



Feeling Sorry for Celia: A Novel (Ashbury/Brookfield Books (Paperback))

By Jaclyn Moriarty

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A #1 Bestseller in Australia and Book Sense 76 Pick

Life is pretty complicated for Elizabeth Clarry. Her best friend Celia keeps disappearing, her absent father suddenly reappears, and her communication with her mother consists entirely of wacky notes left on the fridge. On top of everything else, because her English teacher wants to rekindle the "Joy of the Envelope," a Complete and Utter Stranger knows more about Elizabeth than anyone else.

But Elizabeth is on the verge of some major changes. She may lose her best friend, find a wonderful new friend, kiss the sexiest guy alive, and run in a marathon.

So much can happen in the time it takes to write a letter...

A #1 bestseller in Australia, this fabulous debut is a funny, touching, revealing story written entirely in the form of letters, messages, postcards—and bizarre missives from imaginary organizations like The Cold Hard Truth Association.

Feeling Sorry for Celia captures, with rare acuity, female friendship and the bonding and parting that occurs as we grow. Jaclyn Moriarty's hilariously candid novel shows that the roller coaster ride of being a teenager is every bit as fun as we remember—and every bit as harrowing.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Coyly channeling teen quirkiness and enthusiasm, Moriarty captures the essence of a girl's adolescent years in her epistolary first novel. Consisting entirely of letters and notes written to and from protagonist Elizabeth Clarry, this peek into the life of an Australian teenager reads like a clandestine perusal of a very capably written diary. The daughter of divorced parents, Elizabeth is becoming reacquainted with her father, who has recently returned to Australia and wants to make up for all the time with her he's missed. This consists primarily of dragging her to expensive restaurants. Her life is further complicated by her best friend, Celia Buckley, who careens from one escapade to the next, confident someone else will bail her out. An English assignment lands Elizabeth a pen pal from a neighboring school, and she is becoming a serious long-distance runner, but Celia (and boys, of course) are serious distractions. Holding her own despite internal doubts, Elizabeth navigates the murky waters of adolescence essentially alone. Her mother is a parody of a contemporary career woman: emotionally dependent and immersed in her job at an ad agency, she leaves dizzy notes (many of which are no more than thinly veiled pleas for help with ad campaigns) around the house for Elizabeth, who is left to cook, clean and look after herself. Although adults may find the novel cloying at times, and younger readers might miss some of the humor (especially where the behavior of the adults is concerned), this teen's journey of self-discovery is a pleasant, feather-light distraction. (Mar.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up-Life isn't going well for high school student Elizabeth Clarry. Her absentee father just moved back to Australia from Canada for a year, and now he wants to spend "quality time" with her. She's getting anonymous love notes from a boy who refuses to tell her his name. Worst of all, her best friend has run away and joined the circus. In this funny, engaging novel-told as a series of notes and letters-Elizabeth deals with imperfect parents and romantic disappointments as well as tragedies large and small. Over the course of the story, she confronts everything from pimples and forgotten homework to the death of a pet and a suicide attempt by her best friend. Eventually, Elizabeth learns to stop obsessing over the flighty, thoughtless Celia and comes to appreciate her own gifts. Her intelligence and wry sense of humor come through strongly in her letters to her mother and her friends. Elizabeth's ditzzy mother and new pen pal are especially vivid characters. At times the story tries to juggle too many plot elements, but, overall, this is a light, enjoyable novel about a memorable young woman.-Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library

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From Library Journal

Elizabeth Clarry is the 15-year-old heroine of this epistolary novel, which consists of notes left by her mother on the refrigerator, letters from a pen pal at a school three blocks from hers, and (imaginary) communications from The Association of Teenagers, The Best Friends Club, etc. The readership may be a problem for this first novel, which appeared in Australia in the young adult market but now is targeted for adults. Will they be interested in the standard adolescent angst litany: I'm unattractive, no one likes me, my parents are idiots, etc.? Perhaps not, but teen readers will certainly recognize the situations and be pleased by the happy ending. Fun for the right reader. Rebecca Sturm Kelm, Northern Kentucky Univ. Lib., Highland Heights.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Callaway:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Feeling Sorry for Celia: A Novel (Ashbury/Brookfield Books (Paperback)). Try to make the book Feeling Sorry for Celia: A Novel (Ashbury/Brookfield Books (Paperback)) as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let's make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Charles Greiner:

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Kenneth Copeland:

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Thomas Crittenden:

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