



Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock

By Matthew Quick

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Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock By Matthew Quick

In addition to the P-38, there are four gifts, one for each of my friends. I want to say good-bye to them properly. I want to give them each something to remember me by. To let them know I really cared about them and I'm sorry I couldn't be more than I was--that I couldn't stick around--and that what's going to happen today isn't their fault.

Today is Leonard Peacock's birthday. It is also the day he will kill his former best friend, and then himself, with his grandfather's P-38 pistol.

Maybe one day he'll believe that being different is okay, important even.

But not today.

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Silver Linings Playbook*, Matthew Quick, brings an unflinchingly eye to the impossible choices we deal with every day--and the light in us all that never goes out.

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Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock By Matthew Quick Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—Leonard Peacock has big plans for his 18th birthday. He plans to kill Asher Beal and then commit suicide. Leonard is a loner, an outcast, a misfit. Asher is a superpopular jock/bully. But they used to be friends, best friends. Something happened when they were 12, something bad. Leonard has had no one to confide in—his washed-up rock-musician dad is on the lam and his self-absorbed, oblivious mother forgets that she has a son. His anger, emotional pain, and brokenness build until he feels there is nothing left to do but end his life and the cause of his misery. As he gives gifts to the four people who mean something to him, he reveals some of his anguish. One recipient, his teacher Herr Silverman, picks up on his suicidal signals and offers the listening ear Leonard so desperately needs. As the heartbreaking climax unfolds, readers learn about the sexual and emotional trauma the teen has endured. Fortunately, there is no bloodshed, just the shedding of many overdue tears. Leonard knows he needs help and readers will hope he gets it. This is a difficult, yet powerful, book. Quick's use of flashbacks, internal dialogue, and interpersonal communication is brilliant, and the suspense about what happened between Leonard and Asher builds tangibly. The masterful writing takes readers inside Leonard's tormented mind, enabling a compassionate response to him and to others dealing with trauma. May there be more Herr Silvermans willing to take personal risks to save the Leonard Peacocks.—Lisa Crandall, formerly at the Capital Area District Library, Holt, MIα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

It's Leonard's eighteenth birthday and, big surprise, nobody remembered. This birthday, however, is going to count—because Leonard plans to shoot cruel bully (and former best friend) Asher Beal after school. First, though, there is the small matter of gift giving, in which Leonard delivers four presents to the four people who made his “worthless” life a little better: a noir film-loving neighbor, a violin prodigy classmate, a superhot teen evangelist, and his favorite teacher. The single-day time frame provides a good deal of claustrophobic tension, as readers will hope against hope that one of these four people will be able to deflect Leonard from his mission. But this is far from a thriller; Quick is most interested in Leonard's psychology, which is simultaneously clear and splintered, and his voice, which is filled with brash humor, self-loathing, and bucket loads of refreshingly messy contradictions, many communicated through Leonard's footnotes to his own story. It may sound bleak, but it is, in fact, quite brave, and Leonard's interspersed fictional notes to himself from 2032 add a unique flavor of hope. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus

Review

***Publishers Weekly* Best Book**

"Books like Quick's are necessary...We should be grateful for a book that gets kids, and the leaders they'll become, thinking about the problem now."

?***The New York Times***

"Full disclosure: you might need tissues to make it through *Leonard Peacock*, but even if you don't, you'll likely be touched by Leonard's story."?***Entertainment Weekly***

"At a time when bullying and gun violence is at the top of the national conversation, this novel servies as a literary segue for teens, parents and teachers into an open dialogue on sensitive topics."?***USA Today***

"If only Hollywood could get novelist Matthew Quick to write faster. Everything the Massachusetts-based writer pens seems to be scooped up by the studios as soon as the books are bound."? ***The Los Angeles Times***

* "Quick's use of flashbacks, internal dialogue, and interpersonal communication is brilliant, and the suspense about what happened between Leonard and Asher builds tangibly. The masterful writing takes readers inside Leonard's tormented mind, enabling a compassionate response to him and to others dealing with trauma."? ***School Library Journal (starred review)***

* "Quick's attentiveness to these few key relationships and encounters gives the story its strength and razorlike focus...Through Leonard, Quick urges readers to look beyond the pain of the here and now to the possibilities that await."? ***Publishers Weekly (starred review)***

" Over the course of one intense day (with flashbacks), Leonard's existential crisis is delineated through an engaging first-person narrative supplemented with footnotes and letters from the future that urge Leonard to believe in a "life beyond the übermorons" at school. Complicated characters and ideas remain complicated, with no facile resolutions, in this memorable story."? ***The Horn Book***

"...the novel presents a host of compelling, well-drawn, realistic characters-all of whom want Leonard to make it through the day safe and sound."? ***Kirkus***

"Quick is most interested in Leonard's psychology, which is simultaneously clear and splintered, and his voice, which is filled with brash humor, self-loathing, and bucket loads of refreshingly messy contradictions, many communicated through Leonard's footnotes to his own story. It may sound bleak, but it is, in fact, quite brave, and Leonard's interspersed fictional notes to himself from 2032 add a unique flavor of hope."? ***Booklist***

"This is one of the most important books of our time."? ***A.S. King, Printz Honor author of Everybody Sees the Ants and Ask the Passengers***

"Leonard's life teeters dangerously between moments of pain and beauty. A fast read, because I *needed* to keep reading. I will not forget Leonard Peacock. I love this book."

? ***Jay Asher, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Thirteen Reasons Why and The Future of Us***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Croll:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Anthony Davidson:

Precisely why? Because this *Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Mabel Maddux:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt when you find yourself in the book store? Try to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't ascertain book by its handle may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not as fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer might be *Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock* why because the excellent cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint an individual. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

James Waddell:

Within this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely *Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock*. This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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