



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:

Karen Strickland:

Book will be written, printed, or created for everything. You can know everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A guide Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading some sort of book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or ideal book with you?

Linda Amato:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Robert Bryant:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want experience happy read one along with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock is kind of book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Jonathan Rodriguez:

Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

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