



The Burn Journals

By Brent Runyon

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The Burn Journals By Brent Runyon

In the tradition of *Running with Scissors* and *Girl, Interrupted*, *The Burn Journals* is a truly remarkable book about teenage despair and recovery.

"Describes a particular kind of youthful male desolation better than it has ever been described before, by anyone." --Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon*

I don't want to get out of bed.

I'm so stupid.

I did so many things wrong.

I don't know what to do.

I'm going to be in so much trouble.

What am I going to do?

I'm completely screwed.

In 1991, fourteen-year-old Brent Runyon came home from school, doused his bathrobe in gasoline, put it on, and lit a match.

He suffered third-degree burns over 85% of his body and spent the next year recovering in hospitals and rehab facilities. During that year of physical recovery, Runyon began to question what he'd done, undertaking the complicated journey from near-death back to high school, and from suicide back to the emotional mainstream of life.

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The Burn Journals By Brent Runyon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Starred Review Gr. 8-12. On the sixteenth page of this incisive memoir, eighth-grader Brent Runyon drenches his bathrobe with gasoline and ("Should I do it? Yes.") sets himself on fire. The burns cover 85 percent of his body and require six months of painful skin grafts and equally invasive mental-health rehabilitation. From the beginning, readers are immersed in the mind of 14-year-old Brent as he struggles to heal body and mind, his experiences given devastating immediacy in a first-person, present-tense voice that judders from uncensored teenage attitude and poignant anxiety (he worries about getting hard-ons during physical therapy) to little-boy sweetness. And throughout is anguish over his suicide attempt and its impact on his family: "I have this guilt feeling all over me, like oil on one of those birds in Alaska." Runyon has, perhaps, written the defining book of a new genre, one that gazes as unflinchingly at boys on the emotional edge as Zibby O'Neal's *The Language of Goldfish* (1980) and Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* (1999) do at girls. Some excruciatingly painful moments notwithstanding, this can and should be read by young adults, as much for its literary merit as for its authentic perspective on what it means to attempt suicide, and, despite the resulting scars, be unable to remember why. *Jennifer Mattson*

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Review

"[**The Burn Journals**] describes a particular kind of youthful male desolation better than it has ever been described before, by anyone." -Andrew Solomon, author of **The Noonday Demon**

"A fascinating account of the mending of a body and mind, told with the simple and honest sensibility of someone too young to have endured so much." —Arthur Golden, author of **Memoirs of a Geisha**

"Runyon has, perhaps, written the defining book of a new genre, one that gazes...unflinchingly at boys on the emotional edge ." -*Booklist* (starred review)

"A taut, chilling account of the author's attempt to commit suicide...a must-read for teenagers struggling with self-doubt." -*The Denver Post*

"An excruciating, brilliant book...WOW." —A.M. Homes, author of **Things You Should Know**

From the Inside Flap

BRENT RUNYON WAS 14 years old when he set himself on fire.

This is a true story.

In "The Burn Journals, Runyon describes that devastating suicide attempt and his recovery over the following year. He takes us into the Burn Unit in a children's hospital and through painful burn care and skin-grafting procedures. Then to a rehabilitation hospital, for intensive physical, occupational, and psychological therapy. And then finally back home, to the frightening prospect of entering high school. But more importantly, Runyon takes us into his own mind. He shares his thoughts and hopes and fears with such unflinching honesty that we understand--with a terrible clarity--what it means to want to kill yourself and how it feels to struggle back toward normality.

Intense, exposed, insightful, "The Burn Journals is a deeply personal story with universal reach. It is impossible to look away. Impossible to remain unmoved.

This truly riveting memoir is a spectacular debut for a talented new writer.

"From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Chris Robertson:

Often the book The Burn Journals will bring that you the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book The Burn Journals is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Augustine Klotz:

The publication untitled The Burn Journals is the publication that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to anyone. The language that writer use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, to ensure the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of The Burn Journals from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Irene Allen:

The book untitled The Burn Journals contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice examine.

David Hosford:

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