



Unforgivable

Amy Reed

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In this raw, gut-wrenching, and beautifully written sequel to Invincible, Marcus continues Evie's story of their intense romance, a la Gayle Forman's *Where She Went*, after saving her life only to find his life—and their relationship—falling to pieces.

Marcus knows pain. The kind that swallows you like a black hole. His brother committed suicide, his mother left him, and his dad mostly ignores him. Relief only seems to come from drugs, alcohol, and secret acts of self-destruction.

Until he met Evie. Together, they lived in the moment. They fell in love—hard—creating their own beautiful world. But they each had their own secrets, their own pain, hovering like a thick fog, suffocating them in a world too small to share.

Unforgivable takes off where Invincible left us—with Evie drowning in San Francisco Bay. Marcus finds her just in time, but her survival is not the happy ending he was hoping for. Forbidden from seeing Evie by her parents and unable to reach her, Marcus learns of a pain that might break him completely.

Marcus spirals into an even deeper darkness and is forced by new events to face the demons of his past. The pain of losing Evie becomes tangled with the loss of his mother and brother, and he must finally face the ghosts he has been trying so desperately to outrun or risk losing Evie forever.

Unforgivable Details

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From Reader Review Unforgivable for online ebook

Galleane says

La fin est rapide, l'auteure a de nouveau un peu trop survolé quelques points, des points assez importants et ça reste dommage. Néanmoins cela reste une suite et fin de série appréciable, qui m'aura emportée auprès d'un autre destin tourmenté.

Mon avis complet : <http://bloggalleane.blogspot.fr/2018/...>

Ruthsic says

Unforgivable takes off where Invincible left us—with Evie drowning in San Francisco Bay. Marcus finds her just in time, but her survival is not the happy ending he was hoping for. Forbidden from seeing Evie by her parents and unable to reach her, Marcus learns of a pain that might break him completely.

Marcus spirals into an even deeper darkness and is forced by new events to face the demons of his past. The pain of losing Evie becomes tangled with the loss of his mother and brother, and he must finally face the ghosts he has been trying so desperately to outrun or risk losing Evie forever.

In Invincible, a broken Evie had met Marcus and they began a relationship that became all-consuming. She found in him a reason to live, and now we get his reason for her to be his salvation. The story of Unforgivable is told in the past, present and a direct voice from Marcus to her, but it is mostly about his past and explains his mental state before and while he was with her. He saw the brother he adored from childhood waste away to nothing, and then he sees it happen to Evie. He has been mostly ignored by his parents, and now in the aftermath of him saving Evie and yet not being able to see her, he is more alone than ever. He was broken by his love for his brother before, and it is happening to him all over again with her.

For her part, she met him at a low point in her life, that is clear. The girl she was then - he doesn't know if it was truly her, whether she really loved him, whether what they had was real - all these doubts are sending him down a dark path. He is reliving his past, and it wasn't a pleasant experience to live through. Ultimately, it is about him learning how to heal, and how to let go, and realizing that sometimes people will make their own decisions, no matter what you do. It is a process of catharsis that this book is leading to, making it more of a companion novel than a true sequel. The author wrote wonderfully about him, and his troubles, his depression, and presented both sides of a story that is so complicated. I do feel that this book was spent in superfluous words, and at times, I was tempted to leave it and return some other time, which is why I was more on the fence between 3 and 4 stars. Overall, a well-written emotionally charged book.

Lili Kim says

Oh Marcus, we should totally hang.

I did not read "Invincible" btw, but you really don't need to. Amy Reed does it again by illustrating grief and the ways we cope with it in such raw and heartfelt ways.

Notable quote-

“What a stupid irony that they resemble such things, so useful, meant to preserve life, while I defile it again and again, turning my body into a torture chamber, punishing myself by making myself hurt more.”

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: Marcus comes to terms with all the loss in his life.

Opening Sentence: “I’m sorry.”

The Review:

Marcus gets a text from Evie asking him to meet her on the beach. When he arrives she is nowhere to be seen, but he finds a pile of her clothes and then spots her in the water. He rushes her to the hospital and then waits for word. Only to find out she is in a coma when her mom blames him for everything. Marcus then begins to go crazy trying to find out what has happened to Evie, until he finally catches her sister outside of her school.

He realizes later that he is clean and soon begins to make other changes to his life. He takes the internship with his father, stops smoking weed and tries to talk to Evie. When he shows up at her house to apologize, her parents call the police and he is arrested. After that, he leaves her alone and becomes withdrawn. His mother nor his father can reach him. Along the way, we learn what happened to his brother David.

David was an addict slowly killing himself until one day he decided that wasn’t fast enough and killed himself. He sent Marcus a text and so Marcus was the one that found him. Marcus seems to be drowning in his loss, he doesn’t know how to deal with Evie and his mother. He can’t seem to accept the changes in his father. Will he be able to finally get through it?

I kind of have a lot to say. First off, I thought the first book was okay and that Evie was meh. I am not reviewing that book so I will stop there, but I thought it was bad enough that she texted Marcus to find her, and then when I got to the part about David it cemented the fact that I didn’t like her. I know he didn’t tell her that, but hey, just a thought. Not something that leaves a good memory behind. The way she treated him through the whole book, and the fact that he kept chasing after her burned me. I wanted to say let her go, man, you can do so much better.

So needless to say that was the worst example of a relationship in YA book I have ever read, and even when Marcus finally admitted it was toxic. He just decided to accept all the blame, ugh, she never not once apologized to him or explained to her parents that he didn’t have anything to do with the pills. Yes, he partied with her, but basically, even though this was from his viewpoint he was just the welcome mat on which she walked. His story was utterly lost in that BS of a relationship. I can’t really say anything else. Kudos for a bi-racial couple, but big thumbs down for having him arrested, having her parents treat him like trash, and I am assuming all because he is black and they partied together.

Notable Scene:

“I should have tried harder. I should have done more to pull the truth out of you. I was a coward, too. But that ends now. I refuse to lose you. I will not give up that easily. I will not let you drift away and pretend you did not leave some pieces of you with me.”

FTC Advisory: Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins provided me with a copy of Unforgivable. No goody bags, sponsorships, “material connections,” or bribes were exchanged for my review.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

In this subpar sequel to INVINCIBLE, Marcus deals with the fallout of saving Evie’s life. He’s forbidden from seeing her, blames for her substance abuse. He avoids his strict father, memories of his brother’s drug abuse and suicide and his mother’s abandonment by smoking weed and cutting himself while desperately trying to see Evie.

Marcus’s obsession with Evie borders on stalking. Their creepy, insta-love may have worked out if both were healthier, but she was an addict and he was a wounded mess. He should have been in therapy, but would never have engaged in treatment. While Evie makes a few cameo appearances, UNFORGIVABLE is Marcus’s story. He’s sympathetic, but his story and the way it was told just didn’t feel as compelling or real as INVINCIBLE had. Perhaps if Amy Reed has chosen to use both Evie and Marcus’s points of view, I may have been more interested. I wanted to know more about her journey and the people in her life.

UNFORGIVABLE felt incomplete. It’s not a bad book, but an unequal sequel.

Kassay says

This is more like a high 3 for me, almost a 4. It had a good plot & good characters. I was immediately attached to the main characters & the things he did. I didn’t read the first book because, but that’s okay; everything made sense and everything was connected. This might be triggering to some people, but I liked that it was relatable on that aspect. I’d definitely recommend this for when it is released!! :)

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to HarperCollins and Edelweiss.)

“I wanted to save you. I wanted to be the solution to all your pain.”

This was a YA contemporary story dealing with drug addiction.

I found this book a little strange at first because of the shift in point of view from Evie to Marcus, but it was good to see Marcus' side of the story, and to see how messed up he was by his relationship with Evie.

“I am either halfway to saving Evie, or halfway to knowing it’s too late.”

The storyline in this jumped back and forth a bit between when Evie and Marcus first met, a time when Marcus' brother was still alive, and the present, and at times the writing was almost poetic. We had Marcus reliving what had happened previously and also trying to get Evie back, even when her parents called the cops on him.

There wasn't a lot of romance in this, but it was clear how strongly Marcus felt for Evie, and how hard he fought to get her back.

“And now this hell. Life without you. A vacuum, a black hole.”

The ending to this was pretty hopeful, even if it wasn't really a happily ever after.

6.25 out of 10

Jessica | Booked J says

As a note, an e-galley of this novel was sent to me via Edelweiss by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not effect my opinions in any way.

In the highly anticipated sequel to one of my favorite reads last year, *Invincible*, *Unforgivable* paints a much darker image on the lives of Evie and Marcus and their all-consuming love for one another. Amy Reed should be highly praised for her proper portrayal of the complexities of human emotions and the fact that her teenagers feel—and act—like teenagers who are struggling.

That was one of the best things about *Invincible*, it felt real and as painful as one could expect. We knew instantly at the end of the previous novel that we would be left in a hurricane of heartbreak and changes and *Unforgivable* picks right up on that tone. *Unforgivable* is fast and beautiful and a world of cloudy memories and painful realizations.

Its biggest theme? Moving on. Letting go. And how difficult it can be to do so. You see, letting go of loved ones is all well and good in theory, but it takes some time to resonate with our decision. Reed's prose brings to life this sort of feeling and will tug on your heartstrings until the very final pages.

Continued: BOOKEDJ.

Lekeisha The Booknerd says

Originally posted here

Unforgivable is a companion story to **Invincible**. Whereas *Invincible* was all about Evie; **Unforgivable** is Marcus' story. It's a very quick read, but full of all the things I love when it comes to YA contemporary – love, family, and absolution. This story is dark, as it revolves around the lives of characters who abused drugs & alcohol, are depressed, suicide recollection, and abandonment issues. Marcus' story tore at my heart strings the entire time that I was reading. If you have read the first book, then there is no way that you can miss this next chapter. This is the story of a boy lost in his head about everything that has happened since he was a little boy. The chapters are short and are written in either present or past tense.

You- Marcus is struggling with his guilt at not being able to stop Evie from self destruction. His words are almost poetic and you can feel his pain oozing from just a simple word, or sentence.

There- Marcus recalls childhood memories, his brother's suicide, and his mother's choice to leave. It is heartbreakingly!

Here/Now/Us- Present tense and the aftermath of what happened in *Invincible*. I much rather preferred this tense, as it continues the overall story. The ending surprised me, but it wrapped up the story.

Marcus' and Evie's relationship started out rocky, but they were two people who were bent on easing the pain and depression. They may have done bad things on the way to find the answers, but their problems defined them, so they saw no other way to cope. They fell in love, and that love consisted of toxic things that almost caused more problems than they had combined, but they had to figure it out without being in each others lives. His mom made him see that very thing in herself and the way that she took off. Interesting family dynamic at the end, but I think it worked itself out.

Overall, I really liked this book. More so than the first one. I recommend this to lovers of contemporary YA and realistic fiction.

Kelly Gunderman says

Check out this and other reviews on my young adult book blog, Here's to Happy Endings!

I recently read and reviewed the first book in this powerful duology, *Invincible*, and since I had fallen completely in love with that book, I knew I absolutely just had to read this one.

If you're interested in reading my review for *Invincible*, you can do so by going [here](#).

This review is going to have quite a few spoilers in it, especially if you haven't read *Invincible* yet, so I'm just throwing that out there!

So *Unforgivable* picks up right where *Invincible* left off – with Evie so lost and unhappy with her life she decides to text Marcus and then walks out into the ocean after consuming large amounts of alcohol and pills that she bought. **Marcus goes to the beach and saves her from the drowning in the water, and then gets her to the hospital, only to have her parents completely freak out on him and blame him for Evie's downward spiral.** Needless to say, they don't allow Marcus to see Evie or even bother to tell him if she's okay. Marcus doesn't know how to cope with the things he learned about Evie...but he spends some time wondering if perhaps he could have done something to help her.

"I thought if I loved you enough, if I came running every time you called, maybe that would save you. If I said yes every time you asked for anything. If I never said no."

Marcus spends his time trying to find some way to get in contact with Evie – he knows he is in love with her and can't accept that they aren't allowed to be together, but Evie's sister doesn't want to talk to him when he tracks her down at school, Evie's friend Cole (who works at the coffee shop) doesn't know anything about what's going on with Evie, and of course, **Evie's parents refuse to let him see Evie. They've even gone so far as to call the police on him when he showed up at their house asking if she was okay.**

"Your tears were so loud, they drowned everything out. My thoughts, my feelings – just whispers compared to your screams."

While Marcus is dealing with all of this, he is also dealing with his own demons – the death of his brother, David, which is still weighing heavily on his heart, as well as his mother's reappearance after being gone for two years. To top it off, he lives with his father, who either doesn't seem to know he exists or wants to spend even more time with him now. **Marcus doesn't know what to think, except for the fact that he really, really misses Evie and he doesn't know how to deal with anything without her.** But the more he learns about what is going on with Evie, and the fact that she might have never been sober around Marcus, he begins to wonder if the two of them actually had a real relationship at all.

"It's not even a question of whether or not we were good for each other. It's a question of whether we existed at all."

The thing I liked most about this book is that it's told from Marcus's point of view, whereas *Invincible* was told from Evie's. While we were introduced to Evie and read about her battling her cancer and drug addiction in the first book, it's Marcus we get to learn all about this time around. Most of Marcus's problems are emotional, and some of them include his missing his brother David, who was heavily into drugs, missing his mother, who abandoned him two years ago and has now come back and wants to be a part of his life again, and feelings of neglect from his father. **All of this coupled with his sadness and depression from being denied even simple information about a girl he loves makes things difficult for him to deal with.** At first he spends a lot of time smoking weed and getting high, but he eventually decides he doesn't even want to do that anymore, so he quits, and tries to make sense of everything. There are quite a few mentions of self-injury in this book – Marcus turns to cutting as a way to help ease all the unbearable pain he feels. The way that this subject is dealt with (and how Marcus talks about it) is surprising – I really didn't expect it.

The chapters are told in three different ways: first we have the "here" chapters, which are about Marcus in the present day, such as the issues he faces with Evie. There are also chapters labeled the "there" chapters, which are about his past – including events leading up to his brother David's death, his mother leaving, etc. Finally, we have the chapters labeled "you," which are special chapters about Evie...thoughts he has about her, feelings, and so on. The way this book is set up makes it even more unique – it's a nice format and it definitely works well for getting that extra emotional punch in there.

If you've read *Invincible* (which I gave a rare 5 stars), then you're definitely not going to want to miss this one, because it continues the story where we left off. While we don't get to see Marcus and Evie together too much (which is kind of a bummer), we do learn all about Marcus so it really makes up for it. I loved how in depth we got with his character this time around – it really rounded out the duology and definitely made it even better!

Note: I received an eARC of this book from the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Boudoir says

J'ai été très touchée par le tome1 d'*Invincible*, j'avais fermé le livre avec amertume.

J'ai laissé du temps passé avant d'ouvrir le tome 2 et de découvrir la suite des événements.

Déception totale !

Je m'attendais à poursuivre les péripéties d'Evie pour savoir comment elle allait s'en sortir. Et bien l'auteure a changé de cap et me voilà avec Marcus comme narrateur. C'est son volet à lui.

J'avais avoué dans ma chronique du tome 1 que je n'aimais pas le personnage de Marcus, je ne le trouvais pas net même si j'avais décelé son mal-être. Il ne m'intéressait pas.

Cependant , découvrir l'enfance et les problèmes vécus par Marcus en valait la peine. Le portrait sombre du personnage dans le tome 1 a été éclairé. J'ai eu du mal à me retenir de lire passivement. L'émotion! Amy Reed sait transmettre les souffrances et la mélancolie. On ne peut pas rester de marbre face aux révélations de Marcus; il a un passé éprouvant. Une famille absente, un papa indifférent.

Et puis , il y a eu sa rencontre avec Evie et l'amour s'est fait une place dans sa vie. J'aime bien quand un personnage-marginal rencontre l'amour : tout change en lui.

Et Evie dans tout cela? Malheureusement , je n'ai eu que des "épluchures" comme on dit. Marcus s'approprie ce tome et donc Evie est quasiment absente.

J'ai terminé le livre rapidement parce que comme je l'ai dit auparavant dans le tome 1 , l'écriture d'Amy Reed est si fluide qu'elle t'empêche de lâcher le roman. Elle a sa technique qui rend la lecture addictive.

Les sujets traités sont angoissants mais très intéressants et je lui reproche un peu le fait qu'elle les survole rapidement pour précipiter la fin ...

Une fin expéditive qui en rajoute à ma déception exprimée plus haut.

Karen says

This review was done by **KissinBlueKaren**

I have to admit right away that I didn't read Invincible. The real issue now is "did I feel like I missed anything by not reading it?" Nope. I caught everything I needed to enjoy this story as a stand-alone.

I am not even going to try and re-cap this story. Every detail is a spoiler for this book or probably the first book in this series.

Things I loved about this story:

*Marcus is a complex many faceted character. He might have a drug problem at the beginning of this story, but when we see the reasons he needs to escape reality drugs are actually the lesser of a few evils.

*His relationship with his mother and father is complicated. (I would say parents, but they are separated so each relationship is complicated in its own way) They are present in this story and I loved their interactions.

*Marcus is roaming aimlessly throughout much of this book. He gets motivated and then it falls apart for him. Nothing is an easy fix and that is so realistic. He felt like a real person to me.

*Evie makes some tough choices in this story, but I am damn proud of her for it. Evie's story is a whole 'nother story (literally, see what I did there). The snippets we got of Evie's story made me really curious about her as a person and as Marcus's obsession.

This story covered some brutal topics like; death of a sibling, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide, racial prejudice, interracial love, divorce, and self mutilation. The author portrayed so many situations in this story with tact and truthfulness. The characters weren't always right, but the situations were pretty realistic. I can hardly believe all the shit this kid Marcus loved through. The worst part of Marcus's situation is losing Evie, who meant so much to him. Even after he learns the truth about her, he can hardly believe she doesn't want to see him anymore. Evie has issues for sure, but they are so well matched.

I devoured this book in just a few sessions. I loved how the story is broke up into chapters titled: here (about Marcus right now), there (about things that happened in his past), and you (where he addresses his thoughts to Evie). This was a heavy and quick read. I actually want to go back and read Invincible now.

Alison says

I loved this book. It made me cry like all her books but it wasn't depressing. I loved that it was a male narrator. That was a refreshing change from a lot of YA books. I wished that there had been more from the girl from the first book, but I did love make narrator's point of view and his personality.

Mindy says

[It's not a bad ending at all, from a literary standpoint. It just feels deeply unsatisfying to me. The whole theme of the book is letting go, but by the end the end of the book, Marcus and Evie semi get back together. I just

Janelle says

Insightful and moving. Unforgivable covered some pretty relevant issues, too, such as racial discrimination,

racial profiling, depression and addiction (just like in the first book).

Unforgivable started right where Invincible took off but it was told from Marcus's POV. I like his back stories and the way his personality was portrayed in this book. It tells readers that Marcus isn't just some kid who enjoys pot and is full of teenage angst. His story was actually colorful and his ending was great.

This book didn't do a lot for Evie but I'm glad that she decided to sober up her way to her emotional, physical, and mental recovery.
