She's Come Undone (Oprah's Book Club)
Synopsis

In this extraordinary coming-of-age odyssey, Wally Lamb invites us to hitch a wild ride on a journey of love, pain, and renewal with the most heartbreakingly comical heroine to come along in years. Meet Dolores Price. She's 13, wise-mouthed but wounded, having bid her childhood goodbye. Stranded in front of her bedroom TV, she spends the next few years nourishing herself with the Mallomars, potato chips, and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally orbits into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance before she really goes under.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars | See all reviews (2,757 customer reviews)
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Customer Reviews

I picked up this book recently and once I started it I couldn't put it down. This book is written exceptionally well, and the characters and story flow smoothly and realistically. I was stunned when I realized it was not an autobiography, and was written by a man! The first person voice of a female is quite convincing. I was more than impressed with the writing and the story. Any book that can evoke emotions like this does, is worth looking into. That said, should you read this book? It depends. All of the highlights above are true, but, sadly the overall effect is depressing. I kept waiting for the situation to improve, for the story to pick up, for the victim mentality to end. It doesn't. I gave the book 3 stars, 5 for writing, and 1 for the investment of several hours into what proved to be a draining and disturbing look into the life of a troubled young woman. I liken the experience to waking up from a bad dream, and feeling the lingering effects into the day. Your call as to whether
you wish to jump on board and go along for the ride.

I got this book last Christmas from my grandmother. I looked at it and I didn’t have much of a desire to read such a big book that would interfere with my busy teenage agenda. But I sat down the next day and started to read it. And Wally Lamb’s amazing attempt at being a man writing a book through a woman’s perspective, pulled me away from my reality and caused me to lock myself away in my room until I was through with it. I kept having to remind my self that a woman didn't write it. This book remind's me much of my self and how hard it is to go through life being a overweight teenager. The character that made fun of her such as the two sisters that lived down the road, make me want to reach inside the book and slap them cause they remind me so much as my past and present enemies. I could feel her pain, her obsessions, her anger, and I felt like I was there, I WAS HER. I do warn that this book is very adult and complicated, and I don't recommend it for anyone who isn't mentally mature enough to handle the grown-up language and situations that engage within this book. I am 15 years of age, but I have been raised in a home where the reality isn’t locked up and hidin away from me so I can stay shelterd from the disturbing truths. I will not tell you the story for I think that you should explore it for your self, but I wanted people know what the book did for me, now go out and read it and find out what it will do to you.

A friend of mine recommended this book to me before I even knew it was on Oprah’s book club list. Dolores is an absolutely remarkable character. Wally Lamb is a remarkable writer who has an extraordinary gift with character development. Once I started reading this book, I could not put it down. It is interesting to read about a character who becomes enlightened before the reader’s eyes. Dolores deals with so many trials and tribulations that it is hard to believe that she survived to be an adult. For anyone who wants a good book to read, this is the book. Dolores will touch your heart.

Wally Lamb has created an unforgettable character in Delores Price. As a young girl, she lives through so much tragedy and deals with it in such self-destructive ways that the story becomes depressing, tragic, and yet one you can't turn away from. The writing is some of the most powerful I have ever encountered and though time and time again I wanted to put the book aside and not finish, I was overwhelmingly compelled to pick it up again because I could not give up on Delores. The book deals with harsh subjects—rape, abortion, divorce, parental instability, bullying—and they are all happening to one unfortunate person, Delores. She herself is not the nicest of people. She is self-destructive to the maximum degree, consistently pushes away anyone
who tries to love her, constantly blames herself for life’s atrocities, and is in general, not a very likeable person. It is the compelling voice of Wally Lamb, writing this concise story of a young girl from age 4 to well into her 30’s that keeps the reader glued to the story, rooting for this mess of a person, hoping against hope that somehow she will find the strength to pick herself up. I have two suggestions for the reader. One is to not read this book on Kindle. The format is rife with so many typos they become a distraction in the reading process. I’ve never had this experience with Kindle before and really needs to correct this copy. Second, listen to the song "She’s Come Undone" by The Guess Who. The author took the book’s title from this song and you will immediately see why.

Sometimes beautiful writing elevates a sad story to universality and dignity. In this book, the writing is like a butterfly being crushed again and again by a pointlessly depressing mallet of a storyline. The heroine goes through hell, and I still hated her. That should not be! What makes readers want to moil around in the darkness this book creates and stay there for the days and days it takes to read it? If free-floating sadness is your bag, I guess this is the book for you. Otherwise, run.

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