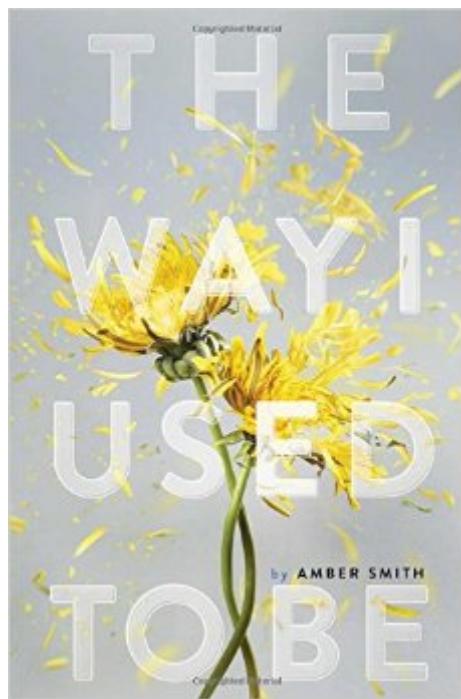


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The Way I Used To Be



Synopsis

A New York Times bestseller! In the tradition of *Speak*, this extraordinary debut novel shares the unforgettable story of a young woman as she struggles to find strength in the aftermath of an assault. Eden was always good at being good. Starting high school didn't change who she was. But the night her brother's best friend rapes her, Eden's world capsizes. What was once simple, is now complex. What Eden once loved—“who she once loved” she now hates. What she thought she knew to be true, is now lies. Nothing makes sense anymore, and she knows she's supposed to tell someone what happened but she can't. So she buries it instead. And she buries the way she used to be. Told in four parts—“freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior year”—this provocative debut reveals the deep cuts of trauma. But it also demonstrates one young woman's strength as she navigates the disappointment and unbearable pains of adolescence, of first love and first heartbreak, of friendships broken and rebuilt, and while learning to embrace a power of survival she never knew she had hidden within her heart.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books; 1st edition (March 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481449354

ISBN-13: 978-1481449359

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (93 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #18,899 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #12 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse #51 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Customer Reviews

The Way I used To Be is one of those books that really gets to you. It's one that will stick with me for a long time. It's an important book for any woman in their teens to adult to read. It's told in four parts from after Eden was raped her Freshman year to her Senior year. Eden was raped at age 14 by her brother's best friend, Kevin. He's a very close friend of the family. She grew up with him. Her parents love him. She trusted him and even loved him. She has never told anyone

what happened to her; not her parents, brother or her best friend. It eats at her every day. Sheâ™s afraid of Kevin. She never wants to see him again but he comes home from college with her brother. Heâ™s always on her mind. She canâ™t get away from the memory of what he did to her. This horrific crime has changed her, altered her personality. Sheâ™s angry, broken and empty. She wants to get as far as she can away from the girl she used to be. She uses sex and boys to give herself control over her own body; to try and take back what was taken from her. Her reputation is destroyed. She has hurt everyone she loves. She canâ™t deal with any relationship. She hides her feelings and puts on an âœel donâ™t give a crap about anyoneâœ mask. She just doesnâ™t know what to do to fix whatâ™s been broken inside of her. Even when she fell in love with the perfect guy, she didnâ™t think she could let herself tell him how she felt about him, to tell him the truth and fully give him her heart. She just didnâ™t know how to love him or be decent. She acted like she didnâ™t care. She thinks she has no chance of a normal relationship with any guy nor does she want one so she just sleeps around to maintain that control over her own body. I just kept thinking why wonâ™t she tell someone?

Eden âœEdyâœ McCrorey is a typical fourteen-year old girl. She does well in school, adores her older brother Caelin, and plays the clarinet in her schoolâ™s band. âœThe Way I Used to Beâœ details her downward spiral after Kevin Armstrong, Caelinâ™s best friend, sneaks into her bedroom at 2:48 AM and rapes her. Threatening to kill her if she says anything, Kevin exerts the ultimate control over Edy. âœâœ [The previous fourteen years had merely been dress rehearsal, preparation for knowing how to properly shut up now âœ]âœ • Amber Smith has written a powerful novel that highlights the dangers âœ both to the victim and to others âœ of remaining silent and the need for others to notice the personality and behavioral changes in those around them.âœThe Way I Used to Beâœ is divided into four major parts âœ one for each year of high school. The separate parts tell of one specific year in Edyâ™s life and the way she deals with the trauma of rape. The effects of both the rape and silence on her mental health and on her behavior impact Edyâ™s relationships. During her freshman year and at both home and school, Edy becomes defensive and confrontational. âœâœ [It burns everything inside of me âœ]Rage âœ]âœ • Her parents are focused on Caelin and his future. âœâœ [What do I have going on âœ]that could ever compare to the larger-than life excitement that is Caelin McCrorey âœ]âœ • They attribute her attitude changes to her age and teen social concerns. âœâœ [Itâ™s hormones âœ]Sheâ™s a teenager âœ]Theyâ™re all the same âœ]âœ • During her sophomore year, Edy attempts to live life as if nothing happened and to take control - outwardly. âœâœ [All you have to do is act âœ]normal âœ]and people start treating you that way âœ]âœ •

She begins dating a Josh Miller, a jock and an upperclassman.

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