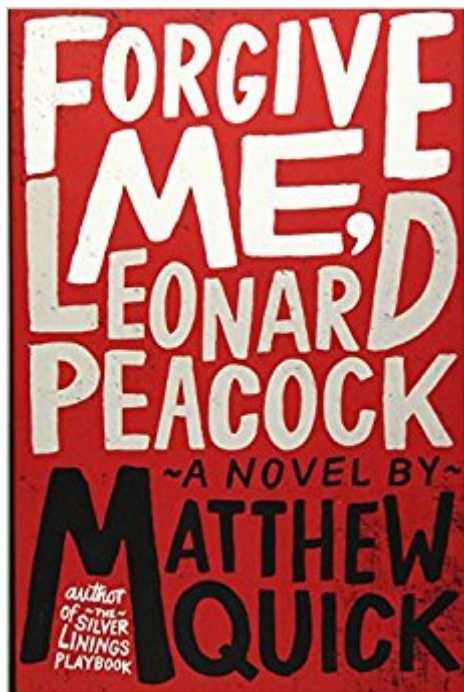


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# Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock



## Synopsis

In addition to the P-38, there are four gifts, one for each of my friends. I want to say good-bye to them properly. I want to give them each something to remember me by. To let them know I really cared about them and I'm sorry I couldn't be more than I was--that I couldn't stick around--and that what's going to happen today isn't their fault. Today is Leonard Peacock's birthday. It is also the day he will kill his former best friend, and then himself, with his grandfather's P-38 pistol. Maybe one day he'll believe that being different is okay, important even. But not today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 10 Up—Leonard Peacock has big plans for his 18th birthday. He plans to kill Asher Beal and then commit suicide. Leonard is a loner, an outcast, a misfit. Asher is a superpopular jock/bully. But they used to be friends, best friends. Something happened when they were 12, something bad. Leonard has had no one to confide in—his washed-up rock-musician dad is on the lam and his self-absorbed, oblivious mother forgets that she has a son. His anger, emotional pain, and brokenness build until he feels there is nothing left to do but end his life and the cause of his misery. As he gives gifts to the four people who mean something to him, he reveals some of his anguish. One recipient, his teacher Herr Silverman, picks up on his suicidal signals and offers the listening ear Leonard so desperately needs. As the heartbreaking climax unfolds, readers learn about the sexual and emotional trauma the teen has endured. Fortunately, there is no bloodshed, just the shedding of many overdue tears. Leonard knows he needs help and readers will hope he gets it.

This is a difficult, yet powerful, book. Quick's use of flashbacks, internal dialogue, and interpersonal communication is brilliant, and the suspense about what happened between Leonard and Asher builds tangibly. The masterful writing takes readers inside Leonard's tormented mind, enabling a compassionate response to him and to others dealing with trauma. May there be more Herr Silvermans willing to take personal risks to save the Leonard Peacocks. --Lisa Crandall, formerly at the Capital Area District Library, Holt, MI (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

It's Leonard's eighteenth birthday and, big surprise, nobody remembered. This birthday, however, is going to count because Leonard plans to shoot cruel bully (and former best friend) Asher Beal after school. First, though, there is the small matter of gift giving, in which Leonard delivers four presents to the four people who made his "worthless" life a little better: a noir film-loving neighbor, a violin prodigy classmate, a superhot teen evangelist, and his favorite teacher. The single-day time frame provides a good deal of claustrophobic tension, as readers will hope against hope that one of these four people will be able to deflect Leonard from his mission. But this is far from a thriller; Quick is most interested in Leonard's psychology, which is simultaneously clear and splintered, and his voice, which is filled with brash humor, self-loathing, and bucket loads of refreshingly messy contradictions, many communicated through Leonard's footnotes to his own story. It may sound bleak, but it is, in fact, quite brave, and Leonard's interspersed fictional notes to himself from 2032 add a unique flavor of hope. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Brilliant foray in the mind of a troubled eighteen year old struggling to find both a purpose and a place in his disenfranchised world. Leonard Peacock is the neglected son of a washed out rocker and his narcissistic wife who leave him to fend for himself in suburban New Jersey. Highly intelligent and sensitive, he is searching for anything to reel him back to feel part of humanity. He lives like an outsider, observing adults around him, looking for a lifeline to prove that life is worth the struggle. Instead he sees the anger, frustration, and despair around him, making him feel the bleakness of his own existence. He rails at being a victim, his fury pushes him to prepare a mad scheme for retribution that will quench his thirst to be finally noticed and counted. Matthew Quick captures the despair of the ghosts of society, the people who blend into the background, those without advocates

to help them battle the enemies killing their spirit. Leonard learns he is not invisible, but the ability to be seen and heard will only happen when he realizes he must forge ahead and help himself. His parents will never do what he thinks they should, the world does not operate fairly, but if he looks hard enough, he will create what he needs by using his greatest resource- himself.

This really does get into the story quickly however it leaves a lot to the imagination there are a lot of slow parts there is always something playing out I would say depending on how you feel about our characters you can become very much invested in them. Leonard has a good heart however he's struggling and sees the world in a different light and he also has this desire to find Hope in someone. The book is well written and I got a few ideas of my own for writing this book is a trigger I'd say for people who are depressed, or have a history of attempted suicide. You really get to see the expanse of his mind and what Leonard views as important

Forgive me Leonard Peacock is the story of a depressed teen who intends on shooting his best friend and then himself - but not before spending the day saying goodbye to everyone who meant something to him. Unfortunately for Leonard, that list is way too short. The central theme of the novel revolves around the idea that you can't choose what hand you get dealt, but you have to keep fighting, even when nobody's watching. It's an idea that's sprinkled throughout the entire novel - Leonard's struggles are almost entirely internal. There is no outward scar or bruise for people to notice just how far gone he is, but he has to keep himself afloat in his sea of depression, even though no one can see it. This is a powerful, moving book that has quickly become one of my favorites (I don't use that word lightly). Matthew Quick's writing is beautiful, but he also masterfully writes about these mature themes without seeming offensive or exploitative. I loved every single word in this book, from the opening to closing lines. But, as much as I loved it, I admit that this is definitely not for everyone. Like I stated before, this book has very mature themes, and deals heavily with teen depression and suicide. If these dark topics make you uncomfortable, this is not the book for you. But, if you are willing to accept the dark reality of this book, it is truly a fantastic read. Beautiful prose, well-drawn characters and a truly beautiful story makes for one of my favorite reads of all time.

A book that I could relate to and one I bet a lot of adults could. We all know it's easier on the flip side compared to all the thoughts, emotions, and hormones of our youth. Yet are we as carefree

and happy like we were when we were young or bogged down by responsibilities? This book really examines these issues through the despairing but likeable Leonard Peacock. He has a lot to learn about life and himself but suffers from neglect by his parents, being an outsider at school, facing his fears and standing up for himself....but mostly the turmoil of a tragedy that makes him want to kill his friend and then himself. Life is not perfect and there are no guarantees but with some unlikely friendships Leonard might just learn that life is worth living and being different isn't a bad thing. A novel of hope and acceptance

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