



The Whys Have It

Amy Matayo

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"His music holds the heart of America...but his soul holds a terrible secret."

Chart topping pop musician Cory Minor has it all—fame, money, more women at his disposal than time to spend on them. He's living the life most American men only dream of. Until an ordinary concert in Springfield threatens to destroy everything he's worked for.

As he and his band leave the arena for his next show, Cory's tour bus crashes into two teenage girls, killing one girl instantly and leaving the other barely clinging to life. Lawsuits are threatened, tabloids are talking, and Cory's idyllic world falls apart. But what no one knows is that this scene is all too familiar. Because this isn't the first accident Cory has caused. This isn't the first time he's destroyed someone else's life to save his own.

It's just the first time he's had to face it head on.

Small town girl Samantha Dalton has no one—no mother, no father, and now no sister. She's lost everything in a world that celebrates excess. So when Cory Minor shows up at her doorstep offering money and apologies, she turns him away too. You can't lose what you don't have, and she can't take another letdown, especially not from someone who has managed to rip away all she had left. Samantha has been fine on her own for years, she'll be fine now too.

At least that's what she tells herself.

But Cory won't leave. He's persistent in the worst possible way.

Will Cory's determination to make things right pay off in the end, or will Sam keep pushing him away until there's nothing left to fight for? How can two people learn to rely on each other when life keeps hurting them both?

The Whys Have It Details

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From Reader Review The Whys Have It for online ebook

Emilee says

I have wanted to read The Whys Have It since I first heard about it. I love a good cover and title, both really grabbed my attention. The writing style is different than what I'm used to so it took me a while to settle in and enjoy. I'm not sure if enjoy is really the right word for me. While I think this story is good It just wasn't my "cup of tea". It was just a bit too heavy for me. I also did not connect with Sam. I can't really put my finger on why. I also felt like this might be too edgy for sensitive readers. There are a lot of sexual innuendos that just did not seem necessary in drawing out the plot.

Katie W says

I know I'm weird, haha. I don't cry easily, especially in books, but this story ripped my heart out and stomped on it, before gradually restoring it. My emotions were all over the place....and I loved every single minute of this hauntingly beautiful book.

There's something about a music star befriending a small town girl, but that's just what happens and in a most unconventional way. The story is told from two points of view--Cory's and Sam's--and it's done in a way that isn't confusing at all. In fact, I felt a very deep connection to both characters by digging deep into their issues, their lives, their feelings, and their reasons why.

This author has a fantastic way of writing--an absolutely phenomenal skill using words to spin a web around a reader's heart and soul that isn't easy to break away from...not that I really wanted to. The words are practically poetry that speaks on deep levels and I just couldn't stop reading.

It seems that summertime is the perfect time for a heart wrenching novel and I daresay, this is the novel of Summer 2017. Break out that box of tissues and buckle in for laughs, tears, love, and forgiveness.

Content: mild romance (some innuendo, implied hookups, vague abuse/rape); mild violence (death, abuse); mild language.

I received a copy, which didn't influence my opinion in any way. All thoughts are my own.

Donna Dv says

I always know that a book by Amy will be one that is impossible to put down. This one was no exception. I received an advanced copy of the book but it in no way influenced my review. To say I loved the book is putting it mildly, I absolutely LOVE, LOVE, LOVED it. It is so thought provoking, so full of emotion, so very well written that I plan to read it again even though I just finished it. This isn't a "fluff" book. It is the kind of book that makes you think. You won't be disappointed when you read this book.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

The Whys Have It is exquisitely heartwrenching and simultaneously layered with hope and subtle nudges of grace. It's a picture of broken people living broken lives – and what it looks like when their brokenness intersects.

Amy Matayo seamlessly gets inside Samantha's & Cory's heads, and therefore so do we, the readers. As such, we are treated to their brokenness first hand and experience their reactions and unguarded thoughts. It makes for some uncomfortable paragraphs – the good kind of uncomfortable, the kind that stretches you out of your comfort zone. The kind of discomfort that eventually makes grace that much sweeter. (Some of Cory's unguarded thoughts may have you blushing and fanning lol)

Oh! And I can't forget to mention Phyllis. I adore her! You will love her too, I just know it! She's the type of character you wish could leap out of the page and into real life. Her hugs, her insight, the smile in her voice. Everyone needs a Phyllis.

Bottom Line: The Whys Have It by Amy Matayo is the kind of book that gets deep down in your heart and takes up residence. The smooth writing style instantly draws you in – and once the characters latch on, don't expect to put this novel down until you've finished it. My Kindle copy has three pages worth of highlighted sentences that will linger with me for quite a while beyond this first read. It's honest. It's profound. It's raw in places. And peeking through the melody of brokenness is a harmony of hope and restoration that will settle in your spirit like one of Phyllis' hugs.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

see my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Leila says

Why did I wait to read this, I now ask myself, the answer is I have no idea, all I know is I did and so should you.

I was gripped by the prologue, well invested by chapter 2 and was utterly hooked every chapter thereafter.

There is nothing cliche about this book, Amy manages to bring her characters to life in a style that I'm in awe of, it's real, it's raw, and it's heartbreakingly beautiful.

This book has all the feels, it will reel you in before you know it and there's isn't anything you can do to prevent it. It has the power to break your heart, mend your heart, make you laugh, make you cry, and still leave you wanting more.

Ian says

Wow.

The Whys Have It is an enthralling read. Matayo gives us a story of heartbreak, grief, and the transformative power of love that takes the reader on an emotional rollercoaster. Her two lead characters: Cory Minor and Samantha (just call me 'Sam') Dalton are complex and so true to life. I'm sure many women readers will fall in love with Cory and it didn't take me long to develop a book-crush for Sam. I'm in awe how Matayo is able to dive so deep so quickly with her characters.

Cory is a rockstar. Major, major rockstar, 5 Grammy-awards major. And he enjoys the fruits his success brings him. He enjoys the fine things but does exercise some restraint especially when it comes to women and drugs. He's a thinking-man's rockstar. He meets Sam through tragic circumstances which takes him back to his home town, one that is full of unpleasant memories and a secret that has haunted him for a decade.

He's drawn to Sam. Sam has a heart that's been refined by the fire of heartache and loss. It's given her perspective, courage and depth of character. But she's also fragile with a lovely playfulness that endears Corey to want more. Matayo captures the essence of those early courtship (I love this old-fashioned word) days, two seemingly mismatched individuals who want to know what makes the other tick. And yes, there is passion but Matayo writes this discretely and with tenderness.

And it's messy. But all good relationships are. Aren't they? And it only serves to make us want more of these two excellent characters.

The story is told in alternate first-person POV: Cory and then Sam's. I enjoy reading a romance this way. We get greater depth of insight into the 2 characters. The other cast members are relatively minor but Phyllis is a beauty and has a servant's heart and some fabulous Godly wisdom.

This is a powerful story of redemption, forgiveness (of others and self) and acceptance.

Marylin says

Have you ever asked the question "Why?" Why is life so hard? Why does bad things happen to me? WHY!?! This is what happens to Sam as her life goes through so many loses. This is what Cory is trying hard not to ask.

I deeply LOVED this book! It brought so many emotions out.

At first, I wanted to really dislike Cory because of the selfish life he was living, but then I started to feel sorry for him because I saw how lost he was. I also felt deep emotions for Sam because of all the rotten stuff happening to her, she never seemed to get a break.

Amy Matayo has written a heart tugging story of true love and friendship, of forgiveness and healing, and of learning to let go of the lies which eat away at us.

This book has moments where you might want to scream at the characters and then cry because they are going through such tough stuff. It's a book you won't want to put down until you finish. It is a gripping story which will leave you hopeful of redemption, mercy, and grace.

I highly recommend getting this book!

I was given this book by the author for an honest review, all opinions are my own.

Lydia (Overweight Bookshelf) says

This book, wow. How to describe this reading experience? I read the first half with a knot of dread in my stomach, but that sounds terrible even though it wasn't. No, fellow readers, that knot was one of shared grief and anguish with Sam, a grief that was so visceral that the constant stinging of tears threatened to obscure the page and interrupt the surprising kinship.

And then that knot in my stomach turned to butterflies. Exhilarating, breath stealing butterflies because Cory (who I was quite prejudicial towards considering his affinity for destructive behaviour and arrogant facade) dropped the veil of superiority and wealth to reveal a complex, compassionate, and conflicted young man. Torn between running from his past, atoning for his present, or stumbling towards an unfulfilling future, Cory must earn the right to be in Sam's life.

These characters are flawed in the most relatable way. There is no easy fix for their circumstances, nor is there a way to sugar coat their realities. *The Whys Have It* is an unfiltered portrait of life behind the glamour of fame and the emotional destitution that comes from isolation from family either through loss, illness, or anger. The themes here are mature and Matayo grants readers unprecedeted access to the unfiltered psyche of her characters, seamlessly transitioning from a male point of view to a female voice.

As the book drew to a conclusion that knot of dread sank back into place, for no other reason than I had to bid these cherished characters goodbye.

*Disclosure: I was provided with a copy of this book by the author. All opinions in this review are my own.**

Cheryl says

Beautifully written story; but a definite slow-burn without ANY sexy times, which was very disappointing!!!

Kathy says

Wow! Well done!

Content: Innuendo, Cory lives the stereotypical life of a teen heartthrob, sex is talked about but no scenes on the pages of the book

Christina says

Great Summer Reading

This is the second book I've read from this author and I have to say that I love the outside of the box

characters. I love that no aspect of their lives is perfect. That they question things with boldness and sometimes don't get all the answers. That's real life. It's what I often find lacking in romance novels.

I'm a sucker for gripping first person accounts and Matayo doesn't disappoint here. Both of the main characters are finely drawn. Well done and highly recommended.

Kathy Aronoff says

Loved it

Everyone that knows me or reads my book reviews can see my addiction to rock star books and while most consists of the bad boy hotter than hell panty melting misunderstood musicians, this book was bought based on all of the above but was so refreshingly different.

This book deals with loss. Sam Dalton is twenty five going on fifty, she is practically raising her seventeen year old sister Kassie after the death of their Mom and their Dad in the final stages of Alzheimer's. Upon her sister's graduating high school, Sam gifted Kassie two tickets to see her favorite

Artist Cory Minor. Sam changes her mind about going so Kassie and her best friend Meghan go instead.

Cory Minor loves his life, he's talented, rich and adored by millions but playing a concert so near his hometown is bringing back memories he left behind ten years ago when he vowed never to return. When Sam and Cory's world collide bringing two unlikely people together in grief each must get passed their pain if they have any chance of moving forward.

This book resonated with me as someone who had lost everyone in my life, and it doesn't matter the circumstances or the timing, loss is loss. A beautifully written book and although I would have liked a more in depth epilogue, I highly recommend this book.

Shona says

An incredible story which grips you from the first page and never releases you. I'm still thinking about it several hours after finishing and plan to read it again soon. The struggles and heartbreak that Cory and Sam suffer emotionally connect the reader to their story. I've rarely read a book which is so hard to read and yet completely unputdownable. Massive credit to Amy Matayo for an inspiring difficult read which allows you to go through a tumult of emotions with each character - and make you want to go back for more!

An excellent read but not if you like an easy uncomplicated romance. This is SO much better than that!

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

There are heavy themes that this book focuses on, including death, grief, secrets, and depression. Despite the bleakness of the characters' circumstances, there is gratitude and hope that motivates them to reach out and continue on. I admired Sam's genuineness. She faces the hard things in her life and perseveres through the process of acceptance of loss. Cory's regrets are eating him up inside, and getting to know Sam is a catalyst for his memories to surface, forcing him to deal with feelings that he has been repressing for years. His struggles are shown through his first person perspective, and the internal dialogue is realistic and gritty. The contrast of his inner goodness and the selfish persona he has embraced is stark, and with Sam's influence, he sees the emptiness of his life without the peace that good choices bring. They have a great chemistry, with

banter and teasing and attraction and friendship and support. I also loved Phyllis, the health care worker that takes Sam under her wing whenever she visits her father suffering from Alzheimer's. Her caring and support is given freely and without hesitation. I particularly appreciated this piece of wisdom she shares and I think it represents what the book is all about:

"You can ask why all day long if you want to. You can ask God why and your friends why and yourself why until you're buried in nothing but that single question, but you'll never get an answer. This side of heaven, time is the only thing that helps a little bit. So don't give in. Don't let the whys have it. Don't let them take advantage of you. They'll crush your heart and steal your peace and mess with your mind and wrap around you so tight you won't be able to breathe. Don't let the whys ruin your life, child. Every time they try to sneak up, push them aside and move forward. Trust me, it's the only way you can get on with living."

I turn toward the window and think about her words. "What if I can't? Let it go, I mean?"

I don't see her smile, but I can hear it. "You can. I know you can. Because no matter how hard life gets, there's always goodness right around the corner. All you have to do is look for it."

Even though it's not light reading, I'm glad that I read this book and contemplated the questions that Cory and Sam face as they seek to cope with the haunting and devastating things in their lives.

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Candice Valdez says

Once again, Amy Matayo sucked me in. This book had me from the beginning until the end. I could feel the connection between Cory and Sam and I was rooting for them the entire book. Sometimes the depressing parts of the book were hard to read through but it made you want to root for them all the more. I loved the way Kyle was there for his brother at the end. It is hard to put this book down and you will want to read it in all on sitting. Definitely a must read!

I was provided a copy of this book by the author. All opinions in this review are my own.
