stranger than fiction with this book. Driving in reverse can get you back to going straight in life.

What is the primary objective of this book?

The objective of the book is simple. Lindsay Wincherauk fights his pain and madness with strength and endurance that would inspire many. He can move forward and do it with lightning speed. The objective of this book is to offer valuable encouragement and understanding to all those who are in similar situations in life. Don't give up on you. You can survive anything and make it through. Resilience is possible.

My Personal Experiences -

Can I relate to the characters or goal in this book?

Yes, I can relate to the character in this book, because I've suffered many painful experiences in my life. Lindsay Wincherauk is made stronger from his.

My Opinion -

Did I like the book?

Yes, I liked this book, because it was truthful and edgy.

What part of this book did I like the most?

I liked the entire book from start to finish.

What is my least favorite part of the book?

There aren't any least favorite parts. I liked them all.

Would I change any part or parts in this book?

No, the book is ideal, as is.

What Is My Recommendation for this Book? -

Would I recommend others to read this book?

Yes, I would, I always recommend books that are good and memorable.

Who would be the one to enjoy this book the most?

This book is designed for all those who love reading about life, especially living life, in spite of the good and the bad: The happy and the sad.

How Many Stars Does This Book Get in Rating?

4 STARS

Julie A. Sullivan wrote this review to share her opinion of this excellent autobiography

5 out of 5 Stars

By Lee Nicholson

April 19, 2018

This is a review

What a trip! On the face of it, the book is a twisted, fractured, downright shocking account of the author's life, and in Lindsay's case, it's also an account of the other life he did not know he was living! Kudos to Lindsay, for having the courage and audacity, to let it all out by putting pen to paper; allowing the world to read his innermost thoughts and feelings. That alone is a reason you should read this memoir.

So, on one hand, you have this incredibly sad and shocking story, but the way Lindsay tells it is just so funny! It's a modern tragedy comedy! In fact, the writing format and structure used by Lindsay is in itself quite the art form, for me it actually became just as enthralling as the actual account of his life. He doesn't mess around, there's no complicated, stuffy use of the English language here, Lindsay, goes straight for the jugular with a writing style that is so fragmented, splintered, broken, and stripped to the proverbial bone (much like his own life). His use of + and = and other underused symbols on a keyboard add even more originality to his writing style.

In all, a very bizarre, chin-dropping, f#@ked up, highly entertaining book!!

4 out of 5 STARS

Renee Ashmeade

April 17, 2018

Enlightening Read!

One could never judge Lindsay Wincherauk's book *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* because looking at the cover of this memoir one would never guess at the depth within. Lindsay's voice shines through as he starts his memoir lightly by writing letters to Ed. He writes about his life and the jobs that he has done, and he also questions identity when he finds out the secret of the parents he buried.

All in all, Lindsay masterfully involves you in this tale about his life and leaves you thinking about life and the things we go through as humans. This memoir touches on love, death, drugs, sex and family. It is also about finding one's self.

There were times when I didn't really want to continue reading but there is something in Lindsay's rendering that makes you want to read what transpired in his life.

I give this memoir four stars.

5 out of 5 STARS**Ms. Benkers**

April 9, 2018

A well written wonderful memoir!

This is a memoir about the author's life. He talks about his birth to adulthood and the ordeals, trials, and tribulations he went through with his family. It is written with some humour. His style is very fluid and to the point. He writes as though he himself is telling you the story. It's wonderfully done.

The author opens up his story with his job as a driver, sharing a piece of his experience about a suicidal construction worker he drops off. The story has very little to do with this introduction but the meaning behind what he's showing speaks louder than words. As he goes into his childhood and life with his family, he opens up about the hardships and the frustrating moments he had to endure. It's not a sob story and he isn't looking for sympathy. He is honest and raw about his feelings. You begin to notice his will and strength through it all. This story is a powerful reminder that humans are resilient.

Overall, I enjoyed the book. I was wondering what the "mystery" was and wondered myself if what I thought, was right. When the truth came out, I was shocked (my guess was right). I can't imagine anyone trying to be real through this deceit. I'm amazed at the authors courage to share his story, but I am glad he did. I also really liked his meta-memoir approach. It made something that could be boring, exciting. I did find a few grammatical errors, but it wasn't enough to ruin a great read.

4 out of 5 STARS

Amazon Reviewer

March 29, 2018

An examined life reveals that one can drive forward!

Think of this memorable metaphor: "Writing Is Easy; You Just Open a Vein and Bleed." That captures the essence of this whimsical, sometimes sad, "meta-memoir" from the pen of Lindsay Wincherauk. The tongue-in-cheek humour evident on his author page also shines through the bittersweet prose. I must admit being taken aback in the initial pages by someone who wrote letters to strangers. And is issued a driver's license while being blind in one eye? And who played football? But by the time I got through a very human, and very amusing description of an attempted suicide and a description of his childhood, I was hooked on Lindsay's writing.

But his honesty can be jarring at times, to the extent that this reader felt uncomfortably drawn into the catharsis that leapt off every page. However, this is a small price to pay for a vivid description of a complex father-son relationship that ended with a lot of unspoken words and "what-ifs" that would haunt the author.

Without irony (or maybe with a hidden sense of irony), the author takes us on a winding path, switching from being an anti-smoking advocate as a child, to being drawn to drugs, and then facing his inner demons. More than midway through the book a major clue puts Lindsay's actions into context for the reader. Having transposed his inner self onto paper, I look forward to more three-dimensional portraits of the characters that formed part of his journey in his next book/*PLAY*.

5 out of 5 STARS

Louise Riveiro - Mitchell

March 16, 2018

An interesting read

The author gives us a glimpse of memories of the childhood, teenage years and beyond, of a man called Lindsay. We are first introduced to this seventh and last child in the family as the fourth son and basically low man in the totem pole in his father's eyes. His parents were hard working folks who managed to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, yet there were times they did have a few hard times in those years he doesn't sugar-coat anything and what you read is his own story. It was Lindsay who was there for his father when he was dying of cancer. We learn that his father had a temper problem – or at least what Lindsay remembered from his youth. Later he was with his mother when she passed of cancer also. It was Lindsay that everyone looked to even though he was the youngest. Being the youngest, Lindsay not only took quite a bit of teasing from classmates – his siblings also dared him to do various stunts, some dangerous. Of course, though they knew he wasn't really their brother, he himself didn't find out until 16-years after “his parents” had passed.

I must admit, his travels and the group of friends he gathers in his twenty's, some briefly, others who become the family he never had. This book is one that will fool you in the beginning, but keep reading, it will keep you engrossed in the pages.

It's an interesting light read. I must admit at the end, I really would be interested in the sequel to this – I want to read his meeting his real father. He started this story as a simple story, but it took over and became more than even he could imagine.

One thing that still sticks in my head is his father teaching him to drive in reverse – you'll understand when you read it.

5 out of 5 STARS

Lisa

March 12, 2018

Worth the read!

Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed by Lindsay Wincherauk is a witty, entertaining autobiography that is enthralling and difficult to put down. The only reason I didn't finish it in one reading and it took me a few days to finish is because it had some intense parts that I felt like I needed to really think about and digest. Wincherauk's style is very interesting. It was refreshing to read a book that doesn't follow stereotypical formatting and writing guidelines. The story of Wincherauk's dark family history throughout was the most captivating story in the book, but the author's sarcastic comments and detailed affair with lovers, drugs and alcohol made it a multifaceted autobiography that allowed for truth, change, and self growth for the both the reader and the author.

My only complaints are that I read the book on Kindle and thought some of the pictures were odd throughout. I am not sure if the pictures were more relevant or well placed in the print version, but I wasn't sure of their meaning. I also didn't really like the letters in the beginning; as I felt like they were reminiscent of "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" without the book ever really circling back around to the letters or their relevance.

Overall, Wincherauk's story is definitely worth the read. It is honest and raw and allows for a lot of self reflection and understanding of one's own situation. Looking forward to more work by Wincherauk and wishing him and his family the best of luck.

12

5 out of 5 STARS

Jill Nechamkin Roach

February 21, 2018

I'm already looking forward Book Number 2!

Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed, by Lindsay Wincherauk;

I am so glad I decided to give this book a read.

It was unique, challenging at times to follow, but also spellbinding and I found myself feeling like a comrade of Wincherauk, Lindsay.

His story seemed in ways, like my story, without being part of a family of 7 children, living in Canada, and (being a man) with parents, brothers and sisters that were not, in fact, his parents, brothers and sisters part.

Lindsay is a man who has deep emotions, raised by older financially struggling parents with little to no time, strength or interest in spending time with him. (A part that sounds like my life).

He struggled with his sibling's lack of affection as well, at times their cruelty and abusive comments. (My Life) Even though he became successful in Sports, like his Older Brother Donald, no adoration was bestowed on him, like had been given to Donald.

His journey through his childhood life was lonely, and later in life, his relationships with women, fleeting or faulty although Lindsay seemed to want to embrace one. (My life but male relationships).

He drank heavily, played heavy, got jobs, lost jobs, moved thru life with no defined specific goals. (Me, me, me)

He cared for the parents he knew to be his parents when they developed, The Big C, and were hospitalized, then died, within only a couple years of each other. (Me again)

By sheer chance, at the age of 43, Lindsay learns, his parents weren't his actual parents, which sets off a chain of complex and debilitating emotions. This all happens while planning a month-long trip to Europe with his friend Dave.

This is the moment his life altered, and I believe he grew as a person. He suffered with this revelation, but the revelation in many ways, not only changed his life, it saved his life.

I cannot tell you how many times, while reading of his days starting out with drinking binges and driving while drunk, had me thinking, he was lucky to be alive and his life, therefore, has a purpose. The very purpose that seemed to elude him was finding out who he really was.

The book is jam-packed with drugs, drinking, meaningless sex, sorrow, pain, heartache, yet also love, passion and kindness for others.

I am already looking forward to Book Number 2.

Thank you for sharing your heart and soul and daring to expose your life to judgment by others who could never understand, because some of us do, and reading your story, made me understand even more 'What Matters'; "We are simply supposed to be kind to each other."

5 out of 5 STARS

Amazon Customer

February 12, 2018

GREAT, LONG BUT FAST READING MEMOIR!

As the end of the school year begins to slowly amble towards us, it once again leaves me with needing to find a memoir to read for my students as they start planning on what their own personal memoirs are going to focus around and how they should frame them. For their example memoir that we read through I typically try to pick something that is briefer, so it will hold their attention more, as there are few things in this world that have shorter attention spans than a freshman who can count on two hands how many school's days are left of the year. While last year's novel was brief, probably closer to two hundred pages, when I stumbled over *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* I was hesitant at first. It is a very large book, especially as the end of the school year approaches, over four hundred and fifty pages.

Despite the beefiness of the book I found that I couldn't put it down! The narrative kept sweeping me along even when I should have put it down long ago so that I could go to bed and have a reasonable night's sleep. Instead, I was dragged along as the author had experience after experience that left me turning the page. So, I heartily encourage picking up *Driving in Reverse*, whether for yourself or someone else.

5 out of 5 STARS

Stacey Joseph

February 12, 2018

Uplifting and enjoyable!

Driving in Reverse by Lindsay Wincherauk is a memoir of the author's life particularly telling of his revelation of his birth. He finds out that his parents are indeed not his parents and his sister is indeed his real mother. Through the whole ordeal, he is kept in the dark until years after his adoptive parents have died when he himself is a grown man. The truth comes about as he is in the midst of penning his life story and he discovers the truth about himself. The book is very uplifting and even spiritual at times, while enticing the reader to believe in him/herself no matter what cards you are dealt in life. Wincherauk thinks of life as simply the choice between happiness and misery for each person to decide which way to go for their own path. He says that each of us matter and we should try to make the best of every situation, whether bad or good. It is apparent that he has had a life of turmoil and hard knocks that led him down the path of destruction with vices and then up again to be the admirable person he is today. Like he says, we are all in the process of learning as we go, and what we are experiencing every day is quite significant to everything going on around us. Life is the big picture and is definitely much bigger than we can ever imagine.

Driving in Reverse is a wonderful book for those that could use some guidance along the path of life.

It is an enjoyable, witty story.

4 out of 5 STARS

Amazon Reader

February 6, 2018

Unusually touching.

Lindsay Wincherauk's autobiography, tells the story of somebody with a monumental one-of-a-kind life story, with a whiplash narrative. Starting with his childhood struggles to find a place in life. Later, the writing evolves with his story as a Vancouver journalist and one-time bartender whose fondness for gonzo-style personal experiences make the reader into a fly-on-the-wall observer. Discussions break out ranging from drugs, alcohol, sex, adoption, and healing himself, despite of everything – through the power of writing.

As you're reading, the perspective almost weaves, going in and out of the stories about his travels and who he has met along the way.

Ultimately, it is a strong work for anyone who has had to deal with pain in their life, there is no 'hallmark moment' no profound religious or psychological break-through at the end of this story, it is a real and honest look at how one man dealt with a bad set cards life handed him and came out on top for it.

8

3 out of 5 STARS

Kristin Cronkright

January 29, 2018

Lindsay Wincherauk definitely has something monumental in regard to his...

Lindsay Wincherauk definitely has something monumental in regard to his one-of-a-kind life story, however; I found myself really struggling through the layout and jerky writing style of this memoir. It was challenging to follow along at times and the sections were choppy and strung together, to the point where I didn't understand why Wincherauk was including majority of these details. The ending was predictable and fairly monotone, however given the shock of the previous chapters, I suppose this was to be expected. I would have preferred to read this through chronologically, instead of skipping around from past to present. There were too many small stories and insignificant characters to really make an impression. I think the stories and experiences would have been a lot stronger had they been portrayed as they happened—and also built up a more meaningful ending. Instead, I'm just relieved to have made it to the end and completed the very drawn out title.

7

4 out of 5 STARS

LITERARY CAT

January 29, 2018

INTERESTING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING READ

This was a fun interesting coming of age story that follows a young boy named Lindsay as he struggles to find his place within the family and life. It is a story of reflection and learning to accept the person we have become. There were times when I wasn't sure where the story was going and honestly debated putting it down, but stuck with it. I am glad that I did, I found myself beginning to relate to Lindsay and become attached to him as I read through his life. The author has a way with words that not only has the reader wondering where the story goes, or what happens next in his life, but laughing and at times getting teary-eyed.

Driving in Reverse is a very touching story and Wincherauk makes the readers feel is emotions and thoughts with his works, it's truly remarkable. His story shows that life is not always perfect, it is not always going to be sunshine and rainbows, but he also shows how one can persevere and come out the other side. An inspirational read. I highly enjoyed reading it.

5 out of 5 STARS**Ezela Salazar**

January 23, 2018

Intriguing Read! I Highly Recommend!

Whenever I try to collect my thoughts, I'm met with a huge barrage of thoughts, memories, and other various mental stimuli. I finally found a book that mimics my thought patterns in a careful and concise way! "Driving in Reverse" is a hodgepodge of memory recollection, written letters, and emotional story telling. The author, Lindsay Wincherauk, handles these pieces very well, inserting fragments and statements to keep the reader grounded in the main theme of the story.

Overall, I think anyone could relate to some part of this story. He weaves in and out of tales about his travels, who he's met over the years, and his personal growth and development. Not to mention a hilarious but intense discussion about his decisions about his hair.

The book is unexpected. He lays his life down in front of the reader, complete with his insecurities and vulnerabilities.

Of course, after receiving so many rejection letters during the first staging of this book, what can we say that he hasn't already heard?!

I'm glad he finally found a publisher that was willing to coax this final version out of whatever drafts there were. He has a great sense for telling his own story in comical and relatable ways but knows when to take the energy down to allow the reader to really experience what he must have felt when he found out about his true parents.

My only caution would be for future readers to stick with the book. He does change writing style, so if the first section doesn't appeal to you, hang out and give it another chance. He converts into a more traditional chapter style shortly after!!!

4 out of 5 STARS

JESSICA

January 18, 2018

I loved the style and format of the book!

'Driving in Reverse' is a well written and emotionally-laden memoir. There is a ton of emotion in every word written. The author goes through a whole lot. There are some parts that were very hard to read. I loved the style and format of the book. I was not ready for the content of the book. Following him along on his journey, you want to reach out, hold his hand, give him a hug, but you can't. You simply keep reading and hope for the sun to rise. He had life rough from the start, turned to booze as he got older. You get to watch him walk down treacherous paths, but you also get to watch him grow which always makes a reader happy. I think the formatting of the book helps keep you engaged, instead of **Chapter 1 Chapter 2**. You can tell the author gave this book his all. You are left with a bit of a cliff-hanger, but he's already working on his second book!

4

5 out of 5 STARS

AMANDA DAWN

January 5, 2018

Inspirational and Hysterical!

Full of sarcastic wit and tagged with the unbelievable storyline that the author buried his parents only to find they came back to life sixteen years later, *Driving in Reverse* by Lindsay Wincherauk is a self-described metaphysical memoir. The book takes a look at Wincherauk's unique life starting in his childhood and going through the time of publication for the book. This work includes discussions about drugs, alcohol, sex, love, adoption, and healing through writing. It is a strong work for anyone who has had to deal with pain in their life, which would be most of us, and how to accept the difficult things that have been dumped into our laps and move on as well as grow from them. While there's no profound religious or psychological breakthrough at the end of this story, it is a *real and honest* look at how one man dealt with the really crummy set of cards life handed him and survived.

This book shouldn't work. I almost put it down several times reading through the first few chapters. The whole letter thing at the beginning is completely unnecessary and I didn't care for it. Time in memoir is a hard thing to nail and books have been written on how to accomplish this feat of putting spliced memories, memories that don't add to the story but without them could destroy the chronology of the work, and how to deal with the work if it ends up being more topical than chronological. I didn't think this book was going to pull it off. But for whatever reason, honestly, let me specify the reason...the author is a tremendous writer, this works. It is a mix of in the moment thoughts, recounting of a story, and lots and lots of over the top sarcasm that left me laughing out loud. I've never seen a format like this before and I'm not sure it would work with anyone else but here it is just fantastic! The editing is overall clean. The style the author has is phenomenal. His sense of humor is what really contributes to making the story and makes it successful. The story is touching and difficult, but what impresses me most is his ability to sort through his emotions and make decisions that benefit him. No, life wasn't perfect; he was affected by what happened to him and the life experiences he has, but this writing is cathartic, and his attitude is profound in sorting through the mess he was dealt. While I can't identify with a lot of life choices Wincherauk made, I can identify with how he got there. Congratulations to you on this writing; it is a huge contribution to others out there suffering and hopefully to you in your healing journey. I hope self-doubt takes a hike for you!

Lose the whole letters to Ed thing; you don't need it and I would hate someone to throw down this book because of something so unexpected that it's hard to read through till you get the flow of the story.

If you've ever been depressed in life, pick this up. I think you'll identify with it and even if you don't, so long as you enjoy sarcasm, you'll be laughing by the end of it!

5 out of 5 STARS

Grady Harp

HALL OF FAME TOP 100 REVIEWER – January 4, 2018

'To live a life that's true to who you are takes courage.'

Canadian author Lindsay Wincherauk is also a journalist in Vancouver, and one-time bartender; he loves writing about the world as he sees it. He was a contributing writer to 24 Hours Vancouver. In 2004 he co-authored a book titled: **SEED'S SKETCHY RELATIONSHIP THEORIES - A GUIDE TO THE PERILS OF DATING (HOW NOT TO BECOME A BAR REGULAR)**. According to his bio, Lindsay quarterbacked high school, junior, and university football teams, winning city, provincial, and national championships. He holds the record for the longest touchdown pass in Canadian junior football league history, 108 yards. Amazingly, he's blind in one eye. Of note, his biographical data includes that Lindsay Wincherauk watched both of his parents die. He was the youngest of seven. After the death of his mother (1987) – he became an outsider in his own family. In 2003 he found out, by accident, he was a secret baby born in a secret place – a shame to the family. A secret never meant to be uncovered.

To fully appreciate Lindsay's talent as a writer, a humorist, and observer of the human condition and as a memoirist this reader would recommend reading **SEED'S SKETCHY RELATIONSHIP THEORIES** first and then bask thorough the pages of **DRIVING IN REVERSE** slowly, allowing ample time for the full range of emotions. In a book that will affect each reader in varying degrees to the content, the synopsis offered is an outline of the journey.

'Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed' is the story of a little boy (Lindsay) and his struggles to fit into the family portrait. Little did he know: everything in his life was not as it seemed. Lindsay weaves his way through the years, living the only life he knew – unaware of the foundation rocking news he would one-day stumble upon by accident. During his journey, he excels at athletics, crosses paths with Manuel Noriega, David Duchovny, and Michael Chiklis. Lindsay crashes a motorcycle in Jamaica. And, he brushes past the Dali Lama in a shopping mall food-court, one early fall evening. His story is about kindness. It's about coming to terms with who you've become. It's about turning pain into laughter. And, it's a story about belonging. At the end of this volume of life, Lindsay crawls out the other end of the book and begins to embrace the man he has become! We all fit in – we all matter. We all belong in the picture!

It is a road trip, a book of becoming, a coming of age story, but most importantly this is an awakening to each of our individual place in the universe. Slow down, give this book some time to seep in, and the rewards are plentiful. Highly recommended.

2

5 out of 5 STARS

Jeong Wan Lee

November 30, 2017

GOOD LOOKING BOOK COVER BTW!

It was a great read. Most memoirs are written by or written about a Youtube Stars or celebrities, but Lindsay Wincherauk is not a Youtube Star or have millions of followers on his Instagram or Twitter. Yet, I would say. This little boy on the book cover came a long way in his life. This book is about a normal good man you may find at a bar in a local pub, who just happened to be a good man, that makes you feel good about the world. This book will encourage you to live a life that you want or wish for. In this chaotic world now, we need a simple story with a simply good message like this book. I recommend you place an order now :)

1

5 out of 5 STARS

STEW

November 30, 2017

I've read some bits from the authors website and previous –

I've read some bits from the authors website and previous book. looking forward to its full release. The author writes in an honest manner and I find his writing to be interactive with bits of humour and interesting views on how to handle tough situations.

DRIVING IN REVERSE

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

5

June 5, 2018

A Riveting Best in Genre Memoir from Author Lindsay Wincherauk *Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed*

Writing his way through the dark chapters, with wit and candour Wincherauk breaks through to the other side - "reborn."

There is a carefree audacity to the way in which Wincherauk writes, and in throwing away the rule book, he delivers something that is genuinely extraordinary. Eschewing a traditional memoir structure, it's admirably adventurous as we see Wincherauk's life through an ever-widening lens and with many meaningful reflections strewn throughout, [we are left in little doubt as to the calibre of the mind behind the pen](#). Very few writers are so adept at capturing their emotions or communicating them with such unabashed honesty and on this level Wincherauk's overarching theme is that of loss and discovery through which style and memoir find alternative expression as he delivers a complete, absorbing and above all cleverly nuanced account that rebukes mechanical writing.

Paying due deference to the intricacies of his experiences and the eclectic characters he has met he invites us to peer closely at them. To know them as pivotal, as opposed to bit players, in his intriguing life story with each chapter conveying something tangible and notable.

A truly original memoir that makes for a highly entertaining and thought-provoking read *Driving in Reverse - the life I almost missed* is recommended without reservation.

- Book Viral

3 out of 4 Stars

POIGNANT AND AWE INSPIRING

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed is a poignant and awe-inspiring memoir by Lindsay Wincherauk.

Lindsay was the youngest of seven children. Even as a child, he didn't feel loved by his siblings and his parents seem too old to hang out or bond with him like the parents of his classmates and peers. In a way, Lindsay felt guilty for coming so late in his parents' lives and causing financial strains. His guilt intensified when they fought about money.

When Lindsay's much older siblings moved out of the house to live their own lives, Lindsay and his brother Brian were left to help care for their father until the old man died of cancer. Their mother died of the same dreaded disease a couple of years after. With the death of his mother, Lindsay totally became an outsider in his family. In 2003, as he was trying to recover from a failed relationship, Lindsay planned a trip to Europe and accidentally uncovered a painful secret about his identity. As he desperately tried to put the pieces of his shattered life together in his epic 31 Day Escape to Europe with his friend Dave, he learned about an even more painful truth.

This is a poignant memoir of a brave and courageous man who never gave up on life. Told not necessarily in chronological order but in flashbacks and flash forwards, the book is a tale of an extraordinary man who endured physical, emotional, mental and psychological ordeal which include visual impairment, several surgeries (mostly on the knee), painful break-ups and life-shattering revelations. Most painful of this, I think, is the feeling of isolation that resulted from being alienated from his family for as far as he could remember.

The story is told in lighthearted and even comical tone, probably the author's way of 'turning pain into laughter' and putting levity to an otherwise cumbersome load that is reality. I'm usually not a fan of figurative language but for some reason, I find the author's excessive use of hyperbole fascinating.

The part I like most about the book is the emphasis on family. Family is not necessarily someone related to you by blood, but someone who supports you, accepts you and loves you for what you are.

The most important part of the author's life story, for me, is the underlying message to never give up on life. No matter how painful and how difficult things get, and no matter how screwed up things are, you accept things as they are, and you don't find someone to blame.

Needless to say, I enjoyed this book a lot and I learned so much from it. However, the manner of telling (flash backs and flash forwards) may be a bit confusing to some readers.

Moreover, because of the jocular manner of writing, it may be difficult for some readers to distinguish between truth and joke. Finally, there are several noticeable errors within the entire book.

I, therefore, rate this book 3 out of 4 stars. It is inspiring and encouraging. I recommend it to readers who love memoirs and to those who enjoy stories about rising above adversity. References to drugs, sex and sexual activities, however, may not be suitable for young readers.

3

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

A unique and compelling, intensely personal and exceptionally candid memoir, "Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed" is an extraordinary account of an extraordinary life. Deftly written, complex, thoughtful and thought-provoking, "Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed" will linger in the mind and memory long after the book itself has been finished and set back upon the shelf.

2

KIRKUS

REVIEW

In this memoir, Wincherauk (Seed's *Sketchy Relationship Theories*, 2004) recalls a tumultuous past life and a personal search to discover what truly matters.

Just over 100 pages into this disconcerting remembrance, the Canadian author declares, "Four fucking months—only four months had passed. BREAKUP—SUICIDE—CANCER—ALIENATION—INFIDELITY—DEATH—CANCER—DEATH—DEATH—AND—FUCKING DEATH; had entered my life." Sadly, for the author, nicknamed "Seed" by his friends, this pattern of pain made up the first portion of his life. The former bartender from Vancouver says his first childhood memory was discovering his brothers "chanting together in a continuous loop": "Lindsay, we are going to get you. Lindsay, you are not one of us." Two of his brothers, he says, tried to convince him to "stick [his] dinner knife in a wall socket." Wincherauk's difficult relationship with his family led him to escape into sports, including football. Yet despite small victories, fate always seemed to deal him a bad hand. He lost multiple friends and family members to cancer, which he personifies as "THE BIG C," a sadistic killer. He led a life as a drifter, punctuated by drunken days and nights in dive bars, drug experimentation, failed relationships, and failed business ventures, but it also included travel to numerous far-flung destinations such as France and Jamaica, and an encounter with the Dalai Lama.

The book is part memoir and part self-help guide for those who've had similar experiences, and it often takes on an appropriate tone of mocking self-awareness: "I vomited in my mouth a little bit when I typed the last line." Stylistically, however, the memoir is a chaotic and choppy read, in no small part due to Wincherauk's idiosyncratic tendency toward one-sentence paragraphs. This coupled with a coarse tone throughout ("Having to defend my emotions was fucking sucking"), may deter many readers. That said, it's difficult not to admire the author's ability to face the darkest aspects of his existence head-on and remain ebullient.

Black-and-white and color photos are included.

A potentially *enlightening and darkly entertaining* memoir undermined by weak prose.

1

RED CITY REVIEW

4 out of 5 STARS

Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed by Lindsay Wincherauk is the life story of the author, focusing mainly on Lindsay's loss of love, his discovery that his parents are not who he thought they were, and his trip to Europe with a good friend to escape his life for a while. When Lindsay is in his forties, he falls into the drug scene, going out to clubs where he drinks and does ecstasy, followed by after-parties. He meets a woman named Trish who is also involved in the drug scene and falls in love. Eventually, Trish and Lindsay have a messy break up, and soon after, Lindsay learns that his real mom was a woman that he had grown up believing was his sister, and his father was a man he never met. Lindsay's aunt dies around that time leaving him \$60,000, and he uses it to travel and forget about his lost love and sense of identity.

The part of the book that tells of Lindsay's adventures in New York and Europe is told in a loosely structured and creative way. It is at all times an interesting, funny, and over-the-top tale of debauchery and human bonding. When Lindsay arrives back home, he writes letters to his family recounting his discovery of who his parents really were, and the responses that he gets are disappointing to him at best. Yet even with a sense of feeling lost in the world, Lindsay is able to recognize that his life is good, and the story he feels he should tell makes *a wonderfully unique book* that describes love, friendship, loss, travel, and overcoming hardship.
