



Sleepwalking In Daylight

Elizabeth Flock

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Once defined by her career and independence, stay-at-home mom Samantha Friedman finds that her days have been reduced to errands, car pools and suburban gossip. What was an easy decision for Sam years ago has become a nagging awareness that this life was *her choice*. Now she deals with a husband who shows up for dinner but is too preoccupied for conversation, and a daughter swathed in black clothing and Goth makeup who won't talk at all.

Believing she's an adopted mistake, seventeen-year-old Cammy has fallen into sex and drugs and pours herself into a journal filled with poetry and pain. On parallel paths, mother and daughter indulge in desperate, furtive escapism—for Sam, a heady affair with her supposed soul mate, fueled by clandestine coffee dates and the desire to feel *something*; for Cammy, a secretive search for her birth mother punctuated by pills, pot and the need to feel absolutely nothing.

Sleepwalking In Daylight Details

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From Reader Review Sleepwalking In Daylight for online ebook

Kendra says

I wanted to like this book, but I really, really didn't. For one thing, Flock's writing was incredibly sloppy and had a lot of inconsistencies. (I got hung up on this one right at the start and couldn't let it go: Flock writes that it has been 11 years since Cammy asked why she didn't look like her brothers. Well, that's quite a feat, given that her brothers are 8 years old in the story. Apparently Cammy has some mad future-seein' skillz...) Beyond the sloppiness, the book just makes the reader feel lousy, which would be endurable if there was a resolution or *anything* positive coming from it -- no such luck. If you're in the mood to read about the long, slow implosion of a family, though, this is the book for you.

Bry says

I think this is the worst book I have read in a long time. It made me feel awful and it made me wonder why (much like in soap operas) people don't just say how they feel about something when it is obvious that NOT saying something has messed their lives up.

On top of that, what selfish people! And the author did them no justice what-so-ever by jumping back and forth between characters and moving the story forward with no resolution to any of the problems.

Ugh. This book was so grating that I have written a review, something I have not done for pretty much any other book I have added to goodreads.

If you were not a fan of marriage in the first place, this book will do nothing to change your opinion of it.

Nicolle says

I loved, loved, loved this book! I could not put it down. The characters were very well developed and I related to them on many situations with a teenager. LOL I LOVED the "human factor" in this book. I love books that we as people can relate to on differant levels but all of us can say "yeah, I know." I thought the ending was incredible. I actually was stunned and I was crying in my childrens eye Dr's office. CAUTION READ LAST 15 PAGES IN PRIVATE, you will cry. I was so moved by the ending of this book that I read to my (4) teenage children the last 10 pages. They need to be reminded of the love that we feel for them. I felt the author conveyed the feelings in the end PERFECTLY. Totally unpredictable and very moving, to say the least. I would recommend to anybody and everybody.

Bekah1964 says

I picked this book up in the airport on my way home from Washington State (way back in October 2009) and have been slowly reading it.

It was a REALLY DEPRESSING book. SO SAD. I left feeling helpless, confused, and disturbed (which meant the author did an outstanding job).

It was hard to finish, because of the issues developed in the characters and story.

I found myself wishing to shake Cammy into reality...and especially wanted to smack some sense into her mom, Samantha, because watching their lives unravel was so sad to read...watch. Especially for Cammy. I wished for a better end, but know that just as reality doesn't always have a good ending, neither should books if they really want to capture and relate a realistic viewpoint of families in our times.

It was so sad to watch the mistaken/misunderstood communication going on everywhere in that family...and lack of communication.

In the end, I did have such empathy for the parents, because no parent can leave an event like that without feeling so much guilt and self questioning.

Anyway, I believe this book does a good job of capturing youth in suburban families (youth in danger and vanishing). It also did a good job of portraying the lack of control and desperation a spouse must feel when they don't know how to reach out to their spouse and unite on important matters...especially when the marital relationship is seemingly beyond repair.

But be forewarned...LIKE I SAID. THIS BOOK IS SO SAD AND DEPRESSING. I felt that the characters were well done and very complex, but unless you really enjoy drama and heartbreak, you probably won't enjoy this book.

Laurel-Rain says

What would you do if your once spirited and independent life morphed into something gray and routine? What if your once loving daughter seemingly transmogrified into a Goth stranger – someone who is sullen and angry and uncommunicative?

This is now Samantha Friedman's world. And her husband, the man she once couldn't live without, is going through the motions with her, until she feels...invisible.

And then one day, she meets a handsome stranger. They talk, they connect, and there is something alive springing up within her once again.

Meanwhile, Cammy (the adopted Goth daughter) is slowly spiraling downward into a place she may not come back from – a netherworld.

“Sleepwalking in Daylight” captures the spirit of lives spiraling out of control with such skill and poignancy that the reader can almost experience the deadening weight of it crushing down...And then one day, something horrific pulls everyone out of the deadening sameness.

And suddenly, life seems to spin around, turning in a whole new direction. The author describes it thus: “This is how it happens. A defining moment. Oprah would call it a lightbulb moment, an aha moment. This is that split second of clarity. This is me saying...enough. No more sleepwalking. Enough.”

Yolanda says

I loved, loved, loved this book. It's not a happy book by any means. And it makes you sad to realize just how fucked up things are and can be. But I still really really liked it.

Yes the characters had issues and sometimes I just wanted to tell them to wake up. But you don't walk around telling the people in your life to wake up when they have issues no matter how much you want them to. And everyone in this story had issues. Issues that I could relate to.

It's amazing how you want to help someone but don't know how because you don't know what the problem is. You don't realize the extent of the problem until it is too late.

You also stop to think of how self absorbed people are with their own lives and can barely spare other people a thought or even bother to help them. It doesn't make you a bad person, it just makes you human.

Emilie says

This was my first book by this author and while I wasn't blown away by it, I do want to read her other stuff. I like her writing style, if nothing else.

The thing with this book is it hit me kind of hard. It's a difficult story to read, and though I have absolutely nothing in common with the main character, Samantha, I could relate to and empathize with her at the same time I wanted to smack some sense into her.

SPOILER-ISH*

I'm not one of those "married at all costs" people...I think if you're in a marriage where you can barely stand the sight of the other person, it's time to cut bait and move on. Sam and her increasingly distant husband Bob spend the entire book orbiting each other without ever really making an effort or coming out and saying "Enough". In that regard, Bob as a character has not one single redeeming quality. There is nothing here that makes you root for Bob and Sam, nothing that makes you even *like* Bob. So that - for me - made it hard to root for them as a couple. Throw in a bunch of snot-nosed ungrateful kids and I was scratching my head wondering why the hell I was reading this at times.

In the end I'm glad I stuck with it, because I think it was realistic and messy and I like that the author didn't wrap everything up all neatly and slap a bow on it at the end. And it was set in Chicago, so I entertained myself with trying to figure out what street Sam and Bob lived on.

Haley Koren says

Sleepwalking in Daylight was a book that really made me think about my future and how I want it to be. This book was very sad but for some reason I didn't ever want to put it down. I liked that it was different than most books I have read, it wasn't some sappy romance (even though I am a fan of those too.) It definitely is a tear jerker and it was sort of depressing in a way but like I said before it just made me want my life to be different than the lady in the book.

The book started off in the mom's point of view and switched back and forth the whole book from her point to her daughters point of view. I really liked how it did that because then you got to hear both sides of the story instead of just one and it made me understand the book better.

Mary Novaria says

Another cautionary tale for parents and spouses--be present, nurture those you love--because life and relationships can be very fragile.

Sometimes when wounded people get together the damage multiplies. These wounded characters are mostly sympathetic, although occasionally aggravating in their self-centeredness and carelessness. Still, it's easy to see how boredom, dissatisfaction and grief can drive wedges and isolate us from things that require vigilance.

Told half from a mother's point of view and half from her teenage daughter's, strong dialogue, narrative and attention to detail reveal these characters' pain, confusion and loneliness. As a mother I wanted to shake this mom out of her malaise and fast. At the same time, I could see how her system of denial was working for her and had to ask myself, "What am I missing when I should be paying attention?"

This novel also reaffirms that being a teenager in today's world can be dangerous and scary business. Truly a page turner. Extra points for being set in a lovely neighborhood on Chicago's North side!

Angeld01 says

Not sure what the point of this book was. Unhappy main character. Unhappy Marriage; unhappy daughter. No resolution. Thanks. Was feeling too cheerful and I needed to be taken down a notch for no good reason.

Debbie Lester says

My Synopsis:

Sleepwalking in Daylight is the story of a mother and a daughter. Samantha Friedman wonders on a daily basis if this is all there is? carpools and soccer games, errands and book club meetings. Is there more to life than living with a husband who is depressed and feels absolutely nothing and a Goth daughter who can't stand her? Sam, uses her relationship with a stranger to help her escape her everyday life. Clandestine meetings at a local coffee house and secret e-mails fill her days and her mind.

Cammy Friedman feels like an outcast. Since finding out she was adopted Cammy has gotten into wearing all black clothing and white make-up. Drawing black teardrops on her jaw and messing around with a disreputable crowd. Is there more to life than this? Being an outcast who doesn't belong at school or at home? Cammy escapes by thinking and searching for her birth mother and by smoking reefer and popping pills.

Until one day there isn't any escape for either of them.

My Thoughts:

This book caused me to shed a tear or two, which means it accomplished it's purpose. If a book can make you feel something, if it can move you in some way. Isn't that what it's all about? When I write I want to make a difference. I want to show someone something to inform them to make them think and Elizabeth Flock certainly did that for me.

I find myself identifying with Samantha. There was a time in my life that I just felt like I was going through the motions, that life was just a succession of bad days and worse nights. My children were small and I just wanted more. I wasn't the person I always dreamed I'd be. I'm glad it didn't take a drastic situation to make me see that I had to change. But, I can see how in some people's lives that defining moment happens that way.

Cammy is such a scared little girl in a teenagers body. She just wants to be loved for who she is. I wonder what my daughter thinks about. I wonder if she'll be faced with some of the hardships Cammy had to go through. I wonder if I'm doing enough? Am I asking the right questions? How well do I know her friends? Am I really aware of what's going on in her life?

This book will make you think. It make you feel something. Whether it is desperation, sadness, even a kinship with Samantha or Cammy. You won't put this one down feeling the same way you did when you picked it up.

Gina says

Book description- Once defined by her career and independence, stay-at-home mom Samantha Friedman realizes her life has become a routine of errands, car pools, and suburban gossip. She deals with a husband who shows up for dinner but is preoccupied for conversation, an increasingly moody daughter who won't talk at all, and wonders, Is this it?

Since finding out she was adopted, seventeen-year-old Cammy Friedman has felt like an outsider. Unwilling to reach out to the parents she once adored, she shields herself behind the black clothing and begins to drift into dangerous territory with questionable friends and risky behavior.

Mother and daughter indulge in their own respective escapism- for Sam, clandestine coffee dates with a handsome stranger, fueled by the desire to feel something; for Cammy, a furtive search for her birth mother punctuated by sex, pills, and the need to feel absolutely nothing- until a pivotal moment in an otherwise average day alters their relationships forever.

This is a cautionary tale for parents and spouses to be present and to nurture those you love, because relationships and life are so very fragile. Sometimes when wounded people get together the damage multiplies. These wounded characters are mostly sympathetic, although occasionally aggravating in their self-centeredness and carelessness. Still, it's easy to see how boredom, dissatisfaction and grief can drive wedges and isolate us from things that require vigilance.

Told half from a mother's point of view and half from her teenage daughter's, strong dialogue, narrative and attention to detail reveal these characters' pain, confusion and loneliness. As a mother I wanted to shake this mom out of her malaise and fast. How could she not see that she was losing her daughter? At times I wanted to scream at her to get a grip and do something. Cammy was so lost and needed someone who she felt like she belongs and no one could give her that. At the same time, I could see how Sam's system of denial was working for her and had to ask myself, "What am I missing when I should be paying attention?" What do I miss in my children's world when I am busy with all of the duties of a stay at home mom? I can also understand how Sam felt that she was drifting and unsure of how her life was supposed to turn out.

The one critical point I have is that I think more time should have been devoted to Bob, the father. We know he was detached, depressed, and felt nothing, but he was only described by Cammy and Sam, who were certainly unreliable narrators for him since they were so unhappy themselves. I would have liked to hear what his inner thoughts were and where he really "was" in the story.

This is a sad and depressing book that brought forth all kinds of emotions while I was reading, which is a sign of a good book. This novel also reaffirms that being a teenager in today's world can be dangerous and scary business, and parents need to be present even when the going gets tough. Truly a page turner. 4 stars!

Jasmine says

Oh wow, what an awful book, full of unlikeable characters (seriously, not a single likable character) and bad predictable plot twists. If I could give it less than a star, I would.

Samantha says

This book is a scathing indictment of what it is like to raise children as middle-aged woman in a society that does not recognize fully the value of the job they do. Unfortunatley for the main character, Samantha, she allows herself to temporarily believe that she is as underrated as her husband would like her to believe. With all the difficulties inherent in chilraising, complicated by raising an adopted teenager struggling to find where she truly belongs, Samantha goes into a protective shell where she spends her days walking around in a fantasy world, refusing to see what is right in front of her. Sadly, her refusal to deal with reality has tragic consequences for her and her family.

Andrea says

Elizabeth Flock tells an engaging tale about a mother/wife, Sam, and her teenage daughter, Cammy. The story is written almost as if its in a journal form. We learn all about how Sam is unhappy in her marriage and is struggling to get along with her teenage daughter. We also learn all about Cammy's teenage-angst feelings towards her adopted family and life in general. And at the end, something surprising happens that changes the family's life forever.

When I first saw this cover I thought, "How beautiful". But the book inside was very dark. Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed this book. It is told in a very frank and forward way and if a reader is easily offended, I wouldn't reccommend this book. But although it was dark, I felt like I could really identify with the characters. When I was reading the chapters from Cammy's point of view, I was remembering how I felt like I never belonged when I was a teenager (although I never acted out like she did). And when I read the chapters from Sam's point of view, I found myself hoping that my marriage wouldn't turn out like that. This book really engaged me and I couldn't put it down.
