



I Love My Love

Reyna Biddy

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In short, poignant verses, Reyna Biddy's poems explore pain, emotional reckoning, and the power of self-love.

The debut collection from 22-year-old poet Reyna Biddy, *I Love My Love* tells the story of Reyna's childhood, her parents' toxic relationship, and how, against all odds, she learned to love herself.

I Love My Love Details

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Author : Reyna Biddy

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From Reader Review I Love My Love for online ebook

Alex ? Deranged KittyCat ? says

I wanted to start the year with poetry. I really loved Lang Leav and Amanda Lovelace, both published by Andrews McMeel. So, while browsing the publisher's page on NetGalley, I decided to give Reyna Mays a try.

Unfortunately, having a good publishing house doesn't necessarily mean you get to like the author, too.

The first thing that irked me was the lack of capital letters. Lovelace did the same, but her hitting Enter after every two words or so, helped very much. Mays writes even whole paragraphs without caps. That made it hard for me to read.

Then, there's the fact that Mays seems angry and bitter most of the time (and curses a lot). And while I am like that, too, most of the time, I didn't want to read about it. I hoped to find out how she overcame most of her shortcomings. So... this was really not to my liking.

**Copy provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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I think we were all surprised when I gave THE PRINCESS SAVES HERSELF IN THIS ONE a positive review. As much as we all sneer at "Tumblr poetry", there's a spare rawness to it that can be oddly compelling. Even if I still have doubts as to whether this is really "poetry", I can appreciate wanting to share your voice and be heard. Who knows? I thought. Maybe this is a thing. Maybe I like this thing. This could be a favorite thing. Cocky with my success, I virtually strolled to Netgalley and applied for #AllThePoetry and ended up with I LOVE MY LOVE...which I soon realized after a few pages that I wasn't going to like.

This came as a major shock, because Andrews McMeel so rarely fails me. I LOVE MY LOVE also does something that PRINCESS does not - it talks about deeper issues, with a seductive but powerful anger that all but sparks from the pages. This is a voice that doesn't ask to be heard so much as demands it, with a force that is downright impressive in its intensity.

The problem is that I didn't care for the style of the poetry, which is a problem, because of how integral style is to the construction of the entire poem - it's the *framework* in which the ideas and themes of the poems themselves are organized. Even if you like the ideas and themes, an incompatible style pretty much throws all that out the window.

Mays does what Lovelace does in her book, which basically means no traditional capitalization and lots of line breaks to separate what would otherwise be ordinary sentences. Some of Mays's poems *do* rhyme, and they rhyme in a way that made me wonder if they might actually sound better being read aloud, like one of those old-fashioned beat poets, instead of being read on the page. Because the way I was reading them in my head, the meter was not consistent and many of the rhymes felt forced.

A lot of her "poems" are also paragraphs, and it's hard to read them because of the lack of capitalization. Some have criticized Lovelace for the amount of white space in her poems, but it does make them easier to read. This was more of a strain, and not really worth the effort. I also took issue with the fact that her ellipses only had two periods instead of three. This stylistic choice looks like a typo, and I kept stumbling over it because it looked like an error, even though it wasn't.

I feel bad giving this a low rating, because there are some important topics in here, and some of the lines have so much potential. This was someone trying to tell their story, and trying to tell it in a way that would resonate with others. I'm sure it will - with others - but not with me. Don't let that discourage you from reading this if you're interested, though - especially if you really, really liked THE PRINCESS SAVES HERSELF IN THIS ONE. :)

Thanks to Andrews McMeel and Netgalley for the advanced reader copy!

1 to 1.5 stars.

Maria Zuppardi says

I honestly just could not get into this book, and I really don't know why. The description was great, and I absolutely love the cover. I suppose I just couldn't entirely relate to it? With that being said, I liked the structure of the poems and the mix between verse/prose (and the prose part reading like verse! A very nice touch). You honestly have to be a 100% avid poetry reader, and a fan of her Tumblr page (link below) to truly love this book. Her message is beautiful, and it's the main reason why I kept on reading. Just LOVE yourself, don't let anyone change who you are, and don't take crap from no one. This book can open up the door to so many discussions about loving yourself, and how to get there, so I really admire Reyna for sharing her story with us, in this way.

Read my full review on my blog, ReadingMaria: <https://mariazuppardi.wordpress.com/2...>

Bree Hill says

The actual formatting of these poems drove me absolutely insane. I think after a while I just got used to it but it still made me cringe a bit.

Some poems in this collection are full fledged paragraphs, and some are lists. Great spin on a poetry collection but if you're going to do it, BRING IT! You have to do it and be flawless with it..and I just couldn't vibe with it.

With that being said, the author does tackle some important issues and is a big advocate for self love which I respect. I will keep an eye out for more from Bidy and follow her growth as a writer. It takes guts to spill your heart out to the world and have it criticized and I'm excited to see where this journey goes for her, I just wasn't the biggest fan of this collection.

Michelle says

By the title alone, "I Love My Love" readers may not be at all surprised to learn that Reyna (Mays) Bidy (1994-) discussed her own love addiction in her intimate debut poetry collection. This coming-of-age volume is also scheduled for formal release on Valentine's Day.

Bidy, from an unnamed city in California, recalls her parent's dysfunctional troubled marriage. With her Spanish speaking mother apparently leaving the family, her father, left in the poison of anger and bitterness towards her mother which she spoke of: (for my mother/who gave me her heart/we will never be on the same beat) ~ (for my father/who gave me his soul/we will never feel the same things) Bidy also said: "I wanted to sing my parents love song." The messages are mixed, in "my mother's interlude". The news of her mother's death from unknown causes is only briefly mentioned, her loss is felt on a deeper level as Bidy writes "self-parenting" poetry a mother may have written her daughter of advice and love. Many of the poems are simply titled, a few words or less. "Little me" is about Bidy's younger sister.

Young teen love is fresh and fearless, early writings include: "results" – "pseudo" to remind her that without him she is nothing. – "10 Reasons I Could Never Leave" – "halfway close" – "rhetoric" – "love note" – "free styles off chardonnay" – Bidy then writes: (to all the boys I loved/Forgive me for giving you/So much power over me/You were never worthy)

Most of the poetry is of love, longing, and broken dreams when romantic relationships don't work out. The men Bidy chose professed undying love, desire, and need for her in their lives, yet it seemed that after they got what they wanted they left her. At times she seemed on the verge of desperation to please, doing whatever she could to impress these men. "Sweet Talkin' Guy" (1966) song by the Chiffon's kept coming to mind while reading most of these poems. Standing by Bidy's concepts of self-love that bring her the dignity and respect she deserves, may take additional time. Bidy seems genuinely grateful for her astonishing gift to write, to share, encourage, and inspire others in this nicely done volume of poetry. ~ Many thanks to NetGalley for the e-DRC for the purpose of review.

Kate ? says

Actual rating: 3.5/5

There are some brilliant, beautiful, incredible passages in this book.
One particular poem struck me, and I related to it in a way I never have with any other poem I've read.

Rogene Carter says

Visceral and raw. Imperfect yet empathetic.

Aimie says

This was such a raw and moving poetry collection.

Ivana de Bona says

I Love My Love is an another poetry collection. It was written by Reyna Mays. This poetry collection is raw, sharp, unapologetic. I feels like an uncut diamond.

I Love My Love is a poetry collection I have quite divided opinions about. Some of the poems were heartbreaking, I connected completely with the ideas they were carrying. For example: pseudo and on however long.

"I was wondering if you could be my everything -
after I realized I would be anything for you.

...

I can still smell you on my skin.
Our nights feel like decades
while our hearts beg for centuries.

I am sure,
I could spend lifetimes with you."

This is an excerpt from the poem on however long. This poem. I do not even know where to start. I loved every single line. It is full, filled with that special kind of suicidal love I would die for (excuse the pun). It is strong and it takes you to lands undiscovered.

I did not read this poem, I absorbed it.

There is also an another point of view I have on this poetry collection. I felt like some of the poems were forced and even unnecessary. This might seem harsh, but it is the truth.

In conclusion, I would recommend this poetry collection, but with a warning that you might love it or hate it. Some poems might stand out to you while others might make you want to skip them. This poetry collection tells the truth of relationships nowadays, be ready to find yourself in them.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

magui says

okay book. nothing really memorable. liked some of the poems, specially the ones about self love.

Meredith says

This poetry collection might be my new favorite. She writes of the heartbreak that comes with loving those who don't love you back, and it is all so relatable. A must read of modern poetry.

Aude Odeh says

A journey through love. Broken love. Forgotten love. And most importantly, self love.

Raeanne says

I flipped through this book back in March but couldn't justify buying it at the time, but the sections I read kept floating around in my mind and wouldn't leave me alone so I finally just bought it. And w-o-w. It was incredible.

There are poems in here that captured pieces of myself I've never found the right words for--it felt like looking into a mirror and recognizing my own face looking back at me when I was expecting just a window into another person's life. There are definitely some poems that just didn't fit well with me or that I didn't like as well, which is why I rated this 4 stars, but it honestly was fantastic.

maria. says

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Shealea says

Another collection of ~*modern poetry*~ that failed to generate any interest from me. It follows the trend: disregard for proper punctuation, uncapitalized text, aesthetics.

While I did think that this book tried to tackle deeper, more complex, and darker themes, the exploration of these themes was unmemorable and unremarkable because the lines and verses were lyrically, structurally awful. I couldn't make sense of any rhythm or any kind of meter, which greatly diminished my enjoyment. More often than not, I was confused and uninterested.

Definitely not my cup of tea.

Disclosure: **ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.**

Actual rating: **1 star**

* Read more of my shenanigans in my natural habitat!
