



Paper Cranes Don't Fly

Peter Vu

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Winner of the 2018 Australian Gold Inky Award.

For Adam Auttenberg, hospital is like a second home. Despite the ever-growing tumour in his head, he just wishes he was normal. This is until his latest operation, when everything seems like a lost hope, and he knows he isn't normal. He doesn't know what to do, because there is nothing he can do. Facing the toughest challenge of his life, all Adam has to help him are his friends. But will they be enough?

This story describes the life of a cancer patient in a way that no other young adult book does, focusing not just on living with cancer, but going through it, with the help of patience, love, and friendship.

Paper Cranes Don't Fly Details

Date : Published August 1st 2017 by Ford Street Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Peter Vu

Format : Paperback 298 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Paper Cranes Don't Fly for online ebook

Julienne says

I've never cried to a book this much.

Before I start a full detail review on this book, I just want you to know that the author sent this book to me in exchange for an honest review.

No, I did not give 5 stars to this book just because it was sent to me. Peter Vu is really talented. I love the way he wrote Paper Cranes Don't Fly. I've flagged pages from almost every chapter because his quotes are beautiful.

I love how there are flashbacks every time the protagonist, Adam, mention memories. The book's details are just enough for the reader to understand the environment or the setting of the story. Unlike other books that have long details it almost confuses the reader.

I've never read a book that made me cry more than Paper Cranes Don't Fly did. If you loved The Fault in Our Stars, you have to add this on your next read because, in my opinion, this is better. I'm not a huge fan of romance so maybe that's the reason why I did not like The Fault in Our Stars so much. Paper Cranes Don't Fly is about friendship and cherishing the moments you spend with them until your final breath.

Tia says

*4.5

Elizabeth Haigh says

Paper Cranes Don't Fly

Peter Vu

Reviewed by Ruby Carmody

Heartfelt and heartbreaking, Peter Vu's Paper Cranes Don't Fly had me blinking back tears more than once. It follows the story of Adam Auttenberg, a 17-year-old boy diagnosed with a benign brain tumour, which becomes more aggressive over time. Throughout his time in hospital, he makes friends with another patient, Rachael, and develops bonds with his nurses. His best friends, Tess and Ambrose, visit regularly, and over the course of the novel, we learn just how integral his friendships are to his identity and his happiness.

Adam is a good kid in an unfortunate situation, however he makes it clear that he doesn't want pity. He doesn't want his story to be defined by his illness. And by highlighting the intricacies of his friendships, both past and present, Vu is able to tell Adam's story in such a way that the reader gets to know him on a level that makes him so much more than his diagnosis. Flashbacks to primary school days illustrate the beginnings of a love between three friends that's only strengthened over the years. It gives a touching insight into a bond that's stood tests of time, distance and illness, and highlights why Adam's friends have been essential to his happiness throughout his life.

Vu was diagnosed with a brainstem glioma when he was six years old, which gives Adam's voice an even more honest and realistic sentiment. For this reason, among many, it's impossible not to tear up when his situation begins to worsen. The friendships portrayed in the book are built on an unbreakable foundation of love, and witnessing cancer's best efforts to undermine it is heart-wrenching.

One of the most heartbreaking moments of the novel is when Adam, Tess and Ambrose take revenge on Tess' ex-boyfriend. The carefree rebellion the trio indulges in is reminiscent of that in John Green's *Paper Towns*. Damaging the ex-boyfriend's car and driving off into the night, Adam tastes a hint of the reckless, carefree youth his cancer is denying him.

Young adult novels often emphasise romantic love as the be-all-and-end-all form of the feeling, however *Paper Cranes Don't Fly* deviates from this narrative. It touches upon ideas of romantic relationships, even hinting at the possibility of Adam and Rachael getting together if he wasn't sick.

However, Vu's novel is more greatly focused upon showcasing the love between friends, and how it is of equal, or even more importance, than that of romantic love. Adam's friendships are essentially what he lives for. He distinguishes his, Tess' and Ambrose's bond from others' through the realisation that "they can make [him] happy without really doing anything at all". While he's aware he may not have long left to enjoy these friendships, he knows that the love he and his friends have for each other is what's made his life meaningful. And for that, he's eternally grateful.

Suitable for ages 14 and above, this remarkably written, moving tale of love and friendship strays from the typical "cancer kid" narrative in stellar style.

Aryani Siti says

It's about a young boy who fight for brain cancer and his relationship with his 2 best friends. I cried out loud on chapter 16 and 32 ? . My dad passed away becoz of brain cancer so maybe that's why this book made me emotional. Perhaps.

Claire McKinley says

Reading this book I went through multiple stages of liking it and not liking it. The first few pages made me very excited for it. The blurb had been quite vague, though the opening made me think that this would be a wonderful story, not your traditional cancer book. However, about 40 pages in, it appeared to be falling into the stereotypes and cliches of the 'sick lit' genre. Eventually, the book redeemed itself and turned out to be a wonderful story of friendship. Being a sick kid myself, I definitely could see myself in the main character, which was comforting.

Nick says

Never have I ever read a novel that had me stand up out of my chair at the most crucial moment. Peter Vu successfully articulates the emotions of antagonist Adam, through this literature's vivid exquisiteness and verbal intelligence to portray the tragic tale of us poor humans.

Vu's young age aside, this book is brilliant period. It's an overall moving and affectus novel.

For a relatively unknown author from Melbourne before this release, Peter Vu has set himself up for a massive career ahead of him.

Jacinta says

I picked up this book expecting a *The Fault In Our Stars*-esque kind of read, but that was not what I got. The main characters don't experience profound philosophical shifts or use cigarettes as metaphors or even meet a Dutch author-turned-reclusive-dickbag on an epic expedition. But they do share humour, tears, unique relationships and the type of deep connection that I think all of us really yearn for, deep down, but are too afraid to ask for.

Adam is a pretty normal teenage boy, and I do mean normal - he's happy having no hobbies in particular and spending his time hanging out with his best friends, AJ and Tess. I honestly loved reading about their shenanigans as a trio. And I won't pretend I didn't tear up just a little at a few particularly heart-rending moments. Them feels, yo.

I loved how honest this felt to read and how it explored the lasting power of friendship. A solid five stars from me!

Julian Borg says

Heartfelt, down to Earth and simply beautiful novel. An incredible tale that hits hard and reminds us what the most important things in life are. A touching story.

Lara (Bookish_turtle) says

[I love this book so much, and I've read it quite a few times. So even though I know he dies, I still lose it every time I read about it. And knowing that he dies even makes the happy bits sadder.

But I think

Ruby says

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Rebecca McNutt says

In the vein of *Pretending the Bed is a Raft* and *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Paper Cranes Don't Fly* perfectly captures the pain and uncertainty that comes with being a cancer patient, with a main character who longs for normality in his dire world. In and out of hospitals, all he wants is a friend who understands him.

Big Lou says

I don't often cry in books. I can generally finish a book without shedding a tear, at least visibly. But. Then came *Paper Cranes Don't Fly*, by Peter Vu. One of the best books I have ever read, *Paper Cranes* is sad, funny, beautiful and heartbreaking all at once. On the surface, it is about a boy with brain cancer - but ultimately, it is a story of everlasting friendship, and living life no matter what it throws at you. For Adam, life is a real bitch to him (Sorry for the language...). But in the end, sometimes friends can be enough. There is no possible way to improve this book. Just like Adam, it's perfect just as it is.

(I am silently crying as I write this... Thanks a lot, Peter Vu...)

Rob De says

I am thrilled to review the first book that I have ever had a hand in Publishing. Written by the friend of the son of one of our long term staff, Don Schepis.

When he first presented me with this book my initial reaction was 'here we go again' as everybody seems to have or know of a book that must be published, and to be honest we are not publishers.

The content matter of a young cancer sufferer has been hugely popular recently, so much so that I coined the genre 'sick-lit', and this has since been repeated to me by others. Anyway, in short, I loved the book, have committed to buying hundreds of copies and convinced Paul Collins, from Ford Street Publishing, to publish it.

So on with the review. Author Peter Vu was diagnosed with a brainstem glioma at the age of six and has constantly battled with the illness since. He talks with real experience and gets to the core of the psyche of someone with this experience.

But this is a novel, based on the life of Adam Auttenberg, and you are going to love him!!

He is warm, self-deprecating and honest. His life revolves around his family and two forever best friends, AJ and Tess. They have an inseparable bond and a deep love for each other that will often bring you to tears.

I will not spoil such a great story other than to say it is regularly based in a Hospital and friendship, love and hope resonate throughout. It is a particularly sensitive and emotional story that is superbly written and full of love. Tess and Adam have an amazing platonic love for each other that will fill your heart with joy.

It is a truly great book that I am thrilled to see published and am sure it will become a huge hit.

Abbie Cini says

If you are looking for a book that will show you just how powerful friendships are, then this one is it.

Adam Auttenberg is seventeen years old and facing the toughest challenge of his life. Diagnosed with a brain tumour that has become aggressive over the years, Adam has spent most of his life in and out of hospital. He longs to feel normal; to go to school, attend parties and not be the subject of bad news. But Adam is determined that the illness will not define him.

For Adam, the most important things in his life are his family and friends. Standing by his side are AJ and Tess, the best friends he has known since primary school. They are inseparable and their friendship was resilient to Adam attending a different high school, a situation that can test friendships. But their biggest challenge is yet to come when Adam is readmitted to hospital for another operation. It is at the hospital that he meets Rachael, a fellow patient, and the two become fast friends.

Peter Vu's powerful debut novel offers a sensitive insight into the life of patients with a terminal illness. Paper Cranes Don't Fly is a story about the power of unconditional love, friendship and compassion. It tells of the bonds we make that carry us through the darkest of times. An exquisite blend of humour and heart-wrenching moments will captivate any reader.

Joshua Mantello says

An outstanding novel detailed by a magnificently talented, young novelist Peter Vu whos storytelling and linguistic prowess is of someone who is many years above his age. A heartwarming novel for readers young and old that emphasises that love has no boundaries. I have recommended this novel to all of my friends and will continue to recommend it in the future. Can't wait for the next novel from this talented author.
