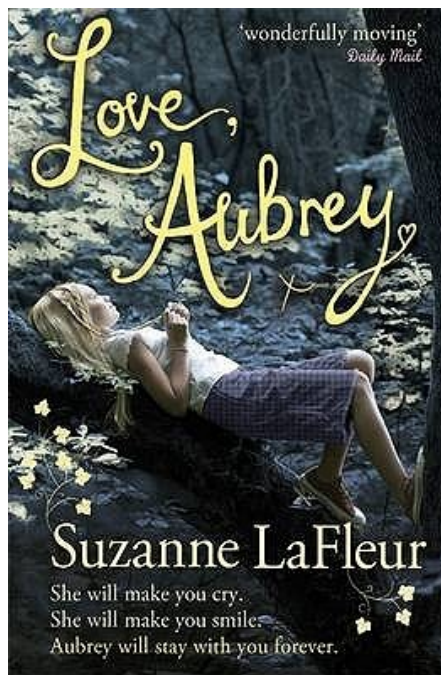




Love, Aubrey

Suzanne LaFleur

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Love, Aubrey

Suzanne LaFleur

Love, Aubrey Suzanne LaFleur

Something terrible has happened. Eleven-year-old Aubrey is on her own.

'It was fun at first, playing house. Nothing to think about but TV and cheese. A perfect world.'

She's determined to hide away and take care of herself, because facing the truth is too much to bear.

'I couldn't let anyone know that I was alone. I was staying right here.'

But with the love of her grandmother and the letters she writes, can Aubrey begin to see that even though she's lost everything - all is not lost?

Love, Aubrey Details

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From Reader Review Love, Aubrey for online ebook

Sweetdhee says

*Bicara tentang kehilangan, tidak pernah sederhana..
Meski ia datang, kadang dengan cara yang teramat mudah..
Bukankah aneh, kita justru merasa sesak kala merasakan ketiadaan?
Isi kepala begitu penuh hingga tak mampu menampung sisi hidup yang lain..
Mengapa kekosongan alihalih menjelma semesta saat dirasa rengat di hati?*

Seakan belum cukup kepergian Dad dan Savannah dalam kecelakaan yang tragis, Aubrey, gadis 11 tahun, masih harus mengalami kehilangan ibu nya..
Tapi bukan hanya Aubrey, ibu nya sendiri pun kehilangan diri nya sendiri..
Beliau tidak sanggup menopang kehilangan dua orang tercintanya
Hingga siang itu, beliau pergi

Aubrey yang menyangka ibunya hanya pergi berbelanja kebingungan..
Dan sesak karena kekosongan rumahnya..
Hingga malam datang, Aubrey sendirian..
Lalu malam berikutnya, dan berikutnya..
Bertahan dengan makanan sisa yang ada di dapur..

Di sini, saya sangat ingin memeluk Aubrey..
Betapa beruntungnya saya masih mempunyai Emak untuk saya peluk..
Kapan pun saya merasa dunia ingin menelan saya bulatbulat, Emak masih ada untuk mendengarkan saya..

Apalagi setelah tadi pagi saya berbincang dengan Ayu..
At some point, she felt tired of things, and she texted her mom..
Ini balasan si mamah, "*Kalo kamu ngerasa gak kuat jalan, merangkaklah, belajar lagi dari awal buat berjalan. Tapi jangan pernah berhenti. Kalo kamu merasa capek, menangislah, habiskan dan kamu akan bisa ketawa lagi, tapi jangan pernah berhenti ya, nak. Percaya aja sama Allah. Sing sabar ya, Nduk..*"

See?
Betapa beruntungnya kita yang masih punya Ibu untuk menguatkan kita..
Sedangkan Aubrey?
Tuhan..

Untungnya Gram datang, menyelamatkan Aubrey..
Membawa nya ke rumah dan mulai membangun sedikit demi sedikit kekuatan Aubrey..
Dan meski di awal pertemuan dengan Brdiget dan keluarganya justru membuat perut Aubrey bergejolak sesak, tapi mereka terlalu hangat hingga Aubrey merasa nyaman berada di tengah mereka..

Aubrey mulai mampu berdiri kuat..
Dan sekali lagi, nampaknya ujian belum selesai..
Mom datang..
Masih dengan ketidakmampuan menopang emosi nya sendiri..

Lalu perut Aubrey bergejolak lagi..

Mungkin karena kehilangan tidak pernah menjadi pilihan..

Saat kehilanganmu, contohnya..

Jika bukan karena simpul yang terpaksa aku jalin, kehilanganmu pasti kan terjadi dalam cara yang lain..

Jua ketika Bapak pergi, di Idul Fitri lima tahun Hijriah yang lalu..

Apa kami bisa memilih untuk tidak merasakan hampa saat lutut yang seharusnya kami cium di hari yang fitri justru telah terbujur kaku?

Yang aku yakini, hanya ada satu kehilangan yang sepenuhnya menjadi pilihan untuk kita..

Satusatu nya yang berada dalam genggamannya kita..

KehilanganNya..

Karena Dia tak pernah tiada..

Acapkali, kita yang melupakan keberadaanNya..

*dengan tambahan kata dari sini

Mia Prasetya says

Daddy,

Tahukah kau kalau aku paling merindukanmu.

.
. .
.

Mungkin dad sudah tahu semua ini, atau mungkin dad sedang membaca surat ini juga dari belakangku. Berpikir seperti itu juga membuatku bahagia. Atau mungkin setelah kumasukkan surat ini ke amplop dan kubawa keluar, lalu kubiarkan terbawa angin, maka dad akan tahu isinya.

Itulah yang aku ingin dad tahu : bahwa aku mencintaimu. Aku merindukanmu. Kuharap meskipun aku tumbuh besar, Dad masih bisa mengenalku kalau melihatku nanti. Aku akan terus menjadi Aubreymu. Dan, Dad akan selalu jadi ayah terbaik bagiku. Aku berharap Dad tak harus pergi.

Aku pamit dulu

Love, Aubrey.

Sekelumit surat Aubrey yang ditujukan kepada ayahnya yang telah meninggal sukses membuat saya menitikkan air mata. Aubrey, gadis berusia 11 tahun yang hidupnya berubah 180 derajat setelah kematian ayah dan adiknya. Tidak hanya itu, ibunya yang menyetir mobil saat kecelakaan terjadi malah menyalahkan dirinya sendiri dan pergi meninggalkan Aubrey entah ke mana.

Aubrey hidup sendirian, spaghetti dan keju menjadi santapannya setiap hari seolah tidak terjadi apa-apa dalam kesehariannya. Aubrey dipaksa menjadi mandiri, berusaha terlihat tegar walau hatinya hancur. Sampai akhirnya ia tinggal bersama sang nenek, hari lepas hari adalah perjuangan. Perjuangan menata hati,

mengingkari pikirannya bahwa semua baik-baik saja. Lelah dengan kepura-puraan, satu-satunya hiburan selain ikan hias kesayangannya adalah menulis surat. Mungkin itu sebabnya dijadikan judul buku, karena setiap akhir suratnya pasti diakhiri dengan Love, Aubrey.

Perlahan-lahan Aubrey mulai menikmati hidup bersama nenek dan memiliki teman-teman baru di sekolahnya. Konflik cerita mulai meningkat saat ibu Aubrey kembali hadir dalam kehidupannya, akankah Aubrey kembali bersama ibunya atau tetap tinggal bersama nenek yang baru saja ia kenal dekat?

Beberapa kali mata saya berkaca-kaca saat membaca suray Aubrey, terlebih surat Aubrey untuk ayahnya yang saya tuliskan di awal review. Walaupun Love, Aubrey adalah kisah drama remaja, kisah ini ditulis dengan indah. Tragic, honest, brave and a real tear jerker. Patut dibaca bagi penggemar Young Adult yang suka dengan alur cerita yang kuat.

Saya yang kurang lebih memiliki pengalaman serupa dengan Aubrey, kehilangan mama di saat usia 10 tahun tahu persis perasaan Aubrey. Betapa bencinya saat mama-mama teman sekolah saya yang memeluk dan berkata, “aduh, kasihan”. Atau betapa frustasinya ketika teman sekelas bergantian datang untuk sekedar bertanya, “Kamu ga papa kan Mi?”. Cara mudah menghindari semua itu gampang, ya sudah bersikap saja seolah-olah kematian mama saya tidak terjadi. Peristiwa masa lalu hadir bagaikan slideshow di otak saya tadi ketika membaca Love, Aubrey. Dan memang benar, keluarga, teman, cinta kasih dan waktu akan memulihkan segalanya.

Bagi penyuka If I Stay, buku drama remaja yang berkisah tentang kematian dan harapan untuk bangkit kembali, Love, Aubrey is a must read. Malah menurut saya buku ini jauh lebih bagus. 5 bintang! Sayang cover bukunya kurang indah dipandang, padahal biasanya buku terbitan Matahati covernya bagus-bagus. Saya lebih suka cover luar yang sangat mencerminkan Aubrey.

PS : Pas browsing-browsing tentang pengarang kaget juga kalau umurnya baru 27 tahun, buku keduanya bakal terbit tahun ini dengan tema yang tak jauh beda. Kematian dan remaja, resmi bertengger di rak wishlist :p

Ana says

ahh buku ini indah banget. Review to come.

Mungkin untuk sebagian remaja-dewasa, tinggal jauh dari orang tua adalah suatu impian, kalau boleh saya bilang. Tinggal dan diawasi dan bergantung secara berlebihan kepada orang tua adalah hal yang menyebalkan. Tapi tentu saja beda untuk anak yang masih berumur sebelas tahun, seperti Aubrey.

Dia terbangun di pagi hari dan mendapati bahwa Ibunya sudah pergi dari rumah. Awalnya ia menyangka Ibunya hanya keluar sebentar saja, namun setelah malam berlalu dan pagi menjelang kembali, Ibunya tak menunjukkan tanda-tanda untuk pulang. Kopernya tak ada, almarnya kosong. Tanpa perasaan menentu, Aubrey berusaha percaya bahwa Ibunya akan kembali. Setiap hari ia hanya makan biskuit dan keju, padahal persediaan uangnya semakin menipis.

Masalah Aubrey tak hanya sebatas itu. Dia pantas mendapatkan simpati karena sebenarnya ia baru saja kehilangan Ayah dan Adik perempuannya yang lucu, Savannah. Mereka berdua tewas dalam kecelakaan mobil yang dikendarai oleh Ibunya. Wajar saja, saat Aubrey ditemukan dan diselamatkan oleh Neneknya

dari ancaman hidup sendiri dan mati kelaparan, ia menjadi sangat rapuh, apapun yang membuat perasaannya tak enak akan menimbulkan mual dan muntah.

Terharu. Saya ngga tahu harus ngomong apa lagi. Novel ini begitu indah sekaligus menyedihkan di waktu yang sama. Aubrey benar-benar menyita perhatian saya, dibalik kerapuhannya, saya bisa melihat bagaimana gadis sebelas tahun ini berusaha bertahan, berdiri di atas kakinya sendiri tanpa Ayah, Ibu, dan adiknya.

Penulis menggambarkan Aubrey dengan sangat realistis hingga saya sempat berpikir jangan-jangan ini adalah kisah nyata. Tokoh kita ini bukanlah tokoh sempurna, justru ia sangat vulnerable sampai-sampai kita sendiri ingin puk-puk dia dan berkata, "It's okay...I'm here..."

Saya juga sangat menyukai tokoh Gram dan Bridget. Mereka berdua adalah orang yang paling berpengaruh pada Aubrey. Bagaimana Gram sebagai nenek (yang juga sama-sama kehilangan anak, menantu, dan cucu) berusaha tegar demi Aubrey, dan bagaimana Bridget berperan sebagai sahabat yang penuh pengertian. Pengeh punya sahabat seperti Bridget, yang tak harus mengatakan atau bertanya apapun ketika kita tak memintanya, yang tahu kapan memeluk, kapan berpaling pergi, kapan mengajak tersenyum, atau kapan meninggalkan kita sendiri saat kita ingin sendiri.

Well, saya pikir novel ini memang bukan untuk anak-anak. Novel ini lebih cocok untuk orang-orang dewasa yang masih susah move on. Termasuk saya. :D

Namun sungguh, setiap makhluk hidup bisa mati kapan saja, entah kita siap atau tidak. Apakah itu ikan peliharaan, adik, atau kita sendiri. Tak ada yang sama selamanya. Mungkin, semua orang di dunia ini adalah ikan-ikan kecil peliharaan Tuhan. Tuhan hidup abadi sehingga umur manusia tampak sangat pendek bagi-Nya. Dia melihat mereka berenang-renang sebentar, lalu mereka berhenti bergerak.

Paula says

Contains spoilers.....

I absolutely LOVED Love, Aubrey. It was heartbreaking and funny and true to life. Aubrey was like a real ten year old girl trying to take care of herself when everything she has known is gone. Gram was compassionate, loving, no nonsense, and able to reach out for Aubrey in the midst of her own pain and grief. You get to be there with Aubrey as she starts to heal, one minute at a time. I don't give five stars casually, but this one is it. The one character I didn't like was Aubrey's mother, who not only left her completely alone, and Aubrey was alone for a week before her Gram found her, but even after she "recovered," thought only of herself and not at all of what Aubrey needed, not even calling her on holidays etc, because she didn't feel like it, even though Aubrey was waiting by the phone. Then suddenly she's all better and wants to take Aubrey back because SHE wants it, not thinking or caring of what's best for Aubrey. She seemed to be completely oblivious to anyone but herself. Gram was a far better parent to her than her mother.

Andrea Hickman Walker says

I picked this up on the the strength of the title font along the spine. I glanced at the cover, flipped it over and read the back. I opened it up, read the first few pages and decided I was taking it home with me.

Surprisingly, this doesn't usually happen. I frequently pick up books because of the way they look. Reading the back usually induces me to put them back on the shelf. If the book passes that test, I read the first couple of sentences and, usually, a few random passages through the book. Rarely will I read the first few pages, instead of just the first few sentences. When a book manages to draw me in like that I buy it. Which is what happened with this book.

This is a heart-breaking story about death, grief and loss. It should be required reading for all children, and everyone who is too old to have had it required of them. Every single one of you should read this book. This is not a typical children's book. This is a book that deals with real life issues in a way that does not require the metaphor of fantasy. It's an emotional survival handbook that is relevant to anyone who has ever lost someone to grief.

Nilam Suri says

Fiuuuuh, that was a hard long ride, reading this book.

No, not because this is not a good book, but because it's so heart wrenching, yet so beautifully written, even after it got translated.

Ceritanya tentang seorang gadis cilik berusia 11 tahun. Di awal buku diceritakan kalau pada suatu pagi Ibu gadis ini tiba-tiba menghilang dan meninggalkan dia begitu saja. Hal itu ternyata karena keluarga mereka baru saja kehilangan Ayah dan seorang anak, Savannah, adik Aubrey.

Awalnya Aubrey nggak bilang pada siapa pun tentang kepergian Ibunya, tapi akhirnya Gram, neneknya, datang dan mengetahui itu semua. Gram akhirnya membawa Aubrey ke Vermont dari Virginia untuk tinggal bersamanya.

Di Vermont, Aubrey memulai kehidupan yang baru, dia bahkan memiliki sahabat baru, Bridget, yang tinggal di sebelah rumah Gram. Keluarga Bridget masih utuh, dan dia memiliki dua orang adik.

Mereka sering bermain ke dalam hutan, dan Aubrey sering meninggalkan surat-suratnya kepada Jilly yang misterius di pohon luka milik Bridget. Mereka bermain luncur salju, membuat manusia salju, berkemah di halaman, mendatangi pesta Halloween Christian yang sedang ditaksir Bridget, dan merayakan ulang tahun Aubrey bersama Marcus, cowok dari kelas Aubrey yang ceria tapi diam-diam sedih.

Lalu, ketika akhirnya Ibu Aubrey tiba-tiba muncul kembali, haruskah Aubrey kembali ke Virginia yang gelap dan suram seperti yang diingatnya dan meninggalkan kehidupan barunya yang menyenangkan di Vermont?

Saya membaca buku ini di kereta dalam perjalanan ke kampus. Jadilah saya harus berkali-kali mengusap sudut mata dengan sembunyi-sembunyi, supaya penumpang lainnya nggak ada yang menyadari air mata yang mendesak muncul gara-gara membaca buku ini.

Semua orang yang merasa butuh a good cry harus membaca buku ini, atau mungkin, orang-orang yang merasa butuh diyakinkan bahwa bahkan setelah yang terburuk terjadi pun, harapan akan selalu ada, dan kesempatan untuk tertawa gembira pasti akan muncul kembali.

Dan nggak ada yang salah dari hal itu.

Selamat menikmati. Selamat menangis, selamat tertawa, dan tentunya, selamat membaca ;]

Renee says

Love, Aubrey focuses on eleven year old Aubrey, who lost her father and younger sister, Savannah, in a car accident earlier in the year. Aubrey's mom unable to function or deal with her grief left Aubrey. Aubrey is left to fend for herself until her grandma shows up at the door one day. Love, Aubrey is about getting unstuck from the terrible moments in your life and moving forward even if it's really really hard and painful. Even though Aubrey is resistant to leave her home in Virginia and move up to Vermont with her grandma, it's that move that helps Aubrey begin her journey of getting unstuck and dealing with not just the loss of her father and sister, but with the absence of her mother. There are of course happy moments of the book filled with the friends Aubrey meets, her new school and more.

Love Aubrey, is a good pick for readers who like books with the same sort of tone, but it's also a great pick for people who are going through a hard time too. You may not be going through the same thing as Aubrey, but her feelings and experiences are something most people can relate to at one point or another in their life. So reading the book is kind of comforting, like you and Aubrey are working through getting unstuck together.

Relyn says

My work this summer has been different than in past years and leaves me A LOT of time to listen to audiobooks as I work. Since this was one of my daughter's favorite books when she was a third or fourth grader, I finally made time to read it. I am sorry it took me so long.

This is a powerful book about loss and grieving, about family and forgiveness.

You would think that losing your dad and little sister would be the worst event in a ten year old girl's life. It's not. Aubrey's mother falls into a deep depression after driving during the car accident that killed two family members. Needing to pretend that all is well, and unable to recognize her own need for help, Aubrey's mom completely abandons her ten year old daughter.

Aubrey is ten and completely alone. It sounds improbable, doesn't it? You expect to read it with skepticism. But you don't. LaFleur remembers what it is like to be ten. And, she must know what it is like to grieve, because it is all in there:

- The child avoiding the nosy church ladies who are just being kind and could actually help.
- The way a child would be simultaneously furious at their parent and terrified that other people might get mad at the parent.
- The way you hide from the world and sleep for days when you are sad.
- The way that, no matter what your mother does to you, your heart still aches for her.

LaFleur knows what it is to grieve. And to heal. I think the best part of the book was Aubrey's friend, Bridget, and Bridget's family. Their steady kindness and compassion were a big part of Aubrey's healing. The way Bridget would let Aubrey be sad or playful or alone were actually great examples of how to help a friend through their grief. My daughter's best friend lost her dad when they were fifth graders. I was amazed at the maturity and compassion with which my daughter behaved as her friend grieved. I think maybe she learned some of that right here in the pages of this excellent book.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Sally Kruger aka "Readingjunky" for TeensReadToo.com

Aubrey Priestly has eaten the last of the cheese and crackers and finished the juice in the refrigerator. There is nothing left to eat so she takes the birthday money Gram sent and heads to the store. She knows she can buy groceries and take care of herself, but she's worried about what might happen if someone finds out she is eleven and living alone.

Tragedy struck and took Aubrey's sister and father, and now her mother has been gone for days. Aubrey thought it was best to ignore the constantly ringing telephone since she had no idea what to tell any caller that might ask to speak to her mother. However, one afternoon she just couldn't ignore the repeated ringing of the doorbell. When she opened the door, she found Gram standing on the porch.

What follows is Aubrey's concerned grandmother bustling about asking questions about how long she's been alone and then giving instructions about what to pack since Gram is taking Aubrey back with her. They ride the train from Virginia to the familiar old house in Vermont. Used to visits only on holidays, it seems strange to be moving in with Gram, but it's a relief to have someone taking care of her again.

Aubrey gradually opens up to her grandmother as the two of them work to adjust to the tremendous changes in their lives. But even with Gram's loving care, a new best friend living right next door, and a helpful counselor at her new school, Aubrey finds the most relief when she writes letters to the loved ones now missing from her life.

LOVE, AUBREY is the first novel by Suzanne LaFleur. The story is filled with emotion. The heart-wrenching sadness Aubrey experiences as old memories begin to surface are sure to bring tears to the eyes of even the most jaded reader. LaFleur shows Aubrey dealing with grief and loss as she struggles to understand her feelings and the confusing choices made by her grieving mother.

This is a powerful story about love, loss, and healing that goes far beyond its targeted middle grade audience.

Anna says

I'm not usually a big reader of Children's fiction but the cover of this book grabbed my attention and I couldn't resist taking it down from the shelf to take a closer look. The premise sucked me in and I found myself heading to the till and paying for the book. And I'm really glad I had a little uncharacteristic browse of the Children's section of a local book store.

'Love, Aubrey' is aimed at children aged 11 and over but it seems to be a world apart from the novels around when I was that age. I remember fluffy books about babysitters and cheesy horror stories that weren't even intended to be scary. I remember casting aside kids books for teenage (Young Adult wasn't even a genre back then lol) novels that had a bit more substance and some grittier story-lines that my teachers and the school librarian didn't approve of. Things have obviously changed a lot since I was 11 (is it really 16 years ago??) and while reading 'Love, Aubrey' I found myself wishing that this novel had been around for my younger self to read. Because I know that geeky little loner would have adored this book.

Eleven year old Aubrey is alone. At first she thought it would be fun living on her own, buying her own groceries and eating whatever she wants for dinner. But then it started to get a little scary. She knows what her Mom did is wrong but all she wants is for people to understand, to not get mad at her mom because it really isn't her fault. A couple of months ago, Aubrey's dad and little sister Savannah died in a family car accident. As the only survivors, Aubrey and her Mom attempted to live their lives, to get up each morning and go on. But Aubrey's mom couldn't handle it. Aubrey's mom began to get more and more distant until one day she just left. And now Aubrey has to face life alone.

And then Gram turns up, certain that something is wrong. It must be if nobody is answering the phone. After a few days of unsuccessful searching for her missing daughter, Gram decides the best thing to do is take her granddaughter back North with her, keep her safe until everything sorts itself out.

Reluctantly, Aubrey is forced to live again, to get up each morning, to talk to people, to go to school, to move beyond the pain of the accident, the loss of her family. And she begins to find happiness in the most unlikely of places. But when her mom finally turns up, Aubrey's going to have a decision to make. Go home or stay with her new extended family?

I read this 256 page novel in one sitting, not even pausing to make myself a drink or eat lunch. From the first page I was sucked into Aubrey's world, her thoughts and her fears. I found myself remembering what it was like to look through the eyes of an eleven year old in an adult world. There were plenty of moments where I had a lump in my throat and a couple where I actually shed a tear. The last book that moved me in such a way was 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower'. As a child, I don't remember a book ever making me cry and I can't help but wonder whether this novel would have the same emotional effect on an eleven year old as it did on this 27 year old reader. Part of me thinks the perspective of adulthood might be what makes this story so poignant, so heart-wrenching. This book has found a special place in my heart and will remain on my bookshelves until my future children are old enough to read it. 'Love, Aubrey' is a classic in the making.

Speakercoret says

3,5*

*Apa rasanya tiba-tiba saja kehilangan ayah dan adikmu dalam kecelakaan mobil..
Apa rasanya tiba-tiba saja ibu kandungmu sendiri meninggalkanmu di suatu pagi...*

itu yang terjadi pada aubrey, dia berumur sebelas tahun ketika dunia indahnya terenggut oleh tangan2 takdir.. Dia harus menguatkan dirinya untuk hidup sendiri, setelah ibunya tiba2 pergi pada suatu pagi.. Tidak sedikitpun terlintas di pikirannya utk menghubungi gram atau uncle david, sampai akhirnya gram datang dan membawanya utk tinggal di rumahnya di vermont..

Di sana dia bertemu bridget, gadis kecil yg tinggal bersama ayah, ibu dan dua adiknya di sebelah rumah gram..
setiap melihat kebahagiaan keluarga bridget, perutnya bergejolak..

melihat mabel adik bridget di angkat di udara oleh ayahnya perutnya bergejolak..
bermain bersama bridget n mabel pun kadang membuat perutnya bergejolak..
sampai saat itu tiba, saat kenyataan menghantamnya.. saat akhirnya bukan cuma membuat perutnya bergejolak, tapi membuatnya merintih, meratap saat kesadaran itu mengoyak jiwanya, saat dia memahami sulit untuk menggapai mereka yang meninggalkannya...

campur aduk yang gw rasain pas baca buku ini,
sedih saat aubrey menyangkal apa yang terjadi..
marah saat pertama ibunya meninggalkan aubrey tanpa pesan..
miris saat aubrey berusaha tinggal sendiri..
menangis saat aubrey merintih dan meratap, terpuruk di tengah hutan..
tersenyum saat aubrey dengan kekuatannya menemani bridget di unit gawat darurat..

hehehe belum kenal sebenarnya ma pemiliknya, di rak petrik ada buku ini, punya mba Nenny katanya :)
makasih ya mbaaaa *dah kelar baca baru nge add friend* :p

Andrea says

Rounding up to 4 Stars.

I read this aloud to my daughter.

This novel begins with Aubrey left to fend for herself after her mother flees in response to the accidental death of her husband and youngest daughter. Not only is Aubrey making sense of her unimaginable grief of losing her dad and little sister, she's been abandoned by her mother. The first chapter draws you in. Aubrey is living alone, in secret, scraping money together to buy canned food, insisting to herself that she will be just fine. Holed up in her house, she is willing to wait as long as it takes for her mom to return. I almost wanted the book to explore her self-reliance more, but soon Aubrey is rescued by her grandmother. This left me slightly disappointed, until I got to know Gram. The characters in "Love, Aubrey" are beautifully crafted. This is not a plot driven story but rather one of relationships and slow recovery. I may have enjoyed it more than my daughter, who cried, "It's sooo sad!" But she still handed the book off to a friend excitedly.

Caitlyn Scott says

This book was amazing!!! It was one of the best books i've ever read even though parts of it were sad. Aubrey faces big challenges and has to make a wise decision at the end. I really enjoyed reading it...I LOVED IT!!!

Aveline Agrippina says

Catatan tukang baca:

1. Cerita cukup menohok dengan gaya bercerita seperti anak-anak, seperti Aubrey yang bercerita.
2. Suratnya juga tidak mengada-ada. Ditulis berasal dari isi hati.
3. Aubrey yang berusaha lari dari kenyataan tersebut memang sudah terkunci dalam dunianya sendiri. Ini yang bisa mengoyakkan hati pembaca. Apalagi pembaca melankolis.
4. Dalam narasi, ada yang masih terasa janggal. Terutama anak seusia Aubrey sudah dapat bertahan hidup 7 hari di rumahnya sendiri dan tak seorang pun tahu.
5. Setidaknya, ini novel dengan tema yang sungguh menyedihkan. Apalagi kalau benar-benar terjadi di luar sana.

Itulah yang aku ingin Dad tahu: bahwa aku mencintaimu. Aku merindukanmu. Kuharap meskipun aku tumbuh besar, Dad masih bisa mengenaliku kalau melihatku nanti. Aku akan terus menjadi Aubrey-mu. Dan, Dad akan selalu menjadi ayah terbaik bagiku. Aku berharap Dad tidak harus pergi.

Aku pamit dulu.

Love,

Aubrey ----- hal 168

6. Di beberapa surat untuk adiknya, Aubrey belum terasa bahwa ia kehilangan adiknya. Masih berkesan biasa-biasa saja, padahal ia pun tercabik karenanya.

Love,

Aveline

Michelle (Fluttering Butterflies) says

Oh dear, where to begin with this book? Love, Aubrey wrenched out my heart and stomped on it. But in a good way. I started it in the late afternoon/early evening and I couldn't bear to put it down. By 1am the following morning, I had finished it and was bawling like a baby in my bed. Actually sobbing big fat tears. So be warned! This one is a weep-inducing book.

Before I started reading this book, I knew it was going to be sad. But I thought that 11 year old Aubrey would be on her own throughout the novel, and that isn't the case, thank god. She is eventually rescued by her grandmother and taken somewhere safe and stable. But that time spent on her own? Using her birthday

money to buy Spaghetti-Os and a pet fish for company? Broke my heart. The whole thing did.

As the reader, you aren't told straightaway all the details of how Aubrey is left on her own, instead the story is drawn out a bit and you can piece it together through some of Aubrey's flashbacks of life before and through her letters. When she goes to live with her grandmother, things are a bit difficult for everyone. Aubrey struggles to adjust with her new life, the different relationship with her grandmother. She's feeling angry at her mother, grief at the loss of her father and little sister. You can see how hard it is for her to trust again and the deep depression she Aubrey is in, as she doesn't want to get out of bed or just sits and watches television and avoiding any conversations where she might have to feel or remember.

Eventually though, with the help of a new best friend, a guidance counsellor and her grandmother, Aubrey is able to fight her way to back to some semblance of a normal 11 year old girl who goes sledding in the snow and has pizza parties on her birthday instead of worrying about her loved ones abandoning her and how she'll cope.

Love, Aubrey could have been more heavy-handed with the emotional issues, but despite how it sounds, it really isn't. In some parts, mostly at the beginning, it's like we're really seeing things from Aubrey's perspective as she tries to detach herself from feeling so much so that it all doesn't overwhelm her. But gradually, Aubrey is able to let out a little of what she's feeling and when that happens? Be ready to get walloped by the strong emotions. Keep tissues handy.

Uzma Sheikh says

This book was beautifully written, and is great plot for the "Real World". It explores the crazy journey a young girl must take after an incident that took away her father and sister. Love Aubrey is a creative, emotional book that has beautiful story worth reading! I recommend this book for mature kids, preferably 11 or 12 MATURE kids! It really matters how you comprehend everything that happens because this is like a real world situation--- this can happen.

This book is truly recommended young adults. You will love this one!

Josiah says

"Sometimes I wonder if life is all about one moment. Everything before and everything after is about that one moment, and we are all stuck there."

—*Love, Aubrey*, P. 198

Score another major hit for Wendy Lamb Books.

New to the world of writing juvenile fiction, Suzanne Lafleur's first novel is filled to brimming with rewarding, close-knit relationships and the kind of sharply poignant real emotion that is only drawn forth in a select few books.

Love, Aubrey begins in the aftermath of the initial grief over the accident that has forever changed Aubrey's family. Only Aubrey and her mother survive, and Aubrey's mother has disappeared for parts unknown. At age eleven, Aubrey must gather the resourcefulness and courage to face life completely on her own, having to face not only the removal of her sister and father, but now also of her mother.

This situation does not continue for long, as Aubrey's grandmother comes onto the scene and recognizes developments for what they are. Her grandmother retrieves Aubrey back to her own home state of Virginia, where Aubrey now has a real home and someone to take care of her. In short, Aubrey once again has the security of a family, makeshift and ultimately unsatisfactory though it might be.

Things have a way of turning out so differently from the way that one anticipates, however. In a new hometown with a new school and all-new people surrounding her, Aubrey slowly begins to adjust, to survive and eventually even thrive where she is planted, despite the inherently temporary nature of the setup. She quickly meets Bridget, a girl her age next door who turns out to be the kind of friend that a lucky person meets once, maybe twice in a lifetime. The intimacy of their friendship is refreshing and serves as a wonderful buoy, to the story as well as to Aubrey's fragile spirit. So much of the personal progress that Aubrey makes in the pages of this book could be directly attributable to the shoring up of her unstable psyche by this loving friendship with Bridget. It allows her to almost immediately be herself in an entirely foreign locale, and to approach situations at school without the pressure of not having any friends working at the back of her mind.

Then Aubrey meets Marcus, a boy in her class whose life contains some elements that parallel hers, and another unique relationship begins to form. Suzanne Lafleur seems to be a master at conveying the multidimensional and dynamic nature of friendship, and it is in this respect that *Love, Aubrey* most consistently shines for all that it is. The relationships in the book come across as so authentic that I felt as if I were part of those relational connections, as well.

Events and the people involved with them are always shifting, though, and through everything that happens as Aubrey gets used to life in a new state and a new unorthodox family, change comes to her new life, as well. The tragedy of her past and the confirming presence of those that have rallied around her help Aubrey to find her way through it all—to understand the grief that looms over and inside of her throughout so much of this book, always threatening to invade and carry her back to a place of darkness— and finally to fully process and walk away from that grief. Then, when suddenly one day Aubrey's mother returns into her life, Aubrey finds that she is now ready to deal with that newest heartache, as well.

Love, Aubrey is a transformative work that realistically and painfully takes us on a trip through the most formative time of experience in the life of a bright, conflicted, and completely likable girl, letting us experience alongside her the black tunnels of grief, and the happy moments that serve to light her way forward. This really makes the book into an *experience* for the reader, and not just a touching story. Above all, what *really* stood out to me about this book is the deeply personal and emotionally stinging nature of the sadness that comes out with full force in some of Aubrey's letters, especially the ones that she writes to Jilly, her father and her sister Savannah. It is at these brief moments that the full weight of what has been taken from Aubrey's life hits the reader, and we can feel exactly what she feels. It is a hard, hard thing to bear, and for Aubrey it will continue to be that hard for as far into the future as her own life will stretch.

I'd imagine that *Love, Aubrey* is one of those books that really made the 2010 Newbery committee agonize over not recognizing the profundity of its achievement with a Newbery Honor. I think that it certainly is one of the very best books of the year, and I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to come to know Suzanne Lafleur as an author. I would give at least three and a half stars to this book.

Adele says

Love, Aubrey is another book to add to my pile of children left behind novels...and yet I enjoyed it. I had heard a lot of very complimentary things about this novel before I read it and so I was expecting a lot. I

really wasn't all that sure what to think about it as I started reading. I was piecing together the story well before elements were confirmed and yet I was in the present with Aubrey. This could just be a story about grief, instead it's about being left behind, and all that that means.

The eleven year old protagonist is not someone I would normally want to read about. She's mourning her family - how it once was, what it isn't now. She's barely keeping her head above the waters swirling with grief, depression, anger and need. What surprised me is how removed I felt and how much emotion I felt. I am contradicting myself I know, but that's how I felt. The anger I felt towards Elizabeth is overwhelming, I understand on a base level that her depression overrode her daughter's needs but I didn't care. She left her child alone. The last remaining member of her immediate family and she just up and left her. How dare she?

While Aubrey's being difficult with her grandmother, befriending Bridget or missing Savannah - I didn't really connect. But it took one letter to her father to break me. I find it interesting that the one member of the family, the one mentioned the least, could elicit so much emotion from me. It was then I realised how beautifully crafted this novel is. Each word is deliberate. LaFleur's words are delicately placed creating a whirlwind of contrasting emotions that race through you, leaving an emotional wreck behind. It is a stunning debut effort, one that I am reluctant to quantify because I cannot place why it is so good. Perhaps it's the use of simple language which leaves you feeling sparse? Maybe it's the number of emotions, conclusions and thoughts that aren't ever directly stated? Maybe it's both. Regardless, this book is a revelation and the start to a very promising career for Suzanne LaFleur.

Maureen says

Life can't get any worse for eleven year old Aubrey, or can it? After a devastating car accident claims the lives of Aubrey's dad and seven year old sister, Savannah, Aubrey and her mom, overwhelmed with guilt and sorrow, struggle to deal with the tragedy. Imagine Aubrey's surprise one evening when she realizes her mother, unable to cope with the enormity of her loss, has abandoned her. Finally cognizant of her daughter's neglect and Aubrey's fragile emotional state, Aubrey's grandmother takes her home to Vermont intent on providing Aubrey with the love and stability she desperately needs. With patience and compassion, Aubrey's grandmother, close neighbors and the school counselor assist Aubrey in coming to terms with her loss, gain insight into her mother's actions and find solace in her memories of Savannah and her dad. Written in first person narrative, Aubrey's emotions are palpable as random events trigger flashbacks of family memories. Printed in italics and woven throughout the story, letters, written by Aubrey to Savannah's imaginary friend and significant family members, reveal Aubrey's painful reflections, the depth of her sorrow and anger. The conflict Aubrey experiences when her mother attempts to reclaim her role will resonate with young readers anxiously awaiting Aubrey's decision. LaFleur has crafted a poignant tale about loss, the importance of love and the resilience of the human spirit that elementary readers (grades 3-5) will find both credible and touching. For older students, pair this book with Barbara Park's *Mick Harte Was Here* for a discussion about loss and grieving.

Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur
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hardcover, realistic fiction

Stefani says

“Sometimes I wonder if life is all about one moment. Everything before and everything after is about that one moment, and we are all stuck there.”

Perasaan setelah membaca ini, mengharu dan perasaan yang sama sehabis membaca a monster calls nya patrick ness. Dengan mengangkat tema yang sama perihal kehilangan, aku sebagai pembaca dapat larut dalam cerita Aubrey. Perjuangan bocah 11 tahun menghadapi kedukaan di tinggalkan Ayah dan Adiknya Savannah, dan sekali lagi harus kehilangan ibu nya yang menelantarkan nya dirumah sendiri. Rasanya sehabis membaca kepengen memeluk Aubrey, everything will okay soon. Dan suka ending cerita nya yang menurutku masih realitis dan sesuai dengan karakter Aubrey sepanjang cerita.

Sekali lagi, middle grade book bikin hati bolong. T.T
