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It Chooses You



Synopsis

In the summer of 2009, Miranda July was struggling to finish writing the screenplay for her much-anticipated second film. During her increasingly long lunch breaks, she began to obsessively read the PennySaver, the iconic classifieds booklet that reached everywhere and seemed to come from nowhere. Who was the person selling the 'Large leather Jacket, \$100? It seemed important to find out; or at least it was a great distraction from the screenplay. Accompanied by photographer Brigitte Sire, July crisscrossed Los Angeles to meet a random selection of PennySaver sellers, glimpsing thirteen surprisingly moving and profoundly specific realities, along the way shaping her film, and herself, in unexpected ways. Elegantly blending narrative, interviews, and photographs with July's off-kilter honesty and deadpan humor, this is a story of procrastination and inspiration, isolation and connection, and grabbing hold of the invisible world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Voted a "Can't Miss Read for December 2011" by Oprah Magazine. "July, an artist, writer, performer and film-maker who creates work 'about people trying to connect in one way or another and the importance of that' has moved from casual wondering to something substantive and extraordinary." Hermione Hoby, the Guardian

Miranda July is the author of No One Belongs Here More Than You, winner of the Frank

O'Connell International Short Story Award. Her writing has appeared in The New Yorker, Harper's, and The Paris Review. July wrote, directed, and starred in the film Me and You and Everyone We Know, which won a special jury prize at the Sundance Film Festival and the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Her second film, The Future, was released this summer.

I love Miranda July's work so very much, she has such a unique way of thinking and writing. Each individual story is so interesting, and sometimes so sad or pathetic...I just love the way she writes about each person. Sometimes when she gets into more personal stories I got a little annoyed, at times it felt a little too self indulgent and self praising...but I can also appreciate that because self care and self love is so very important. The final story is very moving and sweet, by far my favorite. The collage that covers the book is great, and the limericks on the inside are very amusing, and even touching after you have finished the book. I read this twice in the first month of owning it, really a must have for any Miranda July fan!

In my opinion, July looks down on her subjects while exploiting them. And her movie was not great.

I'm just getting into M July and this is an incredibly refreshing commentary. Too often the author gets run over by their stories and while July is brilliant at marrying the surreal with the mostly believable, I loved the poignancy of a leather jacket for \$10 or the boy with frogs in his backyard. Real people whose stories often trump anything a creative brain can birth live in this book and that's a rare gift.

I loved this book, I found the interviews to be really interesting and thought it was so important that she was telling the story of these amazing, everyday people. I love Miranda July's writings, and the accompaniment of photographs of the subjects just makes the book so much better.

This is definitely a pre read to watching The Future. Miranda July is so creative and it's interesting to know that the old man in the movie The Future was someone she actually met through replying to ads in the penny saver. Miranda is so outside the box. She does so many weird, interesting, creative things and it all works together. This book was a great read. In fact I liked it better than No One Belongs Here More Than You.

Easy read, sweet characters. Author's insights were a bit disappointing. She comes across rather disconnected. Glad I read it though and met her pennysaver folks.

so good at sharing the tender moments that we stumble through with each other and with ourselves.
a very honest book.

In this short book Miranda July continues to exhibit a curious sense of wonder and exploration of the possibilities within our everyday world. Her works, (both movies and books) seem to constantly reveal that the ordinary around us is anything but ordinary when we just take a look and engage with the unique nature of what seems like "nothing interesting can happen here". Through her efforts we witness the personality of someone that is a nice mix of naivety and intelligence who is continually guided by a positive outlook. This book is another fine example of what I like about her work.

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