

REVIEWS

PRAISE

DRIVING IN REVERSE

EDITORIAL REVIEWS

4

3 out of 4 Stars

POIGNANT AND AWE INSPIRING

ONLINE BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Needless to say, I enjoyed this book a lot and I learned so much from it. However, the manner of telling (flash backs and flash forwards) may be a bit confusing to some readers. Moreover, because of the jocular manner of writing, it may be difficult for some readers to distinguish between truth and joke. Finally, there are several noticeable errors within the entire book.

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

3

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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

2

KIRKUS

REVIEW

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

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

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

Black-and-white and color photos are included.

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

1

RED CITY REVIEW

4 out of 5 STARS

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

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

CUSTOMER REVIEWS (AMAZON +++)

23 READER REVIEWS (4.5 OUT OF 5 STARS)

15: 5 STARS - 7: 4 STARS - 1: 3 STARS

23

5 out of 5 Stars

Writing through depression

By Olaak

On May 5, 2018

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

5 out of 5 Stars

A life full of ups and downs

By Rae Capri

On May 22, 2018

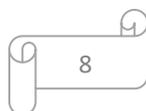
It's true, you'll never really know what someone has been through if you've never walked a mile in their shoes. People go through so many ups and downs in life that sometimes it's hard to keep score. Would we have more empathy for individuals if we had at least a glimpse into their life?

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

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

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

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





PAINTING BY: SU JIN

5 out of 5 Stars

Thought Provoking

By Katy Nicola

On May 5, 2018

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

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

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

4 out of 5 Stars

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

By D Malone

On April 21, 2018

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

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

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

4 out of 5 Stars

Driving in Reverse Can Inspire Good to Come from Worse!

By Julie S

On April 19, 2018

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

Author: Lindsay Wincherauk

Publication Date: December 5, 2017

Book Length: 452 pages

A Close Look at the Plot/Story -

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

Who is the main character or goal in this book?

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

What is the primary objective of this book?

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

My Personal Experiences -

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

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

My Opinion -

Did I like the book?

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

What part of this book did I like the most?

I liked the entire book from start to finish.

What is my least favorite part of the book?

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

Would I change any part or parts in this book?

No, the book is ideal, as is.

What Is My Recommendation for this Book? -

Would I recommend others to read this book?

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

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

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

How Many Stars Does This Book Get in Rating?

4 STARS

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

5 out of 5 Stars

This is a review

By Lee Nicholson

On April 19, 2018

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

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

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

Renee Ashmeade

Verified Purchase

4 out of 5 STARS

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.

Ms. Benkers

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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.

Amazon Reviewer

Verified Purchase

4 out of 5 STARS*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.

Louise Riveiro - Mitchell

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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.

Lisa

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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.

Jill Nechamkin Roach

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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."

Amazon Customer

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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.

Stacey Joseph

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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.

Amazon Reader

Verified Purchase

4 out of 5 STARS

Unusually touching.

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

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

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

8

Kristin Cronkright

Verified Purchase

3 out of 5 STARS

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

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

7

LITERARY CAT

Verified Purchase

4 out of 5 STARS

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.

JESSICA

Verified Purchase

4 out of 5 STARS

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!

AMANDA DAWN

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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!

Ezela Salazar

Verified Purchase

5 out of 5 STARS

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!!

3

Grady Harp

HALL OF FAME TOP 100 REVIEWER

5 out of 5 STARS

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

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

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

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

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

2

Jay Lee

5 out of 5 STARS

GOOD LOOKING BOOK COVER BTW!

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

1

STEW

5 out of 5 STARS

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.
