



Twisted

Laurie Halse Anderson

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High school senior Tyler Miller used to be the kind of guy who faded into the background—average student, average looks, average dysfunctional family. But since he got busted for doing graffiti on the school, and spent the summer doing outdoor work to pay for it, he stands out like you wouldn't believe. His new physique attracts the attention of queen bee Bethany Milbury, who just so happens to be his father's boss's daughter, the sister of his biggest enemy—and Tyler's secret crush. And that sets off a string of events and changes that have Tyler questioning his place in the school, in his family, and in the world.

In *Twisted*, the acclaimed Laurie Halse Anderson tackles a very controversial subject: what it means to be a man today. Fans and new readers alike will be captured by Tyler's pitch perfect, funny voice, the surprising narrative arc, and the thoughtful moral dilemmas that are at the heart of all of the author's award-winning, widely read work.

Twisted Details

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Author : Laurie Halse Anderson

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From Reader Review Twisted for online ebook

Nicola says

Twisted was a brilliant book. The average sounding description on the back definitely did not prepare me for what was inside. It started out pretty slow but once I got into the swing of it, I simply couldn't put it down. Tyler's character is just so real and raw. His voice is believable, witty and intelligent. I could really connect with him and really cared about how things would turn out. The book had me in suspense many times and was a real page-turner. Twisted is an excellent portrayal of family life and deals well with some very real problems. It was fascinating to watch Tyler stumble through life and see his courage develop as the story went on. Overall, a very enjoyable and emotional read.

Adam says

Excellent guy book. The main character, Tyler, has to learn to balance his preferences along with meeting the expectations of his parents, peers, and impressing the girl of his dreams, and making amends for past wrongs. Tyler has to face a father whose pressures at work spill over at home making him a tyrant willing to use force and intimidation to gain compliance. Peers and authorities at school and the community have not forgiven Tyler for a mistake/youthful prank/crime from the past. Tyler feels placed under a microscope and often feels there are no options that will be morally correct, obedient to his parents, and regain the trust of his teachers and community. It brings to light the messy process of maturation, setting boundaries, and gaining a sense of independence after everything goes wrong. Will he win the heart of his dream girl? Do the rich and powerful always win? In the face of a moral imperative can you stand up for yourself when everyone is demanding submission to prove rehabilitation? When do you trust? It is a powerful story that explores these questions without preaching or losing balance and the themes will resonate with teens even after the last chapter.

Annalisa says

Long rant about my library system: I wasn't intending to read this book. I put another YA book on hold and after two days of "in transit" status when another book came in, I figured it should have been pulled off the shelf by then. No.

I ask the librarian.

Blink.

I explain, a little slower this time, that I put the book on hold. It's no longer on the shelf, but it's not in the hold department yet.

"Maybe it's in the shipment from today," she says with a big smile.

"No, you see it's in transit from *this* library. I was the only hold and it says the copy from this library is in transit. It's in this library."

Blink. "Do you want me check out your other book?"

I look at my other book on hold that after two months of waiting, is not the *\$#% audio version I was waiting for. I throw up my hands and peruse the YA fiction shelves. Anderson happens to be at the beginning. I liked Speak. And a friend on goodreads just liked one of her books. Which one was it? Her new book. Hmmm. Not on the shelf. It's probably stuck in the hold department somewhere. I browse the backs.

This one looks the least cheesy. I smile at the librarian as I check it out and dump my hold book in the return basket. I get home and guess what's showing up as arrived on my library account? So when I say the library recommended this to me, it didn't really, but I'm glad I got to explore more of Anderson's work.

I started off liking this. I tend to prefer male protagonists and Tyler is funny. And then I start cringing. Anderson gets how shocking teenagers are because she's cool like that. You know, every girl's a little easy dressing like a tramp and just waiting to get laid and every guy's a pervert doing you know what on the internet and in the shower. And they have to throw around the f word and party like crazy. It would not be authentic at all to write about teenagers and not use that shock value, to the extreme, because that's what teenagers are like and it's what they want to read, right? I appreciate the stamp at the beginning of the page that says the book is not for children, but I'm not a fan of edgy YA just for the sake of being edgy and this felt more gratuitous than authentic.

But about the story. Did I relate to Tyler? Yes, Anderson's characterization is very well done. Tyler is one of the good guys. I wanted to root for him and I felt for him when things went wrong. She did a great job of switching from light-hearted to heavy. A story is only as strong as its characters and Anderson nails it in that department. Did the story wrap up to give you that good hope for the future feeling that defines young adults? Absolutely and I liked that it didn't do it with a bow.

So I liked the story, just not all the superfluous material there to make it edgy. For that I'm downgrading a solid 4 read to a 3, maybe even 3.5. It's one of those cases where if I like a book, if it's a good book, and if I would recommend it, don't match up.

Valerie says

This book didn't really do it for me. The whole time I was reading it, I kept thinking that if I was a teenager I would have had my jaw gaping open at some of the plot twists, but since I'm now a jaded adult I felt like the events that occurred were a bit more emotionally manipulative.

Main things that bugged me: the "fantasy" of a dorky guy who works all summer and comes back to school buff and suddenly semi-popular. The gun. The inattentive father and the "resolution" that occurs with their relationship at the end of the novel. I just wasn't buying it.

But like I said, I'm not really the intended audience for this book, so I'll shut up now. On the flip side, many YA books can cross the line and engage both teens and adults - I just don't think this is one of them.

Tatiana says

I don't know exactly what it was about this particular book that touched me so much. I've read other books written by Laurie Halse Anderson, they were all great, but "Twisted" just totally blew my mind.

This is a story about Tyler, a teenage boy who, trying to disengage himself from years of social invisibility, commits an act for which he is given 6-months probation and forced to a summer filled of character building

labor. When the summer is over, Tyler is a new person - he is now a muscular hunk and has a reputation of being a dangerous badass. He is suddenly courted by his dream girl and hated by her jock brother, (the two are accidentally his father's boss' kids). On probation for his stunt, Tyler struggles to balance his consuming crush with pressure that comes from schoolwork and his explosive father, and after Tyler is implicated in a serious crime, his balancing act falls apart. He reaches a point of such pressure, that he is not sure he can take it.

I am always skeptical of female authors who try to write from male POV. Very often we end up with unrealistic dream-boat type males. But Anderson doesn't disappoint. Her Tyler is so real, so flawed, so lost and confused and twisted! His story consumed me and I couldn't help myself from praying for Tyler to succeed in his quest for his own identity. At one point I was fearful he wouldn't make it, but thankfully Anderson's books always end with triumph.

A very moving read that I will not soon forget.

Reading challenge: #1 - T

Ashley says

The more I think about *Twisted*, the more I think it is an effective--and unusual--contribution to any YA collection. Halse Anderson accomplishes two remarkable feats in this book. First, she gets the teenage male voice and preoccupations perfect; Tyler's hard-ons are just as much a part of his daily life as his social anxieties, crushes, and homework. And secondly, she manages to address the deep-level importance of family life, however dysfunctional, to adolescents.

The plot seems at first to offer only a predictable scenario: over the summer, ugly-duckling dweeb transforms into possibly-cool and sexy swan. But as Tyler's promising proto-relationship with super-popular Bethany gets twisted by one late-night party and a heap of false accusations, it becomes impossible to ignore the pressure from Tyler's asshole dad... and equally impossible for Tyler to ignore doing something about him.

Some elements--the reconciliation between Tyler and his father, for example--are a bit predictable, but all in all, this is a thought-provoking, worthwhile read that guys and gals alike will enjoy.

Emily May says

This is the second book I've read by Laurie Halse Anderson and I was impressed yet again. Her writing is very personal and gets right inside the protagonist's mind in a way that pulls the reader into the centre of her stories.

Twisted is about a teenage boy called Tyler who finds himself in the high school limelight after pulling a stunt that lands him with 6 months probation and hard labour - which then results in him gaining a super hot body and a bad (in a good way) reputation. Suddenly, his impossible crush on Bethany doesn't seem quite so impossible and everything looks like it's going Tyler's way for once... that is until he is accused of a serious

crime that he didn't commit. Then his whole world turns upside down and almost no one is on his side, including his father.

I think Anderson has done an amazing job with Twisted. I was never bored and I sympathised with all the protagonist's emotions and turmoil. I still didn't enjoy it quite as much as I did Speak and I think that's simply because I can never quite relate to male point of views as well as female. But I want it understood that Anderson did a great job as a female writer creating a male voice that was realistic and not romanticised. I am definitely going to read more from Laurie Halse Anderson.

Shannon says

It is difficult to find a great protagonist who is a teen-aged male. Tyler Miller is an interesting and (from my observations) typical - ish high school senior. What's different about him is that as a nerd-boy junior, he tagged his high school, was caught, arrested and sentenced to community service. The summer prior to his senior year, Tyler works hard and ends up becoming a muscle-bound hottie. At least hot enough to attract the object of his desire, Bethany, who also happens to Tyler's father's boss' daughter. Can a young man suddenly thrust into the world of the popular kids come away unscathed? Added to his social life drama is a family that is falling apart. The workaholic father, the mother who dulls her pain by drinking and his cute and sassy freshman sister also have a big affect on Tyler's senior year. I love the authors wonderful descriptions: Tyler notes the girls at school seem to have "clothing optional days" -- not that they come to school naked, but that the clothing they wear is so scimpy they may as well be naked; and the comparison of the father to an evil dragon breaking out of his skin are fabulous. Interesting - I think even teen guys will read this one.

stephanie says

i don't know why every book i've been picking up recently has to do with suicide - not directly, but indirectly. it's pretty impressive.

anyway, this is the first of Laurie Halse Anderson's books i've read with a male protagonist, and i have to say, i'm pretty impressed with how well she got into tyler's head.

(i also really liked yoda.)

this book is centrally about identity and pressure, and, in a little like Thirteen Reasons Why, the repercussions of actions that we don't even know. tyler starts out as the defined "nerd boy", but after getting caught with his hand in the paint can, he was forced into a summer of hard labor. as a result, he all of sudden becomes someone worth looking at in school. and his forever crush, bethany milbury, notices.

what's also fascinating about this book are the characters of the parents. there's the mom that is initially a doormat and then grows - and a dad like a tyrant that also grows. it's interesting to see how tyler's perceptions of their actions grow, and how he misreads them, and how they misread him.

the book goes to a very dark place, but while the circumstances of the book seem a little melodramatic, the

characters don't, and somehow it all coalesces into this affirming ending that i was quite pleased with.

Chiara says

Titolo e copertina dell'edizione italiana sono fuorvianti, come capita fin troppo spesso. E' un romanzo particolare, non è una storia d'amore, è il racconto di una presa di coscienza, di un momento critico di crescita. Fa riflettere, molto più di quanto faccia un altro romanzo a tratti simile (Senza nuvole) ma che non ho apprezzato allo stesso modo.

I personaggi non hanno una connotazione positiva o negativa... ma bensì umana, con tutte le piccolezze e gli errori della natura umana, chi più chi meno.

Lascia un po' un retrogusto amaro in bocca ma vince comunque la speranza.

Trevor says

Laurie Halse Anderson's Twisted is one hell of a hand grenade launched into the canon of teen lit! Tyler's senior year is about to start and things are looking like this: community service for the Foul Deed is about over, classes are going to be hell, and the hottest girl at George Washington High has Tyler on her radar...as does her a**hole brother, Chip. Ty has changed a bit as well - the summer of landscaping has given him a new physique, and a new confidence, but like Aunt May says to a transformed Peter Parker, "with great power comes great responsibility." And who exactly is going to teach Tyler how to be responsible? This is where Twisted really gets going. Talking to the overworked, distant father is a certain heat getter for Tyler, so that option is out. Ty's best friend, codename: Yoda, has learned everything there is to know about life from Star Wars - not a bad place to learn a thing or two, but it's not Tyler's holy grail of worldly wisdom. Then, there is "The Party." Not to give anything away about that, but I'll just hint that this also is a story about how one's past screw-ups can make others point the finger at you when some really scary stuff hits the fan.

Ashley Daviau says

While I didn't love this, I didn't hate it either. I feel like a lot of important issues were brought up and then barely touched upon. There were opportunities to explore many things that teens confront during the journey through puberty and high school and I felt quite let down when those subjects weren't explored further. I did really enjoy the aspect of the male POV as I find it's something that's all too rare in a lot of the young adult books I read. I'm also a big fan of Anderson's writing style and that was no different with this book. This book was just okay for me; it really had the potential to be so much more though.

Drew says

“Once you’ve thought long and hard enough about doing something that is colossally stupid, you feel like you’ve actually done it, and then you’re never quite sure what your limits are.”

If you've never read anything by Laurie Halse Anderson before, let me tell you that she writes some of the **best hard-hitting realism**. *Speak* took a close look at a rape victim; *Wintergirls* focused on an anorexic girl. *Twisted* is centered around suicide.

Anderson has a gift for being able to dive into the minds of teens. I think a lot of authors miss the mark when they try to write "teen voices" and their characters end up sounding like they tried way too hard.

With Anderson, it comes naturally. Her characters think like teens, have realistic relationships, and their behavior accurately represents teenagers.

Twisted shows the side of Tyler's life that he won't let his friends see - his depressed, abusive father who is tearing their family apart and how Tyler spends his time thinking up different ways to hurt people.

“I didn’t fit. I was a different size, a different shape. I kept trying to squeeze into a body, a skin suit, that was too small.”

Tyler's narrative was so sympathetic; no matter how hard he tried, he could never live up to his father's expectations. But the portrayal of a serious issue wasn't the only good thing - the plot also intrigued me and the writing was addicting.

I loved the ending; it sent a great message about suicide. No matter how bad things are, what people are saying about you, or how you feel about yourself, you can take control of the situation and change things for the better. **When there is the possibility of a brighter future ahead, why give up now?**

Strawberry Fields says

I really liked this book. It's not very long, an easy read and very entertaining.

It was fun for me as a woman to read this told from a male perspective. I remember high school like it was yesterday (ok, 30 years ago) and it made me giggle in places that reminded me of my own high school shenanigans.

Tyler, the narrator, is really going through some serious bullcrap his senior year. And yes, he brought most of it upon himself as teens do, but having to take heaped on bullcrap from other people is over the top. I remember how tough it is to be a teen, high school, growing up...in that limbo between child and adult. Bad choices are a given, but we live and learn. His dad is a royal douchebag, and you will see that from page one, so no spoiler there... It complicates everything.

I am glad I read it and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys YA fiction. I didn't realize how much I liked it, even though my age reflects that it is way past my prime. My son, while in high school was an avid reader and he would bring me books he finished, excited..."MOM! You've got to read this book!!!" So I did.

I wanted to encourage him to keep the love of reading alive throughout his life like my dad passed on to me. That's when I realized YA books aren't just for kids and teens. There are many lessons to be learned for us older folks too. We should never forget what it was like to be young and stupid and confused and scared and brave and, and, and.... It will make us better mentors to the younger generation that REALLY needs to do some growing up.

Happy reading!

Stephen says

"Everybody told me to be a man - Nobody told me how"

Twisted is the story of a young man who's been a loser and a nobody until a poorly conceived prank at the end of his junior year lands him in legal trouble. That includes probation, a required job with a landscaping firm and a summer-time afterwork stint in the school's janitorial crew for restitution. However the hard work pays off in unanticipated ways. His new work-hardened physique and his newly minted bad boy reputation make him a personality at school and attractive to the girl of his fantasies.

But as he's processing these changes our protagonist has to deal with troubles at home. His dad's growing distance from the family, his mom's drinking and his little sister's too-wise take on boys, high-school and popularity.

What I expected to be another sweet teen romance turned into something much more. This is a book about growing up, being misunderstood, the relationship between fathers and sons and many other issues that are all too common in today's world.

This is a good intelligent read but it's also witty and fun and wise. I highly recommend this book.

ivana18 says

A former geek Tyler Miller got himself in trouble because of a prank ("The Foul Deed") he pulled at the end of his junior year. He was sick and tired of being a nobody (*a zit on the butt of the student body*) so he decided to do something that will put him on the map. But things don't go exactly as planned and he gets caught. Judge ordered him to do community service all summer (helping janitors in his school). Plus he had to pay for the damages he caused, so he sold his car and worked for a landscaping company all summer. Tyler doesn't mind hard work, it's something he's good at and it's a cleansing experience for his mind and body (especially his body).

I decapitated dandelions all morning, leaving carnage and death strewn in my path....I was good at digging holes. It was the rest of the life I sucked at.

In addition with dealing with his messed up family (dad is a first class asshole, mom is a pet photographer, cake baker, and a nice lady who smells faintly of gin, and sister Hannah is just staring high school), he has to deal with his new reputation, his AP classes, his parole officer and his alarmingly high testosterone levels.

He's on a short leash AND on thin ice AND he really needs to keep his nose clean. „*That's that. Work hard at school. Keep your nose clean, and come back in a month.*“

Again with the clean-nose thing. Authority figures had a pathological fear of boogers, that's how I saw it.

But things are not all that bad, there's a upside to all this. During the summer he goes trough a growth spurt (he's six-three and one ninety-five now) and because of his hard work for the landscaping company he's packing some nice looking muscles, so the most popular girl in school Bethany Milbury is finally noticing him. Tyler has a huge crush on her but he's not exactly confident enough to do something about that, and when he finally makes a move, some unexpected things happen and he must figure out how to deal with them.

Tyler is a great guy and one of my favorite YA characters. He's a great brother to his younger sister, he's a great son to his mom, and his trying to please his over controlling (and a little bit psycho) dad.

One of the reasons I loved this book so much is because it's written from a guys POV, and Laurie Halse Anderson does a great job with Tyler.

He's not emo, but he's sensitive enough, and his hormones are working overtime, but he's not acting like a dog in heat. And he's really funny in a sarcastic and intelligent way.

I picked up one of the books and flipped through it. Don't get me wrong, I like reading. But some books should come with warning labels: Caution: contains characters and plots guaranteed to induce sleepiness. Do not attempt to operate heavy machinery after ingesting more than one chapter. Has been known to cause blindness, seizures and a terminal loathing of literature. Should only be taken under the supervision of a highly trained English teacher. Preferably one who grades on the curve.

There are some things about Tyler that are disturbing, but probably not that unusual for a teenager who's going trough these kind of problems. He has violent thoughts about hurting his father, and hurting other kids in school, and about hurting himself.(view spoiler)

This is a great book that deals with serious (and some less serious) problems that modern teenagers have to deal with. I wish there are more books like these.

Jade~Lover says

I,love this book. It connects with the readers, (me), head on.

Anne Osterlund says

Tyler is a high school boy. Not one of those fake, perfect jock high school boys or half-vampire, half-god characters. A real high school boy. Who can't control himself amidst the sea of sexy girls walking down the hall or convince his dad that there is no way in hell he should be taking all AP classes and calculus, or pull off dousing the school in graffiti without misspelling a word and getting caught. On probation. For life.

And still, he has to survive senior year. If he can.

AWESOME. Super fast and hypnotizing.

Jay says

Actual Rating: 2.5

OR MAYBE I'LL JUST COMPLETELY FORGET TO WRITE A REVIEW?

It's gotten to the point where I don't remember much about what happened in this novel. Which is probably why I gave it a low rating. Y'all, if you're going to read Laurie Halse Anderson, read *The Impossible Knife of Memory* for enjoyment, or *Speak* because you are a human being and you need to.

Twisted wasn't bad, I know I hated the ending (like freaking unrealistic fairytale ending and it was RUSHED!!!! Stop rushing, authors!!!!) Tyler was *fine*, his fixation with Bethany didn't really do anything except annoy me, and the rest of it was just meh. From what I remember. I'm sure I could rant about some aspects if I

1. cared enough
2. REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED

Soooooooooooooooo yeah. I wouldn't suggest reading this. But I would suggest a platter of chocolate chip walnut coconut cookies! (Cookies are never a waste of money. Cookies will never hurt you. <3 <3 <3)

Bye have a lovely day stay sassy stay cool eat a cupcake toodles.

carolina ? says

i love how **Laurie Halse Anderson** doesn't force *romance* into her stories. It is there or it isn't. Not many female writers are able to write in such a realistic way a male point of view. I think she was capable of seeing the struggles of a guy are as important as girl's. We've read too much about girls and we don't realise guys have as much as problems as we have.

It's enjoyable and not long. I couldn't get enough of it. However, the ending wasn't quite what i expected or wanted but **Laurie Halse Anderson's** never are.
