

EDITORIAL + READER + LIVE + A BLAST FROM THE PAST

# REVIEWS

PRAISE

CUSTOMER REVIEWS (AMAZON + GOODREADS ++)

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110 READER REVIEWS (4.6126 OUT OF 5 STARS)

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**73 5-STAR REVIEWS**

*"genuinely extraordinary"*

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35: 4-STARS - 2: 3-STARS - 1: 1-STAR - 1: BLAST FROM THE PAST

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**111**

4 out of 5 Stars

**FLAMING PURPLE JELLYFISH**

December 22, 2019

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*Gritty but full of surprises.*

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This is a twisty, turn-y, but eventually enlightening trip through the authors past as he experienced it. The journaling style of his story can feel chaotic and confusing, but his basic honesty shines through.

If you're trying to make some sense out of your life journey, Seed's search for meaning will resonate with you. He frantically tries to figure out what the reasons are for his very odd family dynamics, and trying to find his purpose and place in the world. He's always felt like he didn't fit in, and that his family treated him differently than the rest of his siblings. When he finally finds out why, he's understandably shocked, then equally dismayed. As he starts to explore the lies and omissions that his family has told him over his entire life, he questions everything his family has ever told him. What a disorienting experience! But after trying to erase the pain and confusion with drugs, alcohol, sex and a good plain run away from everything familiar, he begins to face reality.

My favorite quote is toward the end of the story: "Our reality gets skewed daily by the media... Finding one's way among the noise is a formidable task. But if we listen inwardly the clatter will lead to silence. In the calm of this newfound peace we can begin to value people more than stuff."

Mr. Wincherauk reminds the reader at the end, too, of something equally important. You, reader, are also in fact a beautiful and unique human being!

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110

5 out of 5 Stars

VICKY

December 11, 2019

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*Heartbreaking struggles of rejection, sorrow and grief*

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Upon the secrets that surround the arrival of this most beautiful baby boy. From the first day forward, no one ever talked of the secrecy. He never even knew or expected anything, he thought he was just one of them, even when some of the older boys told him different. You know brothers can be so mean. Yes, he was the youngest Lucky Number 7. with sister Bernice being the oldest at age 23, sister Sadie 21, sister Beverly 16, brother James 12, brother Donald 8 , brother Brian 4 and baby Lindsay lucky number 7 After never feeling any kind of belonging or love throughout his childhood , into his teen years he is tossed into total emotional turmoil when the big C comes to take away his father Nicholas who was never much of a father, always smoking and drinking never spending much time with young Lindsay. Being that he still lived at home the weight of coping took its toll on the ones still there, after many years of fighting for his life, his frail body surrenders to the disease. Only a short time later, does the same horrible disease come after his Mother Rebekah, how could this be. Once again, the younger ones still at home are the ones who foot the brunt of all the turbulence. Oh yeah, I'm not telling the secrets. For the rest of this story you will have to read the book. A must read that you won't want to put down,

Take a bow Mr. Lindsay Wincherauk, very well done

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109

5 out of 5 Stars

MICHELLE

December 10, 2019

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*Truly Unique*

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**DRIVING IN REVERSE: THE LIFE I ALMOST MISSED** is a truly unique book. The story follows the life of Lindsay Wincherauk. At first, I was a little thrown off by the odd wrong style but as I adjusted to it, I found it hard to stop reading. He tells the story almost as if you're standing next to him. His life is full of sadness and his childhood seems awful with kind of miserable parents and horrible siblings. Yet through the hardships he endures, he loves his parents deeply.

Lindsay brings the reader in a very personal trip through his life from childhood through adulthood, walking the reader through a fairly rough childhood, mildly abusive siblings, feeling unwanted and blaming himself for being a burden on his parents. He feels this way because his parents conceive Lindsay at a much older age. He watches them have to continue to provide for him when he knows they should be slowing down and retiring.

His siblings constantly tell him doesn't belong.

He moves on to college and lives a pretty interesting and (don't judge) fun life full of booze, sex, and being a star athlete. The pressure to follow in his brothers' footsteps and live up to the standards placed upon him pushes him to excel in sports. He travels and lives a very full life. It's almost as though he is finally free when his parents pass away. It seems as though, their passing lifts his guilt.

Don't let the writing style and the few editing errors throw you off. Give the book a chance and enjoy the story. It's something new and different with sadness, grief and bits of humor. It's worth your time to read.

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108

5 out of 5 Stars

**MICHELLE ROBERSON**

October 23, 2019

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*Great trip down memory lane!*

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**Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed** by Lindsay Wincherauk was an interesting read to say the least. It left me feeling a sense of comical pity for man who gave readers a look into his life with his journal style writing. I kept waiting for the huge “aha” ending that never arrived but that was alright because he ended up taking what life kept throwing at him and making his life just what he wanted it to be. His story is not chronological which for some could be hard to follow but jumps back and forth with a little of the present brushed into chapters. His style of writing takes some getting used to but once you delve into his life and his story overall you look forward to the next time, he is either in the past or back in the present. Readers really get to see what childhood trauma, especially the type that is as life altering as Wincherauk’s, can shape events so far into the future. Since the book is written when he is in his 40’s, the audience is able to see what led up to his life to that point. It brings his to the brink of an identity crisis-having to rediscover who he is because of family secrets. This book may be a hard read for many reasons, the type of reading or the overall theme, but it is worth the read and once you really get into the rhythm of it you won’t be disappointed!

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107

4 out of 5 Stars

KATIE LONGORIA

October 15, 2019

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*What a ride!*

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When I first started reading **Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed** I thought it was just a self-indulgent way for someone to talk about themselves. I was wrong. Lindsay Wincherauk's, or Seed as his friends call him, life story was quite the roller coaster ride of twists and turns, ups and downs, all rolled into one novel. I've never experienced so many highs and lows in a single story. While the timeline was a bit confusing at times, it did well to keep me both entertained and on the edge of my seat. How he was able to maneuver through learning his family's secret as an adult is something not everyone could do, and then to put it out there for everyone to see is quite brave. I like that he had no fear in putting his life under a microscope through both good, bad, and extremely bad times. There was nothing left out, childhood, love life, unemployment, illness and death, and addictions. This is a great story for anyone wanting to step out of their own redundant world and experience life in someone else's shoes, someone who has lived quite the tumultuous life at that. I'm glad I didn't put this book down in the beginning and give up on it, otherwise I would have missed a very interesting tale of looking for love and finding it within himself. I hope to see more from this author, he is quite the storyteller.

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106

4 out of 5 Stars

JENNIFER JOHNSON

October 8, 2019

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*Life, love, and loss.*

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Lindsay Wincherauk begins his story from childhood and goes to the present day. Even as a child, he described feeling left out and wasn't close to his family. Lindsay recalled an instance in which his brothers chanted "Lindsay we are going to get you. Lindsay, you are not one of us." He often hid from his siblings to avoid physical or mental abuse. His parents were older than the typical parents and he often thought of himself as a burden on them.

As he grew up, Lindsay was still looking for a place to fit in and became a heavy drinker and an illicit drug user. He started going to a club to get high on a regular basis. "The more trips I made down the stairs into the club, the more skewed my morals and values became." During this time, he fell in love with Trish, but she followed the same lifestyle and the relationship was doomed from the start. I noticed that Lindsay always had friends around, but no one seemed to discourage his negative and/or dangerous habits.

While trying to renew his passport, for an overseas trip, a family secret was discovered that changed his perspective on everything that he knew to be true. To this day, he continues to grapple with the revelation and is planning to write a second book to share his continuing journey. The memoir was a sad read. I hope Lindsay finds love and acceptance in his life. If you don't like cursing, don't read this book.

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105

5 out of 5 Stars

J. JUSTICE

October 6, 2019

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*Raw, revealing, and ridiculously riveting!*

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I ate up this book like a delicious box of chocolate liqueurs that I couldn't stop eating, even after I made myself sick.

It's a penetrating whirlwind of insanity. The fact that it is (primarily) true is, frankly, astounding.

Wincherauk slammed me into the seat of the hilariously real roller coaster ride of his life. Neglect, heartbreak, sorrow, insanely messed-up relationships, drug abuse, fantastic friendships, tumultuous self-discovery, and a profound sense of understanding what being alive is really about left me feeling overwhelmed and queasy, in the best way.

Most of the time, my heart, beat, like it was trying to escape my ribcage, and not just because of the copious amounts of caffeine I imbibed while plowing through this memoir. I think its consumption just set the proper physical stage for the reading of this wild ride. I literally could not stop. I was compelled to keep reading and reading and reading and experiencing this life. I was jittery; I felt greasy and dirty; I needed a shower; I could not stop reading.

It's a testament to the quality of Wincherauk's lyrical delivery that the many (clearly intentional) errors in writing conventions in no way distracted me from the story; in fact, it is enhanced by the flagrant misuse of punctuational style. My own personal Grammar Police (sister-agency to Wincherauk's "Drama Police," I suspect) was quiet almost to the point of non-existence. An extreme rarity.

At the end, I found myself staring blankly out the window, forlorn, worn out, a little lost. At the same time, I felt loved and looking forward to tomorrow in a way I haven't in a long time. I believe that's precisely how one should feel when finishing this book.

Seed — thank you. Thank you for sharing your story. Thank you for finding that courage and making that happen and getting it out to the world. I am a better person for experiencing it.

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104

4 out of 5 Stars

KINDLE READER

October 5, 2019

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*There and back again!*

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Driving in reverse: the life I almost missed by Lindsay Wincherauk, is truly unlike any other book I have ever read. It is a memoir about a seemingly average person, who halfway through life discovers an extraordinary life-altering family secret that reignites a life from a seemingly dead end dormancy, into a maelstrom of wild days and nights which act as the gateway to the peace of inspired self discovery that all of us long for. Travel with Lindsay, through time and geographical locations, as they pursue the person, they were born to be... And maybe something a little more?

This memoir is written in a non-linear fashion that some might find unorthodox but is in fact a very helpful blueprint to understanding the way the author's mind works. How many of us can say that we are linear logical beings one hundred percent of the time? This memoir rife with heartbreak and loss is also resplendent with the author's bedazzled personality, flashy wit and sardonic humor. The author is very relatable despite the larger than life personality expressed within the pages. We are shown through this recounting of one person's life that all of us are more intimately connected than we might assume at first glance. It begs the questions: What is average really? And, are we only the sum of our experiences or something more waiting to be discovered?

Reading this book is definitely an experience that lingers. I know that I won't be forgetting it or the lessons I learned from reading another person's perspective. This book makes me want to get out and start asking people about their lives and it encourages me to think about my own. Who knows when I'll have my own story to tell?

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103

5 out of 5 Stars

ISA NIHAH

October 3, 2019

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*Like having a drink with a friend!*

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The author writes how we speak in our everyday banter with close friends and family. While it may be a little hard to get used to at first; the choppy style is what makes this book come to life. You and I speak like this to friends we need to catch up with: excited, fast, jumping around from subject to subject but bringing it back around, side thoughts sometimes said out loud, sometimes kept to yourself and making fun of ourselves when life gets tough. It feels like Lindsay is a friend I haven't seen in years and this is our catch-up drink date.

While pounding that bottle of liquor, Lindsay expresses pain in how we feel it. He doesn't use big words to describe the sadness that occurs in his life; and he doesn't need to, he gets to the point in a very conversational, normal way and then moves on (sometimes). If I can even remotely compare it to anything — there is a very “Catcher in the Rye” mood to the book when using blatant honesty and candid swearing — just like we do when frustrated with our lives. Personally, I don't find it to be a self-help book — but an honest storyline with advice woven throughout like your old ornery aunt giving you random yet timely advice.

Sarcastic advice aside, Lindsay is all of us in some way. A neglected sarcastic voice that longs for love, to find his place and make sense of life. He hasn't quite found it but neither have we. He is a conflicted soul that has opinions to be expressed — maybe not opinions that are always politically correct or as a reader, you may agree with, but that does not take from the experience. A real person with real feelings, not sugar-coating that honestly life sucks- but we must go on living it.

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102

4 out of 5 Stars

VICKY B

October 3, 2019

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*A fascinating story!*

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Wow!

Well this was quite a ride! *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* is a whirlwind of a memoir. Lindsay Wincherauk coped with a difficult childhood. He had to deal with so much on his own. There is a “family secret” that he suddenly finds out and has to come to terms that his life as he knew it, was a lie. Lindsay made the decision to write his story, although a sad one, but obviously therapeutic to put on paper. The writing style is more of a collection of his thoughts, specifically, “letters to Ed.” A way to express how he felt to his family. The author’s tone is a dry wit, taking the reader on an extremely open and emotional journey. He uses some powerful words to convey how he feels. One quote that stuck with me was, “Your silence doesn’t eliminate the lie.” You just really feel for the guy.

This book is an interesting yet fascinating story, however, the unusual way it is written resulted in a bit of a struggle to get through it. The style is a bit quirky and can be difficult to follow with the various timelines. There are also many characters to follow, some whom are not significant to his life’s story. This did not stop me from continuing to read through to the end. It’s one of those stories where you just have to know what happens. If you are looking for a unique read, give it a try.

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101

5 out of 5 Stars

TROY GJERDE

October 1, 2019

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*Soul searching wild ride – be prepared to explore yourself!*

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I'm exhausted. When I picked this book, I was expecting a "Bro" book with some adventure and wild times. It did have wild adventures with friends but that is not the meat of this story. I read a book that was deeply moving, honest, transparent to the point I was uncomfortable, incredibly funny, reverent, loving, painfully sad, growth inspiring and sincerely truthful. Lindsay Wincherauk (The Author) has lived a life that would have crushed most people emotionally, most likely me, and would send them down a life of self-destruction. He loved his parents deeply and showed them respect to the very end. This book touched me and made me contemplate many of my life's adventures and to take stock in what life means.

I do not want to give away the good stuff in this book because there are many, however, I do want to share a few of the finest lines that show the ability of this author to move you:

Speaking about his mothers last trip home:

"My mother's eyes filled with tears. The tears froze before they could fall from her frail cheeks. She looked at me and said meekly: I'm never going to be home again. Am I? I looked at her and calmly said: Yes. That was the biggest lie I have ever told." These words made me cry at the pain and realization that our mothers and fathers, our heroes become frail and we must protect them in the end.

Lindsay isn't above some shenanigans and taking part in life's fun parts. The lines that follow made me laugh uncontrollably on the plane, which caused many to look at me with wonder and ask what I was laughing about?! He is out to a club and had too much to fun and saw the following: " A handsome guy across the room touched his cap – winked – patted his chest twice – winked – looked upward – touched his inner thigh – winked again – and double clapped. I stole home."

I was humbled and appreciative of Lindsay (Yes, I know him personally after this read) for sharing this with me. I was completely exhausted emotionally but in a way that allowed me to reflect on many life lessons he shared, and I drew parallel to him. I hope Lindsay finishes his next book of adventures because I look to learn more of myself through him.

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100

5 out of 5 Stars

**BREANNA A**

September 30, 2019

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*Genuine and Humorous*

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Lindsay Wincherauk's *Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* is a memoir that details the author's tumultuous life and search for self-understanding. I absolutely loved that this book seemed completely genuine and the dry humor was great! Right at the start, Lindsay explains that for his first copy he "Wrote the story in a fever of excitement, letting bits and pieces fly from keyboard onto the screen," which explains why it is written in a rather choppy manner, switching back and forth between the past and present and different places. While it can make it a little hard to read, I felt that it helped me to understand Lindsay's mind and how it works better. Plus, it matches the tone of his overall life, stormy, surprising, and passionate.

I'm not normally a fan of memoirs, but this one is unique and powerful. I loved that the first thing this book started out with was a quote, "What happens when you learn that your life was never your own". It set the tone of the story perfectly.

This book details how Lindsay faces what he described as "a life-altering identity challenge" involving his parents and some deep family secrets that led him to a chaotic 31-day journey with his friend throughout Europe involving depression, drugs, and alcohol. Lindsay experiences some pretty crazy scenarios and meets several surprising people. Overall, Lindsay faced problems that left him pretty down and out, but he overcame them through sheer will and with the help of some unlikely friends and surprising life lessons. This isn't a traditional memoir because Lindsay hasn't lived a traditional life by any means! I highly recommend this fast-paced and shocking book!

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99

5 out of 5 Stars

JT

September 16, 2019

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*An engaging and superb human drama!*

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Lindsay Wincherauk's meta memoir is an episodic adventure of delightful proportions. To me, this felt like sitting down and having a conversation with a friend: it was engaging, funny, bizarre, and a distracted experience. A very true-to-life conversation, indeed! Wincherauk bounces along scenes that detail the numerous people he meets, traveling around the world, surgery, and the unusual romances that he partakes in. His most moving memories involve his parents who both confront cancer early on in his life and the feelings towards and among his many siblings as their parent's health declines. The book is equal parts drama and endearing comedy. The escapades with drugs and drag queens were my favorite chapters. I think many of us only daydream of a life with so much adventure, but there are plenty of trying times, too, for Lindsay. At times, it is hard to follow the jumping timeline, but I find the lack of structure refreshingly creative and original. Up front, Wincherauk writes that his intention is to connect and he accomplishes this in a way that is so engaging and unusual that the book almost feels interactive, like Lindsay is in the room talking with you, and he truly does have an extraordinary tale to share.

I would recommend this to anyone who appreciates a good, solid, and quirky human drama. I believe it has something to speak to each of us. I don't want to spoil it, but the last half of the book has my favorite parts and I found myself laughing aloud and pondering the message Wincherauk leaves with his readers. Definitely, a memorable book.

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98

5 out of 5 Stars

KATE DOYLE

August 5, 2019

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*A born storyteller.*

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*Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* was a fun book to read. In addition to the author's life being interesting, his style of writing was fun and whimsical. He switches times, and stories, and then back again within a paragraph, yet the reader always feels the connection and keeps up with the adventures.

Lindsay conveys his young adult life through a kaleidoscope of alcohol and drug-induced experiences, while disclosing intimate conversations and interactions in minute detail. He has recently been shocked by a family secret that he was previously in the dark about and he takes of on a European whirlwind trip to sort out his feelings, self-medicate and mostly forget. The adventures Lindsay and his friend Dave have on this trip are almost unbelievable, although much of his life sounds unbelievable yet it's true. They visit 11 countries and meet so many people. They try new things, see new places and in the process, Lindsay does his best to assimilate into his new-found circumstances. The writing is funny but discusses serious content. The feelings are sadness and anger, but you find yourself smiling through your tears as you read. He is a man that can bounce back from anything. In fact, he has. And he's found his place in the world.

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97

5 out of 5 Stars

**NORTH COASTER**

August 4, 2019

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*A twisted story of shocking stories, dark despair, hilarious humour and hopeful hope!*

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Best read with an open mind, this meta-memoir is a roller coaster of absurdity amidst adversity.

Author Lindsay Wincherauk vacillates between moments of oddities, self-assessment, despair, and enlightenment. The writing style can be a bit jumpy or distracting but is playful, conversational, and entertaining throughout. At times the stories border on too much information in the visuals department, but this work is a cumulative diatribe of a life discombobulated. The reader finds solace in admissions such as 'I need to find out how to be happy.' From the bizarre to the mundane, a plethora of characters' inner thoughts stays grounded by surprising strange life events. Not shy with descriptions and humor barely above the belt at times, one man's everyday life fears become a relatable experience to every reader. Midlife crisis gives way to finding a sense of contentment in one's own skin. As the last of seven children, this one-eye blind man sees a myriad of colors within his memories. Taunted by his brothers at an early age, Lindsay finds valuable life lessons such as 'taking responsibility for your life' within this comic-tragedy of twists and turns, to include a very deep family secret, and a coming to terms with the family members who hid it. Wincherauk's work is an intense story that may guide others with their own lives and embrace their own truisms. A very creative tale exposing vulnerabilities and alternate fantasy worlds as a coping mechanism...This is a MUST read for anyone who has struggled with self-worth!

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96

4 out of 5 Stars

**LIPEACHY 23**

August 2, 2019

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*Unconventional narrative that keeps you guessing?*

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*Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* is an apt title for this whirlwind book. Written in letters, at first, and often jumping through different timelines, this book explores a life full of adventure, humor, depression, lies, truth, and always the everlasting question we all must answer; who am I? With unending wit and a writing style completely unique, the reader dives headfirst into an almost stream of consciousness type narrative from the author's point of view. As the reader is also the audience for the story, this type of writing style is completely appropriate and lends itself well to the unusual chapter sequencing the author uses for his story's revelation. Driving in Reverse is pretty much the best way to describe how the story unfolds and makes for a fun, sometimes difficult, but often rewarding way to read a book. I guarantee you have read nothing like Driving in Reverse. Whether the author's story is helpful to his audience, which is his strongest wish and hope, remains to be seen but it is, without question, the strangest sort of tale I have ever read. In order for something truly different and so far from the normal type and style of writing in today's bookstore, be sure to pick up Driving in Reverse and live out those three words in all their glory.

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95

5 out of 5 Stars

**E.M. PAPER**

August 1, 2019

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*A twisty narrative but a compelling story!*

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Driving in Reverse is a poignant memoir, a story of the author's attempts to understand and fit into a family that (at best!) only begrudgingly accepted him. Attempts to win his parents' affections with hard work, athletic prowess, and devotion were seemingly only met with criticism, and often disdain. How does a child recover from that?

Although the tome initially scared me off due to its colossal length, Driving in Reverse was so fast-paced and unique that I finished reading it in one day. It started off rocky and all over the place, akin to an excited kindergartner attempting to talk about a school day, but very soon it became clear that these incongruent ups and downs of the author's life are all related and have contributed to his wild lifestyle. More often than not, they've led to him taking questionable and puzzling risks. Although the weight of a dark family secret hovers over the entirety of the book, the author's humor and sarcastic retrospectives make the final devastating punch more understandable by those of us who would otherwise never imagine his situation. In the end, Lindsay Wincherauk's message is clear: Our unwanted trials make us who we are, and we have to love ourselves because of those trials, not in spite of them.

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94

5 out of 5 Stars

SHADIN ATIYEH

July 31, 2019

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*Interesting and fun read!*

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I thought the book brought up some interesting questions, like: What would you say to someone if you knew they couldn't respond? If you were to write your life story, what would it look like? The story starts that way by sending letters to a random person with no return address. The author shares a raw experience of perseverance and authenticity. There is a fresh voice that is funny, energetic, and fun to read. I appreciated the honesty of the author's reactions to rejections and criticisms and the courage to keep moving forward in the face of it. Sharing what it was like getting the book I'm now reading published provides interesting context and it shares a message of keep going and keep working on your passion. I admired the courage it took to write this book and to allow readers an opportunity to take something away from it depending on their experience. I'm sure everyone has an experience of family secrets, loneliness, loss, rejection, and finding your path and can relate to the story. The only thing about the book that was disappointing was the lack of development of the other characters. It's a memoir, so it's understandable the story's focus is on the author but the other people in the story did not come to life while reading. In some places, it also seemed the author wrote events as if they just happened to him, rather than as his having a role in them occurring, which can come off as kind of bland and with a lack of insight. However, as a whole, the book is an interesting and fun read and challenges us to all think about ourselves as the hero of our own stories.

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93

4 out of 5 Stars

MAMANITA

July 31, 2019

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*Finding hope in the midst of great loss!*

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What a story! Such a sad one, but the awareness and recognition of how precious one's life is, puts the whole thing into perspective for its reader. For me, this was a book about Life, making better choices and digging deep to find ourselves when Life has trampled you down, and so much more. I loved how the author used "Letters to Ed" to express himself and get his anger out. I think it goes along with what is so popular this day of age, where we make "Grateful Journals" or just a Journal in general. Getting out what's in your head, takes a placing it on paper, and that's the safer way. So many just spew words in anger, and they are ugly, and they hurt, and can break your spirit. So, it's best for all to find a healthy way to express yourself. I think this author did that. I did have to overlook the "F" word, too many times, but I "forgave" that. That being said, I do feel it's a book that is for Adults only.

One of the things the author pointed out at some point in the book was that "they," just didn't know how to show love. This is so often true of a lot of people. If you've never known Love, or been shown true Love, how can you know it or show it? It takes a desire to know and so we have to seek out what real love is. I have my opinion on that, but won't share it here. Obviously, I'm reviewing this book and that's not what anyone wants to hear, so I'll leave it at that.

This author sounds like he opted to love himself enough to find his way in life. For some that can be quite the journey. I've been through many hurts, but always found peace, when I gave the wrongs in my life to God and let him make them right. He can do that. I can't, but God can. Holding bitterness in, never does any good. It only destroys from the inside-out. Eats you alive, and so sad that can be. I believe forgiveness is crucial and I think the author came to believe that also. Forgiveness doesn't mean you forget, but you do let it go. It's a quandary, but it's real. To the soul who is looking for forgiveness of their own self and sins, God will forgive and then He forgets them too. I want that kind of love in my life. I realize that's my opinion again, and I have really struggled with writing this review for certain reasons I won't share here. And although, I've struggled, I appreciated the Author's candid way of expressing his grief.

Do pick this book up if you are willing to go beyond the anger and see the Hope that this man found in his own LIFE.

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92

5 out of 5 Stars

LISA J

July 29, 2019

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*Excellent book - A highly recommended reading experience!*

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A detailed insight into a life much different than my own, I loved reading about his childhood, family relationships, experiences as a free spirited man in his 20s, relationship trials and tribulations, travels, the eventual revelation of a family secret, the personal consequences of that secret, and the struggles he faced later in life. The book has potential to help others who have experienced family negligence and/or life altering family secrets. I found his openness to be very brave and admired his ability to let others see the world through his eyes, mind, and heart. It was interesting to read the experiences of his travels to places I have never been, relationships with friends much different than my own, and a lifestyle much freer and more careless than I would ever be brave enough to live. The writer takes you on several journeys throughout the book that gives the reader strong insight into what it would be like to live a life like his and learn valuable life lessons along the way. I admire his ability to share his experiences without shame. He provides an honest and real description of his experiences, decisions, relationships, and struggles without sugar-coating them to avoid criticism and judgement. He totally opens his heart and makes himself vulnerable to help himself and others who may have had similar life experiences. Individuals who did not have similar life experiences can also learn from him in a way that they can apply his life lessons to their own life and increase insight and understanding of the world around them.

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91

4 out of 5 Stars

AMANDA ACKERMAN

July 23, 2019

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*Truth is stranger than fiction*

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If you ever wondered whether truth really is stranger than fiction, this is the book for you. It follows the author's life through the challenges of growing up in a large family and having parents and siblings that are much older than most peoples. As an adult, he bounces around a bit, trying to find jobs and relationships that are right for him. He explores that impact that drugs and alcohol have had on that. Ultimately a family secret is revealed which leads him and a friend to embark on a wild trip through Europe. This leads to lots of clubbing and partying. He also begins writing "Letters to Ed" as a way to sort out his thoughts and experiences and ultimately to begin to make peace with his past.

This book combines gritty realism with a great deal of humor and wit. Aspects of this book can be really painful to read, but there is also a lot to relate to here. The writing style feels a little choppy, as it jumps around in time and space. That contributes to a breakneck feeling of the book that complements the author's life story nicely. This is a book that needs to be read quickly to get the full effect of the writing style. My recommendation would be to set aside a day or two on a weekend and dive in. You'll learn a lot about your own life and those of the people around you.

—

90

5 out of 5 Stars

KINDLE CUSTOMER

July 8, 2019

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*Leading the life, you need, requires purpose, friends, family and a deep understanding of YOU.*

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This is a captivating story about one man's struggle with understanding who he is and how he fits into the world. He experiences depression when he discovers, quite by accident, that his parents are not whom he assumed them to be and that there was a lot more to that story. Quite often he uses formulaic sentences to shorthand his thoughts and feelings about certain things (ex: Booze + football + Booze + Popularity = Sex). He talks about a relationship with Trish, also known by friends as Trash, who announces she has moved on due to the influence of drugs on his life and how this has emotionally impacted his ability to see the world differently. He feels Trish was a flawed lover and that he can do better, but how? He thinks, "Eventually, love loses meaning. Its essence is a casualty of consumption." Read on to see how he has figured this out.

Finally, he and a friend decide to escape Vancouver and head to Europe to hopefully find themselves and get things back on track. This is an exploring phase for them both involving massive drinking, drugs, gay and straight sex, clubbing and mundane tourist activities. He and Dave, his traveling partner, are open-minded and seeking adventure. And, they find plenty of it. Through it all, Lindsay discovers himself. He concludes that finding out just who you are and bringing out the best in yourself is healing. He acknowledges great friends along the way and how important they are. And, that they can make life easier. Be trusting and understand how quality people can enhance your life. Be there for them as they are for you. He concludes life, indeed, is a wild ride. So is this story. Enjoy.

—

89

5 out of 5 Stars

LS

June 16, 2019

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*Memorable + Enthralling!*

—

*Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed.* There are many aspects of the book that I really enjoyed. I appreciate how descriptive the book was; Lindsay's perceptive observations made the setting and characters come through authentically. I also enjoyed the structure of the book. I liked how we hopped back and forth in time because it made the story totally unexpected and thrilling for me as a reader. I enjoyed following you through Europe and had fun rooting for you as a protagonist.

I also wanted to share my two favorite aspects of your book. The first one is the "Vice Menu." I thought this was a creative and interesting idea that felt wholly original.

Secondly, my favorite aspect of the book was your "two doors / two choices" idea. This really spoke to me and I feel like anyone can not only relate to this idea but also take away an important lesson that you've brought to light: even in very difficult situations, we can help ourselves by making the choice that's better for the long-term. The way you've illustrated this idea is really powerful in my view.

Overall, I thought your book was both memorable and enthralling. I really enjoyed reading it.

—



88

4 out of 5 Stars

CYNTHIA

June 7, 2019

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*Coming to terms with your life!*

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*Driving in Reverse: The Life I Almost Missed* by Lindsay Wincherauk is a compelling read. Wincherauk bares his soul out in this book about his struggles with his own identity from his upbringing to his current self. He delves into how he coped with his difficult childhood then travels through his adulthood. His parents are much older than his friends' parents and he suffers tremendous losses at such a young age that he has to deal with this by himself. As an adult, he copes with life and relationships in various ways, predominately through drugs and alcohol. Then he finds out a "terrible family secret" that pushes him further into despair. He goes on a whirlwind trip through Europe using some unexpected inheritance money and begins to come to terms with his life. He uses "letters to Ed" as a means to get his issues out of his heart and soul, and then deal with them. He begins to find normalcy in his interactions with strangers. It was difficult to keep track of the events in the beginning because he goes back and forth in his timeline – but by the end of the book, I came to the understanding that the reader knows how Wincherauk's mind works. This choppy relay of events is what he has been dealing with. It gave me the sense of what it was like to be him.

What would you do if you realized, when you were in your 40s. that the foundation of your life was a lie?

This book takes you through the struggles of one man and how events led him to start the process of rebuilding, healing and living through blunt but humorous tales.

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87

4 out of 5 Stars

ALLISON M

June 4, 2019

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*Dark, but necessary!*

—

As someone who has recently come around to a rather pessimistic and nihilistic point of view (which is not necessarily a bad thing in the long run), I found myself uniquely able to connect with Wincherauk's particular style of presenting the events of this biographical narrative and portraying it in a gallows-humoresque light. In order to shield ourselves from trauma, sometimes it's essential to take a step back and retell the tales that have led us to where we are, but to point and laugh so that we save ourselves from the tears behind the laughter.

I very much enjoyed the scenarios presented in this novel, though the choppy formatting and order of the sequence of events made it a little hard to follow. In the end, I was able to piece everything together and understand the harrowing details of the events of the story Wincherauk had to tell. Maybe it should be considered as a series of vignettes rather than a piece as a whole? That might make it a little more palatable to some readers who find it difficult to keep up with.

Overall, I think this was very well written and very well executed, though the ending could have ridden the coattails of the climax presented in previous chapters a little better.

Definitely worth the time it takes to read.

—

86

5 out of 5 Stars

LAVENDER MAPLE

May 23, 2019

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*Once you start reading this book, you won't want to put it down.*

*It's very absorbing!*

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The writing style allows you to gradually get to know the author in a unique way. You'll go from being a confused stranger to feeling like you know the author intimately. In some ways, it reads like a journal, but it's definitely not a journal. It's an interesting combination of lighthearted and intensely thoughtful. It's casually provocative, but not in the way you'd expect. If you are a pace reader, who likes to read a section or chapter every night, you'll enjoy the distinct sections that make it easy to read a certain amount without feeling like you have to stop in the middle of an interesting scene.

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*"Everything about this book, **this person**, is interesting."*

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Frankly, I've read many boring stories in my 23 years of leisure reading. But this is not one of them. Everything about this book, this person, is interesting. It's guaranteed to make you feel something. If you enjoy reading memoirs and exploring the perspectives and experiences of other people, then this is the book for you. It's honest, earnest, and moving. This is a story of self-discovery and healing, of adventure, struggle, and love. Sounds familiar right?

Even though we all live very different lives, we can all relate to the feelings expressed by the main character in this book. I think that's what pulls you in. It's hard not to feel self-reflective and think seriously about life after reading this book. And in my opinion, any book that gets the wheels turning, that makes you think, should be a bestseller. If this gets turned into a movie or TV series, I'm definitely watching it.

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85

4 out of 5 Stars

CAROLINA A

May 22, 2019

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*A true slice of life!*

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Wow!

Okay. This was an interesting book, to say the least. *“Driving in Reverse- The Life I Almost Missed”* is a memoir by Lindsay Wincherauk, written in a sort of play-by-play manner with his thoughts, side notes, and miscellaneous events all crammed together on the same page. Right off the bat, you can get a feeling for the general tone of his story, jumping back and forth in time and giving little windows into ‘a day in the life’ with ever differing formats, like letter style and journaling. It’s written a bit differently than you might expect, too, sometimes vaguely incoherent but deceptively so, as in these semi-rambling stories they hide small, *chest punching* anecdotes and quotes such as *“The love of my life dumped me. How often have you heard ‘love of my life’ and ‘dumped’ in the same sentence?”* and *“I phoned a crisis hotline for help and then refused to accept the advice.”*

—

*“...these semi-rambling stories they hide small, chest punching anecdotes ...”*

—

I definitely saw a lot of myself in these pages, which I’m not quite sure how to feel about yet. Wincherauk is quite the comedian as well, and some of his insights I couldn’t help but laugh-out-loud at the way he described them.

Overall, this is really written as if it’s a day-to-day diary, and while that style worked well for me, some may find it too intimate or difficult to follow. This, in essence, is a collection of thoughts. Certainly not for everyone, but I enjoyed it.

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84

5 out of 5 Stars

PERIS WOODSON

May 20, 2019

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*Incredibly charming and unconventional!*

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Never, in all of my years of reading, have I been captivated by the preface of any book yet, Lindsay Wincherauk managed to have a vice grip on my attention from that point of the book to the very end. There were numerous times where I had to remind myself that I was reading his memoir rather than following the events in the life of a character in a novel due to how sporadically and entertainingly Lindsay told his story. The letter to the reader style of recounting his life coupled with numerous and hilarious interjections from his alter ego, Seed, made this book incredibly refreshing to read and made it feel like we were just two friends having a conversation about his past.

—

*“...incredibly **refreshing** to read...”*

—

I can see, reflections of aspects of myself in Lindsay, as my sarcasm and jokes are my strongest defenses against some of the most recent troubles I've dealt with. Even in his lowest moments, Lindsay Wincherauk found ways to sidestep spiraling into despair and help people along the way regardless of if they took his advice or not. Most importantly, however, the greatest piece of advice throughout his entire memoir I feel is that no matter how crazy life gets, no matter how many people you lose or mistakes you have made you have to pick yourself up and keep moving forward. The quote *“I have a choice. I could have chosen to continue spiralling downward, losing myself in misery, dragging everyone down with me. But instead, I selected the door on the right”* resonated with me the most because we all do have a choice in life whether we see it or not.

Thank you for going through the door on the right Lindsay.

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83

5 out of 5 Stars

**ALLSTAR 24**

May 8, 2019

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*An entertaining journey through midlife!*

—

A fun read. Unusually written but very rewarding!

Read a piece and you'll want the whole pie!

—

82

5 out of 5 Stars

**McLean Beson**

April 12, 2019

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**5-STARS!**

—

5-Stars!

—

81

5 out of 5 Stars

**Valeria Teles**

April 11, 2019

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*Inspirational + Insightful + Playful!*

—

When reading any book, I always look for the big picture, for a life lesson that speaks to my heart. In *"Driving in Reverse"* the lesson, is also a reminder. This book reminds me about the power of writing when it comes to life's challenges and traumas turned into emotions. By writing these emotions, they gain expression in a healthy way and can give the writer the gift of transformation, very much the case of Lindsay. Writing is just one step toward transformation, of course, leaving the story behind and working on what the story has taught us, is a lifelong step.

*"Driving in Reverse"* is inspirational, insightful and playful!

—

80

5 out of 5 Stars

Chipmunk 460

April 8, 2019

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*Outstanding!*

—

While reading, there were occasional spots where I had difficulty following along. Lindsay Wincherauk flips back and forth in his style of writing, but I continued reading!

This is an excellent story and the content makes you reflect on your own life — who are you trying to live up to, your heroes, impressing a parent or loved one. What is interesting is how Wincherauk made a book so interesting about his life when similar things happen to others every single day. It made me want to go out and write my own story (but I don't believe I would be able to make it as interesting).

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*"If Wincherauk is aiming to **relate to each reader** with his life experiences, I believe he has done so, brilliantly!"*

—

I couldn't put this book down!

If Wincherauk is aiming to relate to each reader with his life experiences, I believe he has done so, brilliantly. He has truly, had to find his way through life. I related to it in that my family has seven children and things were absolutely difficult for my parents! It is interesting that being the youngest child, he put so much pressure on himself to succeed in life and never fully getting the attention and love from his dad, the one person he seemed to want it from, at the beginning.

You see, as he goes through the rest of his life the things he does to cope with such misery ("booze", smoking, sex, etc.) which I find that these are all something most of us have run into a time or two when dealing with grief. It is like reading the minds of a majority amount of young kids out there going through life. I came to love the writing style. Wincherauk would connect past pieces and memories to new ones and it was exciting to see that flow continue. The letters at the beginning were fun! It is a different way to begin a book, but I didn't think they were all that necessary, but I did like that they created a different angle to start the story off.

If you are looking for something to connect with, I highly suggest this book!

—

79

4 out of 5 Stars

**Maclean**

April 7, 2019

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*Emotionally draining and worth reading!*

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*Driving in Reverse* by Lindsay Wincherauk is a wild ride of an autobiography. The book was written when Lindsay was in his 40's, looking back at his life after another tragic and emotional discovery that left him on the verge of a psychological break.

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*"... a **wild ride** of an autobiography!"*

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In the first third of the book Lindsay walks you through his childhood and young adult life and is brutally honest about his depression, emotional trauma, and very detailed bouts of alcoholism and illicit drug use. About halfway through, a month prior to a European trip of self-discovery and hopefully emotional healing, while attempting to renew his passport he is informed his birth certificate can not be verified, and he's requested to acquire the original. When he attempts to do so he discovers his recently deceased parents were actually not his biological parents, and he is now possibly an orphan floating in another sea of uncertainty about his identity and who he is? With the help of various government workers, he is able to correct his passport and finally go on his much needed trip and begin his journey toward self healing. Halfway through another heartbreaking twist, his biological mother is the last person he was expecting, and his life is once again turned upside down. This book was a train wreck of emotions and even the author writes at the end "I want this to be powerful, I want this to leave you spent at the end." Which I find very accurate.

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78

5 out of 5 Stars

**A BOOK READER**

April 7, 2019

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*A life story worth reading!*

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Lindsay Wincherauk's *"Driving in Reverse - The Life I Almost Missed"* is one of those books that will make you want to write and publish your own life story. The style is quite unorthodox, the story of the author's life moves along quickly, and there are no dead spots (a common problem with books like these). It took me a chapter or two to get used to the writing style, the gonzo-like approach to situations and descriptions, and Wincherauk's voice, but that bit of patience paid huge dividends.

Some readers might consider **Driving in Reverse** an "R-rated" book, but none of the material is gratuitous. In fact, it's just the way life happened to the author, and plenty of it was hard to deal with for him at the time it hit. Somehow, through all the setbacks, revelations, romantic hardship, depression, wandering, and challenges, he managed to "live to tell his story," and a ripping good tale it is.

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*"Somehow, through all the setbacks, revelations, romantic hardship, depression, wandering, and challenges, he managed to "live to tell his story," and a ripping good tale it is!"*

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Even the final acknowledgements are a part of the situational puzzle, as the author lets us in on a few secrets about what might be in the sequel, what unresolved questions could find resolution and much more. I think what surprised me most about the book, was the author's natural ability to tell his story with humor, objectivity, and a non-judgmental eye. While his life has been very different from my own, I found myself identifying with his emotions and responses in dozens of situations he describes.

Maybe there's more to the idea that we're really all pretty much the same even though our life circumstances are totally different. Who knows? But *Driving in Reverse* started out, to me, as a story about someone else's life, a life totally different than my own. By the end, I felt a strange kinship with him and his struggle. We all have our "cards" to deal with, and Wincherauk's way of taking what life dealt him is inspiring, interesting, and educational. I'm going to have a couple of my older-teen relatives read it. I think young people could learn a lot from the many life lessons in the book.

Five big stars for Lindsay Wincherauk's *"Driving in Reverse."*

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77

5 out of 5 Stars

**Gina Christie**

April 5, 2019

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*It's worth the trek!*

*Driving in the Reverse* by Lindsay Wincherauk takes us through this memoir in a quite unique story construct, but as you trek through the book, you will be able to understand the book as a whole. He recounts various elements and talks about substance use, love and reconstruction of self through writing that gets the soul through the rough patches in life – and how to grow from them.

The story pieces memory thought and ideas together in a conglomeration that comes together quite well. It is funny and the author exhibits great wit and ability to touch the reader through emotion and the honesty of his story. He gets through the most difficult of emotional states by using purposeful choices that brought him out of the various slumps and dredges he had put himself in. It is quite interesting, to say the least how the author eventually grows on you and you see the rise from the ashes. The spirit of overcoming through life's difficulties is the theme that the author contributes to us. The parallel to the commitment to reading the first part of the book to get to the meat is quite brilliant and worth the read. It is a nice pick me up type of book, and you will be pleasantly surprised once you spend some time with the author inside the story. I would recommend this book if you are looking for motivation or hope in difficult situations. The author has done a good job of spreading the message of hope in this piece.

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76

5 out of 5 Stars

**Ryan McCoin**

April 4, 2019

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*An inventive journey through coping!*

*Driving in Reverse: The Life I almost Missed* is a one-of-a-kind book with a unique tone and style of writing. The author describes the book as a “meta-memoir,” in that it is a memoir of his own personal struggles and journey through them, told in a strange style. The author states early on, that his manuscript was described as playful, edgy, and disruptive—and I have to agree. The tone of the book is very self deprecating and sarcastic. The author describes his experiences in a very in-the-moment way, and tends to jump around in the timeline, not in a confusing way.

The narrative stays in control, but the unconventional timeline presentation keeps things interesting and makes sure the reader is paying attention. Other than the style of the book, which is honestly enough to recommend on its own due to the inherent humor, and the nice change of pace it provides, the story itself has a lot of meat to it. It is a bold move to put your life out there for the world to see and Wincherauk went the extra mile and got his published. He brings the reader along his quirky and disjointed journey through the loss of family members, old secrets revealed, and a journey of coping and self discovery. Wincherauk doesn't pull any punches when presenting the issues and struggles he went through, and despite the book having a satisfying conclusion, he does not present any profound or life changing wisdom that is the secret to future trials. He is simply human, and that is the beauty of his memoir; everyone struggles, this is just his, if you would like to take a look.

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75

RG

5 Stars



AFTERNOON SHOW

Mon - Friday

3-8 PM

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March 21, 2019

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*Sensitive, tender, sharp-witted.*

I finished the book.

I enjoyed it!

You've had some challenges...I hope the road is a bit smoother for you these days. Your sensitivity, tender heart and sharp wit come through in the writing.

I hope you'll keep trying to connect with folks in the literary world and find the right people to help you focus and channel your talent.

I wish you loads of happiness and inner peace.

—

74

4 out of 5 Stars

**Laura M Hertsenberg**

March 19, 2019

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*CRAZY RIDE*

Lindsay Wincherauk has a very unique writing style and a distinct voice in his storytelling. While sharing the ups and downs in his life, Wincherauk writes like he's on a roller coaster: fast and chaotic, then slows to a contemplative tone. Throughout the book, there was never any doubt that this came directly from Lindsay himself. This is a very good read (4 stars), if you think you can handle getting into the mind of this writer.

This is the memoir of a man who has never really had his life together but finds a way for it to fall apart. Lindsay Wincherauk tells his life story, but most of it is about his drug and alcohol abuse and his dysfunctional (at best) sexual relationships. At times, he comes off as an arrogant jerk, other times a hapless loser. Yet I still found him likeable, and I was truly rooting for him. When he shows his vulnerability, his fear, his pain, he is so real. And even though his life story is uncommon, he is very relatable.

Wincherauk has a wicked sense of humor, combined with a dirty mind, so this book is not for everyone. When you mix in his habit of floating between reality, fantasy, and his drug-induced mind tricks, it is very easy to get lost in this book, not knowing what really just happened. He had some very funny lines, even during the darker scenes. It can catch you off guard. However, Wincherauk was at his best when writing from the heart. He bares his soul, and when he does, it is poetic.

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73

5 out of 5 Stars

**Michele Mk20**

January 29, 2019

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*Unusual, humorous, inspiring, a must read!*

"Driving in Reverse- The Life I Almost Missed" by Lindsey Wincherauk is a unique story, to say the least! It's not only humorous, with sharp wit, but the storyline is both honest and raw. Wincherauk's writing is not stereotypical in formatting or writing style. It is exciting to read as he weaves you in and out of the stories regarding his travels, character encounters and captivates you as a witness to everything from drugs, alcohol and sex and adoption through healing, utilizing his gift of writing. I could relate to Wincherauk's journey as I experienced similarities of my own painful childhood, as I am certain others may discern. I found myself able to identify with the writer's emotions, sensitivity and appreciate the way he writes.

It is an exceptional book of the ultimate determination in life, TO NEVER GIVE UP! It is a true reflection of regardless the circumstances we face in our lives, quintessential or not, life is virtuous and worth striving for! I am thrilled with my Kindle purchase of Lindsay Wincherauk's book and look forward to the opportunity to read more in the future. I highly recommend this to anyone with a desire to encounter a written illustration of sincerity and perseverance.

—

72

5 out of 5 Stars

**Tpinto**

January 30, 2019

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*A great book about the difficulty's life can bring.*

I just finished reading the book *“Driving in Reverse – The Life I Almost Missed”* written by Lindsay Wincherauk. I can honestly say I enjoyed reading it. While the author does skip around a bit, the book is easy to follow and does suck you right into his life.

The author takes you into his world from birth to present. He is the last-born child of seven. Obviously, by the time he was born, his parents were older and had to work to support everyone, so he kinda felt left out of a normal childhood with parents who cared about him and wanted him around and loved him. He portrays them more as viewing him as an obligation rather than part of the family. Most of his siblings were way older than him, so he didn't really have a close relationship with them growing up. He sees both of his parents through cancer and death and looks towards his siblings for comfort but none of them are really there for him making him feel even more unwanted and unloved within his own family unit.

He uses a lot of humor in describing his adult life and all the wild excursions he goes on and through. I think he does this to make light of the pain and abandonment he was really feeling in life. While getting ready to go on an out-of-country adventure, he has a problem getting his passport. I won't give any details away here, but this task totally throws his life as he knew it into a tailspin. I really felt sorry for him after reading this book. I know the book is supposed to give inspiration to everyone to not give up no matter what life throws at you, and I feel he does do this superbly, but I totally felt his pain at feeling like he didn't belong anywhere and had no real family he could count on.

My favorite part of the book was when he wrote letters to each of his siblings. He got to get a lot off his chest about how he felt they treated him and about the big “lie” they made him believe all his life. I highly recommend reading this book. I think a lot of people can relate to what he experiences in life and the consequences of decisions made because of it.

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71

5 out of 5 Stars

Lyn Murdock

January 21, 2019

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*Crazy, most powerful book I've read in a long time*

This book is not for everyone. You must enjoy humor, eclectic observations, quirky puns, and hard truth. What a winning combination in this witty memoir/fantasy written by Lindsay Wincherauk.

It's a bold step to put your personal story in writing for public consumption. I am so glad that Wincherauk had the guts to share his story and most unique perspectives. In *Driving in Reverse - The Life I almost Missed*, the author invites you into his personal world filled with wit, wonder, secrets, despair, anger, elation and contentment. His writing is real. The emotions are raw, but the humor is so infectious you can't help but laugh. The humor is sarcastic, at times sardonic, and sometimes downright silly, but it is perfectly cast against Wincherauk's life story.

He is driven to share the story because of the need to expose and purge a "dark family secret." It is a secret in which he had no idea he played a leading role. Other than an odd sense of disaffection, Wincherauk didn't even know there was a secret. How does that even happen?

This work will resonate with your soul, because all of our lives are a mixture of truth, white lies, good, evil, joy, and sadness, much like Wincherauk's. Moment by moment life changes, relationships are born and die, things are said that can't be unsaid, and things are done that can't be undone. This author has found a way to express the dichotomy and hypocrisy in which we all live. In a journey that ranges from whimsical to downright painful, you'll find it impossible not to be drawn in.

One of the neat things about this book is Wincherauk's unique approach to telling his story. It's not linear. There are chunks, characters, and inexplicable events, which absolutely reflect our disjointed thoughts and lives. In this work Wincherauk is willing to say what we often feel but refuse to articulate and struggle to explain. It's edgy, raw, and might make you uncomfortable at times. Bear with the discomfort. There are many life lessons wrapped inside the story, and you will laugh. You will relate because it's so human. It's Wincherauk's story, your story, and my story.

The style is inviting and clever. This is a one of a kind, delightful book. Buckle up and enjoy the ride. Remember, this guy is driving in reverse. Don't be surprised when you hit some emotional, comic, and realistic bumps along the way. You may feel like you're reading the author's personal diary. Yes, it's a memoir, of sorts, but it feels like a heart-to-heart talk with a friend.

The author's own words explain his purpose best, "*By exposing our truths, we risk vulnerability. But I know I must tell my story. I have a gut feeling it may help others with their own lives. Maybe it will help you somehow.*"

This book is a real "gem." (I have never used that word to describe a book, but this one really is.) It is an easy and fun read, but I recommend enjoying it in small doses to appreciate the subtleties



and nuances of the writing. Take time to feel the emotional connection. I was so plugged in that I cried.

From laughter to drama, love, loss, and tears, this is an incredible story. Lindsay Wincherauk says, *"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."*

To this I say...

Thank you, Lindsay Wincherauk, for sharing.

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70

4 out of 5 Stars

**Rosana M**

January 20, 2019

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*A Funny and Touching Memoir about Finding Your Life*

Lindsay Wincherauk's memoir about his life and ultimately, a family secret is infused with his humor as well as heartbreaking truths. The main one is that we always hurt the ones we love, or at least, the ones we are supposed to love.

The author is born as the youngest of a large family to middle aged parents. The early life for this young man was sad to hear, with an older sibling who is particularly angry and ultimately, cruel to her youngest brother. He then suffers as a teen the death of his two parents to cancer and is witness to the cruelty that the last days of death offer people. The author excels in sports, having a lot of friends and dating in his teens, while his adult years the author's life is "in reverse" through constant partying, club scenes, alcohol and drugs, as he searches for a way out of his pain. He also travels to many places, which is a respite for him and a way to find himself while still in the throes of chaos. He tries to find love and romance, only for it to be spoiled by anger, drugs, and toxic people. Throughout the seemingly out of control pace he lives through, you see moments of clarity, empathy towards others, the desire to do the right thing and be loved. The author finds his birth father and in this you begin to see the thread that connects the two.

This book is a testimony to one man's strength and faith in himself to find a new life worth living.

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69

1 out of 5 Stars

**Micah Berken**

January 15, 2019

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*What was this about?*

*Driving in Reverse*, by Lindsay Wincherauk, is a year-by-year (sometimes week-by-week) account of the author's life and his discovery of a deep family secret.

The book begins with letters to "Ed," which seems to promise a flashback type of book focusing on a working-man theme and how the author got there. The author seems scarred by events that have happened in the present and the past. I wanted to know, as a reader, how he had gotten to this particular point in his life.

But, I was disappointed in how Lindsay described this journey. The "Letters to Ed" format is quickly dropped. The book is suddenly not really a flashback anymore. Instead we are now forced to follow a blow-by-blow account of the author's life marked with datelines, odd subtitles, and weird segues into debauchery that really doesn't have anything to do with the plot of the story.

With the addition of grammatical/punctuation errors, clichéd jokes, and unresolved philosophical ramblings, I often found myself wrapping up a section of this book and wondering out loud, "*What was that about?*"

I think Lindsay was trying to achieve a book about his life before and after the revelation of a family secret. This is a great theme. Unfortunately, I got more than halfway through the book before this theme was shown. Until then, I read a lot about problems just about anyone has. Medical stuff, relatives that are distant, deaths of loved ones, and breakups with partners are all good material for a book, but they are all relatable and just barely sympathetic subjects.

I think if Wincherauk would have stuck to the theme of his family life as he grew up, and then the events surrounding his family's secret, he might've had a solid book. As it is, the interjections about sex, drugs, homosexuality, and how he learned to drive (this is a short list) immensely take away from what the author was trying to teach us.

Stick with the meat of the story, Lindsay, and spare us the play-by-play ridiculousness.

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68

5 out of 5 Stars

**Katherine, Clemons**

January 6, 2019

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**GOOD READ!**

When I began reading this book, I was highly confused by the chaos of the first chapter. When digging in further, I found that this reads as if I had written it as things happened in my life which I suppose was the purpose of the author. As the book progressed, it was clear that the author really enjoyed sharing his experiences as well as imparting lessons learned, which again, I am assuming is the entire purpose of a memoir even if there may be fallacies within the overall story. I did connect with the quote straight from the author, *"I began to write to Ed about what was going on in my life..."* This is a really interesting concept as the author is attempting to describe life through his eyes and attempting to show that to others. This is a technique used in other memoirs (famously seen in Anne Frank's diary). I also enjoyed how the author included family letters, comic skits, and other little tidbits that we all take from life ourselves. This book was really a well-written book and I look forward to encouraging others to read it as well.

—

67

5 out of 5 Stars

A.L.

January 1, 2019

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***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

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***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

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***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!

—

64

5 out of 5 Stars

**James H (Verbal Review)**

November 26, 2018

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*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!*

—

## 63

4 out of 5 Stars

**Roses at Sanford**

November 23, 2018

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*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!

—



62

5 out of 5 Stars

**Reading Momma**

November 19, 2018

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*Good Read!*

Good Book!

—

61

5 out of 5 Stars

**Melinda**

November 12, 2018

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*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 content of it was amazing. 10/10 would recommend.

Lindsay hit it out of the park!

—

60

4 out of 5 Stars

James

November 11, 2018

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*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-consciousness 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.

—

59

5 out of 5 Stars

**Yes, that Maria**

November 8, 2018

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*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 experience 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.

—

58

5 out of 5 Stars

## Amazon Customer

November 8, 2018

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*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 preserves.

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

I enjoyed it and highly recommend it!

—

57

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!

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56

5 out of 5 Stars

**Kennedy JNR**

November 7, 2018

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*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.

—

55

5 out of 5 Stars

**Sophia Gilstrap**

November 2, 2018

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***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.

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*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!

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53

4 out of 5 Stars

**Amazon Customer**

Sept 20, 2018

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*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.

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52

4 out of 5 Stars

**Peter Lipentine**

Sept 19, 2018

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*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 for everyone – who wants to have an enjoyable read!

—

51

5 out of 5 Stars

**Tyler B**

Sept 15, 2018

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*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 events. 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.

—

50

4 out of 5 Stars

**VT Reviewer**

Sept 10, 2018

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*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.

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49

4 out of 5 Stars

**River Writes**

Sept 8, 2018

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*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!

—

48

4 out of 5 Stars

**Michael Mahoney**

Sept 5, 2018

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*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 story's 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.

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47

5 out of 5 Stars

**Christine Patriarca**

Sept 2, 2018

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***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!

—

46

4 out of 5 Stars

JC Ahern

August 28, 2018

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*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.

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45

5 out of 5 Stars

**Britanni H**

August 24, 2018

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*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.

—

44

4 out of 5 Stars

**Mali**

August 18, 2018

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*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.

—

43

5 out of 5 Stars

**David Gunner**

August 11, 2018

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*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.'**

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42

4 out of 5 Stars

**Heather Conlin**

August 8, 2018

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*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

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***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.

—

41

5 out of 5 Stars

**Amazon Customer**

July 21, 2018

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*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!

—

40

5 out of 5 Stars

**Jessica Bone**

July 19, 2018

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*He writes from his soul...*

Author Lindsey Wincherauk is down on his luck and headed for a midlife collapse. Working two dismal jobs to play 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.

—

39

5 out of 5 Stars

**DP - Arizona**

July 16, 2018

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*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

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*A little visit with you!*

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

*To be continued —*

—

36

5 out of 5 Stars

**Karen E. Proctor – United Kingdom**

July 10, 2018

*Very uplifting*

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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

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*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

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*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)

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***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 textbook, 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

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*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

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*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 ~~you~~ 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

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*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

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*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**

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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

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I read it – Great book!

—



27

(5 out of 5 Stars)

CH - SE

June 6, 2018

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*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.

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26

5 out of 5 Stars

Karen Lynn

June 5, 2018

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*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.

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25

5 out of 5 Stars

**Robert Confiant**

June 1, 2018

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*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.

—

## 24

5 out of 5 Stars

**Alex Reads**

June 1, 2018

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*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

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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

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23

5 out of 5 Stars

By Olaak

May 27, 2018

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*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.

—

22

5 out of 5 Stars

By Rae Capri

May 22, 2018

*A life full of ups and downs*

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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.

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PAINTING BY: SU JIN

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21

5 out of 5 Stars

By Katy Nicola

May 5, 2018

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*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.

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20

4 out of 5 Stars

**By D Malone**

April 21, 2018

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*...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.

—

19

4 out of 5 Stars

**By Julie S**

April 19, 2018

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***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

—

18

5 out of 5 Stars

**By Lee Nicholson**

April 19, 2018

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*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 tragic 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!!

—

17

4 out of 5 STARS

**Renee Ashmeade**

April 17, 2018

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*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.

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16

5 out of 5 STARS

**Ms. Benkers**

April 9, 2018

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*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.

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15

4 out of 5 STARS

**Amazon Reviewer**

March 29, 2018

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*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.

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14

5 out of 5 Stars

**Louise Riveiro - Mitchell**

March 16, 2018

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*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 forth 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.

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13

5 out of 5 Stars

Lisa

March 12, 2018

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***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.

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12

5 out of 5 Stars

Jill Nechamkin Roach

February 21, 2018

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*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."

—

11

5 out of 5 Stars

AMAZON CUSTOMER

February 12, 2018

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***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.

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10

5 out of 5 Stars

STACEY JOSEPH

February 12, 2018

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*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.

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9

4 out of 5 Stars

**AMAZON READER**

February 6, 2018

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*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.

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8

3 out of 5 Stars

KRISTIN CRONKRIGHT

January 29, 2018

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*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.

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7

4 out of 5 Stars

LITERARY CAT

January 29, 2018

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*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.

—

6

5 out of 5 Stars

**EZELA SALAZAR**

January 23, 2018

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*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!!!

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5

4 out of 5 Stars

JESSICA

January 18, 2018

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*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!

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4

5 out of 5 Stars

AMANDA DAWN

January 5, 2018

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*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!

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3

5 out of 5 Stars

Grady Harp

HALL OF FAME TOP 100 REVIEWER – January 4, 2018

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*'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.

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2

5 out of 5 Stars

**Jeong Wan Lee**

November 30, 2017

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***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 :)

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1

5 out of 5 Stars

**STEW**

November 30, 2017

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***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.

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## DRIVING IN REVERSE EDITORIAL REVIEWS

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### 5

June 5, 2018

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

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

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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

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3

3 out of 4 Stars

POIGNANT AND AWE INSPIRING

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

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*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.

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3

## MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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*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.*

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## 2

### KIRKUS

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### REVIEW

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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.

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"*...enlightening and darkly entertaining...*"  
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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.

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RED CITY REVIEW

4 out of 5 STARS

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*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.

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*"It is at all times an interesting, funny, and over-the-top tale of debauchery and human bonding!"*

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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.

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