



# Me Since You

*Laura Wiess*

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**Laura Wiess captures the visceral emotion of a girl's journey from innocence to devastating loss and, ultimately, to a strange and unexpected kind of understanding--in this beautiful and painfully honest new novel.**

*Are there any answers when someone you love makes a tragic choice?*

Before and After. That's how Rowan Areno sees her life now. Before: she was a normal sixteen-year-old--a little too sheltered by her police officer father and her mother. After: everything she once believed has been destroyed in the wake of a shattering tragedy, and every day is there to be survived.

If she had known, on that Friday in March when she cut school, that a random stranger's shocking crime would have traumatic consequences, she never would have left campus. If the crime video never went viral, maybe she could have saved her mother, grandmother--and herself--from the endless replay of heartache and grief.

Finding a soul mate in Eli, a witness to the crime who is haunted by losses of his own, Rowan begins to see there is no simple, straightforward path to healing wounded hearts. Can she learn to trust, hope, and believe in happiness again?

## Me Since You Details

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Author : Laura Wiess

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# From Reader Review *Me Since You* for online ebook

## Keertana says

I'll admit it: I picked up this book for its cover alone. In fact, I've been itching to try a Wiess novel precisely because of her covers. Either they are breath-taking in their beauty or eye-catching in their simplicity. Wiess's latest novel, though not perfect, has certainly ignited a thirst for more of her work. With an effortless writing style, Wiess captures dark, gritty emotions in their rawest form. Granted, her novels are not easy to read - not by a long shot - but they are worth it.

*Me Since You* is a difficult novel to describe, merely because it a two-fold story. Our novel begins with Rowan Areno cutting class. Rowan's father is a police man and after witnessing horrible crimes day after day, he's more than just a little over protective of his only daughter. After finding her sitting alone in a booth at McDonald's (after her best friend and two cute senior boys ditched her to go to the beach), Officer Areno takes his daughter home and is about to sit her down for a scolding when he receives an urgent call. As the closest one to the scene, Rowan's father cruises out to a bridge where a man is planning to commit suicide with his three-month-year-old baby boy in his hands. Eli, whose father was killed in the army, is also on that bridge, walking his dog. And despite the efforts of Rowan's father, the man jumps and kills himself.

After the incident, Rowan's life is turned upside down. For one, the neighborhood she lives in ostracizes her father for not saving the life of a depressed man. When the video of what transpired leaks online, her father gives in to his inner demons. While life with her father is no longer easy, it is still easier than what comes afterward: suicide. Rowan knows her father loved her and her mother but she cannot understand why he would kill himself. *Me Since You* explores grief in a deep, visceral manner, both as a recipient and as an outsider. After the incident on the bridge, Rowan struggles to maintain her friendships and push through with school, striking up an easy relationship with Eli who, shockingly, seems to understand her. Just as her life seems to be returning to a state of normalcy, however, her father commits suicide and Rowan shuts herself off from the world. Completely.

*Me Since You* touches upon the deep-rooted sickness of depression in an engaging manner. We first witness the extent of depression through the eyes of Rowan's father as he struggles to convince a man to live, to let his new-born child live. We see it again through the eyes of Rowan as her father begins to take medication, sees a therapist, and attempts to survive through each day. It isn't easy to see a parent, especially one you believed was constantly strong and a source of support, succumb to weakness. But Rowan's father does his best to get his life back on track. As requested, he takes time off from work. As advised, he goes to talk over his issues with a psychiatrist. As told, he takes anti-depressant pills. And yet, he still commits suicide. After all his efforts and despite the love his family bears for him, he loses his will to live on.

After this horrific action, Rowan needs time for herself. While her romance with Eli - understanding, sweet, calming, gentle - is just on the verge of taking off, she is blinded by her grief and unable to pursue anything more with him. Eli, who lives with his father's death every day, who walks the dog that served in the army with his father, understands better than anyone. Even when Rowan's friends ask her to heal quickly, even when her remaining family pushes her to forgive her father, Eli gives her the space she needs. As such, their romance is a minimal aspect to this novel, but an important one. While they don't heal one another, they do help one another, and the understanding they share due to their traumatic pasts makes them an ideal match.

One of my favorite aspects to this tale, though, is Rowan's healing. Not only does Rowan write letters to her father, voicing her disbelief, her anger, and her sorrow, but the relationship she sustains with her mother is

beautifully portrayed. Both these women have been touched by the same grief, but in different ways. Rowan and her mother are healing at different paces and through different mediums. After her husband's death, Rowan's mother takes it upon herself to house stray cats - eleven of them. It is only when her parents - Rowan's grandparents - yell some sense into her that she begins to accept that her husband is truly gone. While Rowan doesn't need to be there for anyone, her mother does need to be there for her which makes that burden of grief all the more painful, in some ways. Wiess charts these issues with grace, though, creating three-dimensional characters we can get behind and emotions we feel, despite not wanting to touch these difficult topics.

Where my criticism with *Me Since You* arises is in its conclusion. Rowan's father, despite being a meticulous man, fails to leave a suicide note which haunts Rowan. Although she heals, she is unable to fully let go of her grief until, eventually, she does find a suicide note. For me, this felt like a cop-out. In her debut, Courtney Summers writes about a young teenage girl coping with the suicide of her father - a girl who never finds a suicide note, never finds a reason, but still manages to heal. *Me Since You* seemed to be following this very same and poignant path until the tail-end, which ruined the impact of the story for me. Nevertheless, despite that, this novel discusses the issue of suicide and depression in a heart-felt manner and for fans of issue books, this one covers that scope beautifully - and even beyond.

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## Ashley says

***Me Since You* is hands down the most powerful and emotional book I have ever read.** This book ripped me to emotional shreds. I have never cried so much over one book in my entire life.

If you don't like sad books, turn away now. *Me Since You* is not just sad—it's *devastating*. The genuine loss and hopelessness that drips from the words in this book will cripple you a thousand times over. I read this book in increments, and each time I picked up the book again, the tears immediately started up again.

***Me Since You* was so real and so honest—I think that's why it had such a strong effect on me.** It almost read like a real journal than a fictional story. I felt like all the events in this book really happened, and maybe even I was part of them. I got so involved and so invested, and that's why it brought tears to my eyes every single time I turned the page.

What I love about this book is that Laura Wiess didn't take the easy way out, which I almost expected. You have a book about loss and grief, with the clear mention of a romance in the synopsis. But, it didn't turn out how I expected. I imagined the cliché story where a girl's father commits suicide, she seeks comfort in the arms of the understanding boy her age, and he solves all her problems and guides her through this troubling time.

Nope.

**The romance did not dominate and take over *Me Since You*.** I expected it to kind of take over the whole grief/loss aspect of the book, but it totally didn't. In fact, the romance is only a subtle accent to this story. It largely focuses on working through the stages of grief. Rowan is confused, lost, upset, angry, and finally learns to accept the tragedy. Although Eli does have some involvement, he's not the focus. Most of the story is Rowan struggling to deal with this on her own, because she doesn't immediately run into the arms of the hot guy she met. She's scared, sad, and alone, and pulls inward, as you'd kind of expect from someone suffering a loss like this.

So although I loved the romance (it was sooooo sweet!!), I loved how it didn't turn *Me Since You* into a romance book. The story was still very much about loss, death, family, and acceptance.

I feel like I can't even really convey the number this book did on me. It completely OWNED me. It ripped me into so many pieces. I had to fight back tears while reading the ending on the train. I swear to god, people were probably looking at me and wondering, *"I wonder who in her family just died..."*

***Me Since You* made me feel all the feels.** I was completely part of the story, to the point where it dominated my thoughts even when I wasn't reading. I was yelling at Rowan's father, *"WHY WHY WHY?? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!"* I was 100% there with Rowan, struggling to understand, fighting to accept, and lost somewhere between grief and anger.

Anyone who reads my reviews regularly will know that I don't usually comment on writing style. By Laura's prose was so gorgeous. That's one of the things that really pulled me in and made this book feel real and genuine. The words were so heavy with emotion and I practically got lost in it. I swear to you, they were real thoughts from a real grieving person.

**Unless you hate cry books or can't stand sadness in stories, I recommend *Me Since You* to EVERYONE!** You will feel EVERYTHING! Most of it will be sad, heart-wrenching, and confusing. You won't understand why Rowan's father chose to leave his family. WHY WHY WHY??? How could he do that? You will feel immense grief, an overwhelming sense of *unfairness*, and deep, tragic loss. This book is *that* powerful. It will shake you to your core and you will feel the effects for weeks.

One of the best books I've ever read. Period.

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## Jasprit says

*"I will never understand how life can rip your heart  
out with one hand and then give you a small,  
warm piece of it back with the other?  
How can something so good come from something  
so terrible?"*

Sometimes trying a new book by an author that you've never tried before can be daunting. But by just reading the first few pages of *Me Since You*, I knew I would love this book and would read anything written by Wiess right away. Wiess captured the grief that Rowan and her family had to go through really well. Not only that but how people reacted differently when they had to deal with unexpected grief.

Rowan's father had been a police officer for the last twenty years, he'd had his fair share of tough cases to deal with, but had learned to cope with consequences and move onto the next situation well. But the situation he found himself and the backlash that he had to deal with ended up being way too much to deal with. Not only did it have an impact on his career, his way of thinking, but also his family's life in a major way. It was hard seeing a man, who had such a reputable reputation and such a strong person become a fraction of the man that he used to be right before his family's eyes. Rowan and her mum were constantly there for him, but sometimes this is never enough.

And so the next few weeks were really trying for Rowan and her mother. First of all after everything which

happened it was so unexpected, Rowan had several important questions, (view spoiler) they knew that the lives he wasn't able to save, had hit him really hard, but they thought things were getting better. And on top of this Rowan did blame herself for the escalation of events, if only she hadn't skipped school, would her dad have even been the first one to attend the scene? It was really tough watching Rowan go through this difficult period, (view spoiler)

There isn't really one singular path to follow when dealing with grief, but having a strong support network can make a big difference. And with people dealing with grief in different ways, it is important this support is there in the sidelines, not being so overwhelming, but also ready to step in wherever possible. This is where Rowan lucked out in some ways and was dealt a bad card in another. Rowan's grandparents were the sweetest, although we didn't get to see much of them, they really held Rowan and her mum together. They let them do their own thing for as long as they needed to, but also were there to put their foot down when it was necessary. Whereas Rowan's supposed best friend, don't even let me get started on her, it's usually major life events, which really go on to show you who your true friends are and Rowan was seriously better off without her.

Me Since You was a gorgeously written story, despite the story focusing on a really heartbreaking aspect, the story wasn't bleak at all, and I enjoyed watching Rowan slowly picking herself up and find her place in the world, when a big part of her was missing. Wiess was also able to weave some small "ray of sunshine" moments which were quick to bring a glowy feel good feeling. Overall Me Since You really impressed me much more than I was expecting that I cannot wait to read more of Wiess's books.

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## Lynsey (A Bookish Life) says

### *Me since this book*

This is *such* a difficult book to rate! I really am having a difficult time settling on a star rating. Normally I just rate on how enjoyable I found a book, but **Me Since You** was so thoroughly and heartbreakingly *sad* can I really say that I *enjoyed* myself reading it? Mmm, that might be a stretch...

So, if I can't do that, perhaps I should rate on writing quality? Well, actually, if we're going there, the present tense narrative and the unfathomable allergy to pronouns drove me slightly batty, so perhaps not.

I guess, then, the most important question should be whether or not I would recommend others to read it, despite its moroseness. And, surprisingly, the answer to that is yes. It is definitely worth your time, and was extremely thought-provoking and poignant. Excellent brain food. But you'd need to prepare yourself mentally before going in.

So, what is it about? Well, the story follows Rowan, the sixteen-year-old daughter of a police officer who is witness to a double suicide/murder - A mentally unstable man jumps off a bridge with his newborn son right in front of him. Rowan's father struggles to add the weight of this to the endless list of other atrocities he's seen over the twenty years of his career, and might have been able to bear it, but the dashboard cam from his police vehicle captured the whole thing, and the video soon goes viral, attracting all the hate and vitriol you can imagine from anonymous online users who have an opinion on just about everything - including whether or not he did his job properly that day. It's all too much for him, and it's not long before he disappears onto a fog of depression, taking his family - Rowan and her mother- with him.

To me, this is where Wiess excelled. The way she conveyed the father's decent, and the impotent frustration of both Rowan and her mother during this time, was exceptional. To take a man from someone who was always in command, the main authority figure of the family, to someone who can barely dress himself, was a cruel torment. And understandably, Rowan feels equal measures of compassion and rage for his situation. It was like he was there in person, but not in spirit. And was both fascinating and devastating to read.

Then, as a subplot, there is Eli, a local boy who was also there on the bridge that day. He's a sympathetic ear and romance soon develops, but this part was by no means the focus of **Me Since You**.

Overall, I found the book to be engrossing, and I'm glad I read it, but I can tell you it left me hankering for something much, much lighter afterwards. You've been warned!

3 Stars ★★★

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sarah says**

The older I get, the harder time I have with grief-filled books. *Me Since You* is beautifully written and emotionally evocative, but I couldn't keep reading it--there was just too much for me. If you want an ugly cry, an lovely writing, this is a good choice.

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Apropos of nothing, I really love the cover model's hair.

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### **Giselle says**

A sad but moving novel; *Me Since You* is a difficult, yet eye opening journey into the deep, dark abyss of grief.

It doesn't start out as an emotional train wreck, though, which is something I really appreciated. We get introduced to Rowan as a normal teenager. We see her living a normal life, with the angst and risk that come with teenage antics. There's also some romance involved that's refreshingly cute and full of the new-relationship happiness and hope. The tragedy itself only occurs past a quarter through, giving us the opportunity to truly grasp the monumental change that happens to Rowan, the before and after. I loved that we got to know her as a person before she's stricken by pain. This allows us time to connect with her in a way that makes us thoroughly feel and understand her pain.

Once the worst happens, Rowan finds herself in a pit of despair and drags us right along with her. We fight through the stages of grief, we battle what no one else seems to understand. Rowan's friends and neighbors don't get how she can't just move on already, especially after months. This is not so we despise the people around her (even though I did, kinda), it's so that we can see how a situation like this is looked at from the outside; how people really *don't* know what it's like unless they've been through it. It's really an eye opener. We all know grief, but its impact is not truly accepted unless it's yours.

This story also touches on the ripple effect of our decisions. Even if you'd give anything to change the past,

every action, every regret, has *some* good come out of it. This book is not only sadness and misery. Don't avoid reading it because you think it will be nothing but torture on your heart. Yes, there's anguish, but it's also about learning to move on, about finding light in the darkness. The character growth in itself is amazing. Then there are some great family bonding moments, new experiences, rekindling romance, even cats and dogs, all giving a bit of light to this bleakness, showing us that no matter how far down you've been pushed, there is always going to be a way up.

Me Since You is an incredible story about conquering grief. It makes you understand its consequences and power, and may even help you through your own dark times.

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*An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.*

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## **Michelle (Pink Polka Dot Books) says**

*Rowan is a normal teenager. A little rebellious. A little bit overtaken by her dominant BFF. She loves her family and worries about saving money for a car, what clothes to wear, and how people at school see her. All that changes the morning that a man decides to kill himself and his baby boy. Rowan's dad was the responding officer that morning, and while he's dealt with his share of tough situations over the years, the backlash that comes from the media and public because of this incident pushes him into a severe depression. For weeks he's unable to function, becoming someone that Rowan doesn't even know. Worse than that, Rowan knows that if she hadn't been skipping school that day, her dad wouldn't have been anywhere near the bridge and the terrible thing that happened. Another person touched by this deed was Eli. He and Rowan form a bond of sorts while she's trying to hold everything together.*

*Then another tragedy strikes and nothing will ever be the same again.*

### **My Thoughts:**

This is my first book by this author, so I wasn't sure what to expect here. I don't know if her other books are this dark and deep, but next time I read one (and there will be a next time), I'm making sure I'm mentally prepared for it.

For the first 1/3 of this book, I was in love with it. I loved Rowan and how real she was. She wasn't a "good girl", but she wasn't a rebellious bad-ass either. She was just a teenager. She reminded me of me or any of my friends. Then holy mother of God, this book got dark. The entire last 2/3rds of the book was just death, depression, and people spiraling out of control. I honestly don't think I've read another book that had more death in it. Babies die for crying out loud (as in plural, more than one)!!

So I'm not saying that I didn't like the book. I did. Like I said, I really loved Rowan. And Eli was pretty amazing as well. But I really didn't know that we were going to have to go along with Rowan and her mother on their entire, giant grieving process. Not to be cold-hearted, but it got old after a while. I get it, you are destroyed over this.... does the whole book have to be about that?? And it might be authentic (I'm sure it is), but every time they took one step forward, they would take 3 steps back. It was really frustrating to read about. And the thing is I was really pissed at Rowan's friend Nadia for feeling the exact same way I was, so that makes me feel kind of shitty for saying it at all. She had every right to grieve and grieve however she

needed to. I just didn't want to read about the same thing for that many pages.

Besides the characters and writing, I also loved the overall "ripple effect" theme. The idea that a tragedy touches so many more people than you think. The idea that tiny little things that you do can have consequences that you never saw coming. I'm not one to second guess the little stuff. You could what-if yourself to death that way... but it is worth thinking about actions and consequences.

So should you read this?? If you are in an emotional reading mood: YES!! This is a beautifully written book and it's about some really important stuff. But it's dark and sad, emotional and there's a constant heartbreak that comes and keeps on coming.

**OVERALL: I enjoyed the characters and the beautiful way it was written, but it was a little too dark for my tastes. I needed something positive to happen in this book and I never fully got that. It's worth reading, but you gotta be in that deep, emotional mood.**

**My Blog:**

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**Tez says**

[Depression. Suicide. (hide spoiler)]

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**Debbie Narh says**

### 3.5 Stars

Me Since You is a story about grief and regret. It's a story that will hopefully draw a few tears, if not buckets full. It will leave you tired and drained but in a good way. Hopefully you'll be able to connect to this piece of art just like I had. It's such an emotional roller coaster that has a few dips and stops but is great.

Unfortunately, this novel has a hard time being realistic at moments. The times when Rowan needs Eli the most, he's miraculously there. No one goes to prom without a ticket just because they felt like walking in the neighbourhood. Also for someone who knows grief so well, I felt like Eli handled these death a bit unrealistically. He's so unbelievably happy whenever he's with Rowan even after everything horrible happens and I just didn't believe that someone can be that happy after someone they know dies.

What I did like about this book is the breathtaking decline of Rowan's father. It's so sad and heartbreaking and I loved every minute of it. It took many weeks and I loved that Laura Wiess doesn't rush it nor does she pull it out of proportion especially Rowan and the way she reacts to her father's depression.

Overall, Me Since You is such a sad story with an even sadder ending. However it's a moving story that I

really enjoyed despite its few flaws. I recommend this to just about everyone because of the fact that many people have gone through the things that both Rowan and Eli have gone through. Death touches the lives of everyone no matter how big or how small.

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### **Tracey (Life and Literature) says**

***"Grief..." She shakes her head. "You can't hide from it. There is no over, under or around it. No avoiding. It will stay until you make your way through it."***

This book right here broke my heart. The subject matter is so intense. It is full of such raw honesty and heartbreak. I lived every single one of the emotions as they were experienced throughout the story. I'm not even sure what I was expecting when I started reading this, but it definitely wasn't what I got. It was everything I could have possibly hoped for in a book with such emotion. My heart was in no way prepared for the intensity of this story.

This review is going to be so hard to write without giving away spoilers, but I will try my very hardest. Me Since You is not a book that will have you continually swooning over a hot guy and the romance. Although there is a beautiful romance in the book. It is not a book that will have you all giddy with happiness. But there are some happy moments in there as well. What it is, is a book that will make you feel. It will have you asking why. It will have you thinking and questioning.

Rowan Areno, is a normal sixteen year old girl. She sneaks out to parties, gets drunk occasionally, crushes on boys, and she's about to skip school. It's that last one that is going to have life altering ramifications. It will lead to a chain of events that will change Rowan's life and have her questioning everything around her. It will have her dealing with pain, like nothing she has ever experienced before.

***"We grow up believing that bad things don't happen to good people... but sometimes they do. It's a hard truth to accept, that life is not fair."***

I was on the edge of my seat for this whole book. I was never sure what was about to happen and was knocked for six each time there was a new development. There was always a sense of dread as I was reading but I never in a million years expected the story to go down the path that it did.

The characters in this story were so fleshed out. It was almost like I knew them personally. This story is told through Rowan's eyes, but I felt that I got to know all the characters really well. They all fitted perfectly into the story and each played their part. There wasn't one character that I felt was just there as a filler.

***He looks at me like no other guy ever has, like he likes me and wants me to know it, like he's having a blast and is real enough not to hide it.***

Rowan was a character that I couldn't help but like. Trying to find her place and fit in with her friends, but also not wanting to disappoint her slightly overprotective parents, especially her father, who is a policeman in the local community, so there are eyes and ears everywhere. As the chain of events began to unfold, her struggles with it all, her love for her family, the helplessness that she felt, all created this girl who was very real. I loved her connection and romance with Eli. He is dealing with his own struggles so he could understand what Rowan was dealing with. The one character that I had no time for was Nadia, Rowan's best friend. And I use that term very loosely. She was a horrible girl. Completely self centred, and I couldn't help

but wonder why Rowan was friends with her at all.

To say this book was amazing, feels wrong, because of the intense subject matter. But it was amazing. Laura Weiss took the most difficult of subject matters and wrote it so perfectly. The way the whole story played out, the tone and pacing, were all pretty spot on for me.

If you're looking for a story that will tug at your heart and keep you engrossed from start to finish, then look no further than Me Since You.

5/5 Fantastically Written, Emotional Stars.

This book was received from the publisher via NetGalley for my honest review.

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### **Alex says**

2.5 stelline!

Questo libro si è rivelato tutto, fuorché quello che mi sarei aspettata.

Lento, triste ed angosciante oltre ogni possibile immaginazione...

Non fraintendetemi, pretendo che una lettura mi faccia vivere emozioni intense e contrastanti, ma questo libro è un funerale continuo!

Una girandola di emozioni soffocanti, che molto spesso diventavano "pesanti" da leggere.

Pagine e pagine di dolore, sofferenza, rimorso, rimpianto e colpa, per non avere saputo prevedere l'inevitabile.

Rowan è una protagonista che in parte ho apprezzato, ma le due decisioni molto spesso hanno fatto a cazzotti con la ragione. Poi come se tutte le disgrazie, di questo sfortunato effetto domino, non le fossero bastate...

Ha una migliore amica che definirei una "biscia schifosa", dato che non si è curata minimamente del suo dolore!

Poi c'è Eli, che ho trovato: adorabile, premuroso, attento e comprensivo. L'unica nota positiva, insieme al suo cane Daesy, di tutto l'intero libro. Purtroppo ha avuto un ruolo alquanto marginale nella trama.

Insomma litri e litri di lacrime, per un libro la cui sinossi mi aveva totalmente ingannata!

\*apre barattolo di nutella, e cerca di uscire da questo stato di tristezza post libro angosciante\*

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### **Claire Robinson says**

2.5 Stars.

Me Since You reminds me of a very long Winter, or a cloudy day, You wait and wait for the sun to shine through, and the Spring to rear its head, but ultimately it stays cloudy, and hey it's January so suck it up Winter is going to be around for a long while yet.

Well written, developed story. Can't say I was that enamoured with Rowan, she seemed to take everything so personally, or somehow twist it up so much she managed to make it her fault.

If you are looking for some out and out angst, this is the one for you. But it left me a little cold in parts. Readable, but I can say for sure it won't be one I will pick up again in a hurry.

ARC provided via Netgalley in exchange for the above honest review.

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## Kels says

*"Can a person actually die of sadness? How about of a broken heart?"*

Big sigh. I was not prepared for the emotional turmoil that this book inflicted on me. Goodness. It was such a stressing and emotional read, from the very opening chapters at that. I just... \*stuffs mouth with ice cream\*

Laura Weiss has an effortless beauty in her writing that is mesmerizing. It keeps you flipping pages, even while your heart is breaking. I fell in love with her prose, which encompassed and depicted Rowan's, the MC, voice and emotions perfectly. But while I did admire the writing, I couldn't help but notice that the pacing was pretty much at a flatline. There's a huge chunk in the middle where everything just slows down, and nothing really substantial happens. This made me put down the book quite a bit, both to get away from all the grief and also in an effort to renew my interests.

Despite this being such a depressing read, It remained a challenge for me to truly connect and feel for Rowan. She annoyed me so much! She was so selfish and uncaring. It was like all she cared about was her trivial problems. There was one part (gosh I wish I would have wrote down the quote) where Rowan debates going to her dad and comforting him while he's breaking down in the kitchen, but she weighs it against being late for her date, and I truly wanted to slap her. There were just so many times where she had opportunities to talk to her dad and connect with him, and not only did she not take any of them, but she also acted so immaturely. She threw fits and tantrums, and was so much more concerned about being with her friends, or making goo-goo eyes over a stranger, *sigh*, I just disliked her character so so much. I understand teens are in their own little bubble and have hugely selfish tendency, which may very well be what the author wanted to depict, but *seriously* I don't know what teen would just disregard their parents emotions as easily and flippantly as Row did. But maybe I shouldn't be all that surprised. I mean, look at her best friend, Nadia, who might possibly be the most self-obsessed and inconsiderate person in Row's school. Gosh, Nadia grated on my everlasting nerves.

The romance was another issue I had with *Me Since You*. It just... I don't know... it just didn't feel right. Here we have Rowan, who goes from crushing on one senior, to having insta-attraction to Eli, who was on the bridge when Corey kills himself. Hmm... yeah I just didn't get it. She seriously becomes so consumed with running into him and developing feelings for him, which is part of the reason she totally disregards what her dad is going through and fails to see the misery he's having to cope with. And yeah, that sort of turned me off completely to whatever feelings she thought she was developing for Eli. But the romance is pretty choppy and sparse within the text, and I think that had Eli and Rowan connected as friends I would have liked this novel even more.

Ultimately, this was a deeply affecting novel, and I have so much respect for the good cops out there who put everything on the line when they put on their badge. Yes, there were some flaws that kept this from being more than a three star read for me, but this book has impacted me so much on an emotional level, and that's quite a feat for any author.

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## Melanie says

See more reviews at [YA Midnight Reads](#)

Sobbing.

Sobbing.

2 hours later.

Eating chocolate that Eileen sent via the internet.

Thinks of Me Since You.

Starts sobbing again.

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Well that sucked. Not the book, but the fact that I had to hold in all my tears as I read this book on the train and at the state library. Trust me people; there were a lot of tears wanting to fall. Right now, I just want to sit in a hole with my chocolate and ice-cream and blanket and hide there for eternity. Is that allowed? Please do let it be.

*“If only...”* If only Rowan didn’t skip school that Friday, then her family wouldn’t be smothered in the grief that they are in now. If only Rowan’s police officer father didn’t pick her up, to only be called to the bridge where a man and baby stood, then Rowan’s father wouldn’t have had tumble into numb depression that he was in. Then they’d still be a happy, normal family. But it’s too late now. They are far from being a happy and normal family. But the only thing left to do is to accept and hope, and *try*.

Me Since You is not a love story, there is a romance but it’s set nicely in the background. This is not about a damaged guy who suddenly enters a newly damaged girl’s life and fixes it within an instant. **Because romance is not the answer to everything.** The chemistry between Rowan and Eli is entirely genuine and bittersweet. Eli understands Rowan’s position because he underwent a similar grief related situation a little over a year ago, and the two were perfectly compatible. And I was swooning the whole time.

I’ve got two complaints with Me Since You. First and foremost, I hated Nadia, Rowan’s best friend. I think the author purposely made her an unlikeable character, but damn she was really stretching it. She was a completely inconsiderate friend who even told Rowan to ‘speed grieve’. Clearly, this girl knows nothing. Speed grieving is not going to help at all. And dragging her to parties then getting mad at her is not going to help at all. That. BITCH.

\*Start Spoiler\*

My other complaint was when Rowan found the suicide letter from her father. That scene made me sob my eyes out yet I didn’t like how Rowan found it so easy to heal after that. Just all because of a suicide note. Maybe that could have been her starting point of healing after the trauma, but I felt the author rushed that

part a few steps too quickly. Still a heart-shattering scene all the same!

\*End Spoiler\*

Laura Wiess' latest is a novel full of grief, loss but also hope. It is achingly raw and powerful. It is heartbreaking. It is a story of what it means to live, and what it means to die. It is a story about grieving—and different forms of it. *Me Since You* is absolutely not my last book by Laura Wiess; I am determined to try her previous books, for I'd be a fool not to since I adored this book dearly.

*~Thank you MTV Books for sending me this copy!~*

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BRB CRYING

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## AH says

*Initial Thoughts:* About a 3 or 3.5 star read for me. This was a difficult read for me. It was outside my usual genre and it dealt with depression, suicide, and death, along with the aftermath for the surviving family members. It's sad. It will make you cry. It's hard to read, just because of the emotions.

*The Review:*

Christal and I read this book as part of the Jumble Your Genres Challenge from *Lovin' los Libros*. You can read our thoughts on **Me Since You** at **Badass Book Reviews**.

**Me Since You** is outside my usual genre. Usually I read for entertainment and to escape reality, so I tend to avoid books about realistic things. Give me vampires, werewolves, zombies and the like - no problem. Social issues books? I run away scared.

So here goes. My rating is probably lower than it should be because I was quite bored at the beginning of the book, probably for the first 100 pages or so. I think it was because I was a little frustrated with the situation that our main character Rowan had to deal with. Rowan's father was a policeman and he was on call the day a young father (along with his infant son) jumped off the bridge to their death. The event was captured on video and the town blamed Rowan's father for the deaths. Also on the bridge was Eli and his dog Daisy - we'll get back to them later on.

I found the townspeople just awful. Their treatment of Rowan's father was horrendous. I also couldn't stand Rowan's best friend Nadia. With a best friend like her, who needs enemies.

What fascinated me a little about this book was the amount of time Rowan spent on thinking about how if she hadn't skipped school that day, her father would not have been on the bridge, and the events may have changed. Can something small change events later on?

Oh, back to Eli and Daisy. Eli and his dog Daisy were probably one of the few reasons that I enjoyed this book. Eli understood grief and the healing process and his rescue dog Daisy was one of the last things he got from his father. Daisy will make you cry, so have plenty of tissue on hand. Eli is perfect for Rowan because he understands how she is feeling, perhaps a little too well.

**Me Since You** takes a look at how people handle grief. Rowan's mother is devastated (and understandably so). She shuts down, spending her days on the couch and living like a hermit and adopting way too many cats. Rowan, on the other hand, is forced to grow up very fast. She takes care of her mother and writes in her grief journal. The writing is poignant and she takes the time to figure out her feelings and begin to heal.

I found that due to the subject matter **Me Since You** was a difficult read. I was sad, exhausted, and I could not stop crying.

Note: Triggers - suicide

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