



Every Five Minutes

Bronwyn Elsmore

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Every Five Minutes is a B.R.A.G. Medallion Honoree book

Gina, if that is her real name, wakes to an autumn morning and, against her better judgement, selects a light dress to wear to work. Deliberately, she misses the bus and walks into the city, then turns and walks back home. This is not a day for work. Tomorrow, in her navy pantsuit, she will be there. Today she will spend with a white dog and a remarkable man.

Every Five Minutes is also about the colour cornflower blue, beaches, parks, city streets, exotic places, coffee, flowers, polished stones, a unicorn and a swan, words, theatre, movies, music, and love. But most of all it's about Gina, the dog, and the man.

Reviewers say –

“I adored this book”

“I hated the story to end. Read it and you'll see. It's a lovely, lovely book.”

"A masterpiece...perfect in its style and delivery"

“her writing brilliance showed on each page as she pulled it off.”

“Please make sure you add this to your to be read list.”

Every Five Minutes Details

Date : Published October 1st 2012 by Flaxroots Productions (first published January 9th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Bronwyn Elsmore

Format : ebook

Genre : Love, Fiction, Contemporary, Novels, Literary Fiction

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From Reader Review Every Five Minutes for online ebook

Florence Osmund says

Every Five Minutes is a love story without one single sex scene - what a welcome surprise. It is told in second person narrative, and for me that made it clumsy to read...at first. But once I understood the nature of the secondary character, it made perfect sense why the author chose this POV. Second person narrative brought a level of intimacy to the story that probably couldn't have been achieved any other way. I was also put off at first by all the mundane narrative about what went on in the lives of a rather ordinary married couple, but then I realized the story wasn't about these mundane things at all. Hopefully other readers won't be as slow as I was to get what this book is really about. It is truly an interesting read that was cleverly written. Congratulations to the author, Bronwyn Elsmore.

Heather Balog says

I finished this in less than a day and I still have tears in my eyes. This book was not like anything I've ever read; snippets of the author thinking about the man she loves over the course of the day. Throughout the course of the novel, we learn about the woman and her past and how the man came into her life and healed her. I agree with everyone else's assessment that this is NOT a romance...if you're looking for romance, skip this. This is a real love story where neither party was perfect but they figured out how to love each other anyway. While the ending was exactly what I thought from page one, it was unexpected how closely it resonated with me.

Mary Thornburg says

This is one book that truly deserves five stars. I'd give it six if I could.

"Every Five Minutes" is a love story, told from the female narrator's point of view, addressed to the man she loves. The story is told in short sections, at five-minute intervals during one long day, as Gina recalls the slow growth of the couple's relationship from its beginning, when she was so hesitant about entering into a relationship of any but the most superficial kind that she preferred to think of their times together as "meetings."

This is Gina's story, the story of how a woman who has closed herself almost completely from everything but a cold, impersonal business existence slowly allows herself to be known to, and to know, another human being. Early on, when the man tells her that he has a dog ("Electra," who becomes an important character as the story progresses), Gina says lightly that she is "a cat person" – although she doesn't have a cat. The quality she admires in cats is, in fact, the quality she most values in herself: an independent aloofness, the ability to keep her distance from others, to remain detached and uninvolved. And the relationship she describes is very much like the relationship between a wary, frightened cat, one who's been hurt and has gone feral, and the human being who persists gently and delicately in attempting to gain the cat's trust.

There are mysteries in the story that are hinted at but never revealed, and this is as it should be. There's a mystery that is at last discovered, one whose solution I guessed near the beginning of the book from hints the author very adroitly gives to the reader.

"Every Five Minutes," in the hands of a lesser writer than Bronwyn Elsmore, might have been the sort of sentimental, sappy "romance" I'd have stopped reading almost immediately. With great craft and humor and sensitivity, and a strict knowledge of her narrator's character, Elsmore avoids falling into that trap. Instead, the story becomes an honest and important disquisition on the nature of human love. I've never read another book like this one, and I recommend it highly.

Sheri says

Every Five Minutes by Bronwyn Elsmore

A well written (very) original story about a woman named Gina. She decides to skip work and enjoy her day. She chronicles her feelings in a "diary-type style" prose, written in five minute intervals. We hear of her life, love, her dog and her "man". She is cheerful, intense, loving life. Anything goes and many topics are mentioned.

A pure delightfully uplifting read. I highly recommend Every Five Minutes to those who love a unique, joyful read that will brighten your day. Grab a cup of tea (if you wish), snuggle up in a cozy blanket and relax with a brilliant, fun-filled, heart-warming read!

Joan Fallon says

This is an intriguing book. It is written in an unusual style, very short chapters, each supposed to be five minutes of the protagonist's life. However, after about half-way through I felt that I wanted something more to happen and what actually happened was in the end very predictable. It is however a sweet book, full of love and sentiment.

Pam says

I experienced some degree of difficulty and confusion while reading this book, especially at the beginning. There were moments though when I found it enjoyable especially since I was able to relate it to my own life. About third-quarters into the book, I predicted the ending and I got it right, sort of. The story is heartbreaking, not too much probably but still shatters your heart. I probably would have cried if my life had been in a different situation. I would have loved it if there was closure on certain things though but the story was fine as it is. If you would like to read a different kind of love story - something you might want to experience in real life as well (I meant being in love and not the heartbreak) - I recommend this book.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Tannis Laidlaw says

A five star read!

Every Five Minutes by Bronwyn Elsmore is a love story, but not a 'Romance', thank goodness. It is a book to read right before bedtime so you can go off to sleep with positive ideas of what a love, a relationship, a marriage should be like, a book to influence your dreams along the same lines. A woman with hang-ups from a past we never really learn about meets a sensitive, intelligent man who loves her. She slowly, almost painfully learns to love him. (Sigh, with a sappy smile on my face.)

Bronwyn Elsmore writes in the second person and, honestly, this is the first book written in the second person I've read that is totally appropriate. Our protagonist is speaking to her love every five minutes. And I hated the story to end. Read it and you'll see. It's a lovely, lovely book.

Kathleen Dixon says

This is a love story, not a romance, and it's beautiful. In fact, I just started reading it again and I realise that I need to immerse myself in it once more and read it with the ending now holding the rest of it together. Not that I felt any lack of shape while I was reading it the first time - it led me gently through each five minutes as I uncovered more and more of their story (and her backstory) - but a second reading will make it perfect.

Bronwyn Elsmore has crafted a beautiful story in a unique way. Each page in this book has a time at the top, exactly five minutes after the preceding page. We begin at 7:00 a.m., and finish at 10:25 p.m., but we cover a number of years and discover hints of further back. And Gina tells us how she, a loner, was wooed by and fell in love with Mark, a truly gentle man and an insightful friend. It's told in the first person (Gina - "I"), and addressed to Mark "you", and draws the reader in to the experience wholly. A lovely, lovely book.

Patrycja says

"Every Five Minutes" by Bronwyn Elsmore is a captivating novel telling a story of a love relationship between Gina and Mark, the two main characters, and the beautiful process of their discovering what true love means. It also involves Mark's dog, Electra, who plays its own special role in the novel.

One of the strengths of the book that really appealed to me was the fact that the characters feel very real. From the beginning it was very easy to identify with Gina's personality, her thoughts and her feelings. Her fears and anxiety towards a commitment that is required in any mature relationship, common to many women, were very well voiced. The story is narrated by Gina herself in form of her thoughts, expressed every five minutes. By recalling the process of getting to know Mark and falling in love, Gina gives a most beautiful, gentle, delicate, and at times humorous account of her own transformation. From an introverted, shy, mistreated woman who suffered abuse in her previous relationship, she starts to believe in values and qualities long-lost in her past experience, such as mutual trust, understanding, respect, patience, tolerance and, last but not least, true love.

The book made me laugh at many scenes written with excellent sense of humour, and it made me cry at the moments of sadness. But most importantly, it made me feel very close to the whole journey and experiences the main character went through and I really missed the book once I finished reading it. The story just grips you and makes you turn the pages too fast!

I recommend this book to not only those who cherish good human stories, but also to those who at the same time enjoy great literary style and a concise, logical, almost mathematical skill to calculate how much to say, and how much not to reveal, to make you crave for more.

Five stars out of five!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Tbird London says

I was given this book by the author a while ago. Shortly after I received it, my husband began to have health issues and my time was taken with his doctors appointments and keeping the blog going. I mention this because it plays into what I received from this book. This is not a book about romance, it is about love, the love two people who dedicate their lives to each other.

It is the window into Gina's mind. Her thoughts about how she went from being a loner to finding the unconditional love of Mark. For me it was like little pieces of a love letter between them. At times I almost felt like I was an intruder into their story, but as I read the book and looked at my husband fighting his liver condition, it made sense of the world we found ourselves in at this time. She touches upon the past, looks towards the future, but leaves us with some questions there are no answers for.

This is a relatively short read, although for me I found I went back a few times because I just needed to absorb what she was saying once more. It was like a confused woman trying to piece together the puzzle of her life at times yet at the same time she was offering me the pieces I was also searching for. I think it was rather risky for this author to write this story in five minute segments, a very unique read to be sure, but her writing brilliance showed on each page as she pulled it off.

A very inspiring read, full of true love, self acceptance and discovery. It offered the readers a chance to see the raw thought process and emotions of a person without the drama that seems to be found in books these days. This wasn't a book seeking for readers approval, it was a gift given to the reader to find what you are seeking or need and apply it to your life. While you will find many intense, drama filled, action stories on the shelves today, I doubt you will find a book with this level of intimacy. Please make sure you add this to your to be read list. While I regret it took me so long to get to the book, I treasure that I did read it when I did, it reminded me the love my husband and I have together is stronger than anything life throws at us. Perfect book for the perfect time.

Susan Tarr says

EVERY FIVE MINUTES by NZ author Bronwyn Elsmore

Would it be absurd to call this work brilliant? A masterpiece? I don't think so. I have never read a book written in this way. And to find that it is perfect in its style and delivery has left me a little breathless – at least my heart rate picked up as I neared the end. This is not some sensationalised love story. In fact it is quite the contrary. I adored this little book. I adored the simplicity in the writing style, in the plot, in the delivery. I simply adored this little book, and will be forever changed by what I have read within its covers.

Camilla Monk says

Two-hundred stars.

Every five minutes is a declaration of love, built on a succession of extremely short chapters, fleeting moments little paint daubs, forming a heartbreaking impressionist picture. What's missing from Gina's story is just as important as what little she consents to tell us. She won't let us in fully, and, strangely, that's why this plunge into her mind is so captivating.

David Wind says

Quirky, Unique and exceptional is the only way I can explain 'Every 5 Minutes'. This is an excellently written, perfectly paced intimate look into the guarded mind of a turtle-like woman—a woman who spends a good part of her life hiding within the shell of her daily routine. The woman, 'Gina' is shadowed in several mysteries the author does not share with us; however, the references to Gina's seemingly mysterious past 'issues' only adds to the strength of the story.

This novel is a love story written in 5-minute bursts of fear and of hope, happiness and sadness. Bronwyn Elsmore has written a gift of a story, one that should read with as careful an eye to the wording as the author gave to its creation.

Stephen says

Gina is woman damaged by a past relationship. She lives a simple isolated life of few belongings and fewer friends, always ready to move at a moments notice. She meets a man, Mark. They gradually become close. Though she is reticent share share much of herself, he is patient and persistent. At one point she asks how often he thinks of her. He replies, "Every five minutes," leading to the construct of the novel.

Every Five Minutes is Gina's reflection on her history with Mark written in five minute episodes, each only one or two pages long. It's an interesting approach, one that kept me reading.

I also kept reading because the novel carried a tension that I'm not sure the author intended. The mystery of Gina's past was obviously intended. More unsettling to me was Gina's response to Mark. Gina's life before Mark is one of isolation, caution, and fear. Why then does she allow Mark to make all the decisions their relationship? While Mark's every action toward Gina is kind and respectful (which Gina praises), it often feels like she is being led? I kept expecting Mark to be revealed as a serial killer. I'm certain this was not intended. Given her past, I can understand why Gina's character would seek to avoid notice and conflict, but when pushed it seems she should have been stronger, more willing to push back. That she was instead almost always deferential to the patient but assured Mark worried me throughout

Overall, an o.k read. Neat concept, kept me interested, but lacking a wow factor. On my buy, borrow, skip scale, a weak borrow. I am passing this one to my wife to get her thoughts. Was I reading too much between the lines to a story I expected or wanted vs the story offered? Hmmm.

Georgiann Hennelly says

I received a copy for free in exchange for an honest review. An original story written in dairy type style.

Gina decides to miss work and just enjoy her day. She chronicles her day in five minute intervals. We read about her life, her dog, her love, and her Man. Gina is a very intense, cheerful loving life women. Many topics are mentioned and basically anything goes. It was a very delightful read. If you enjoy a unique story i highly recommend you read Every Five Minutes.
