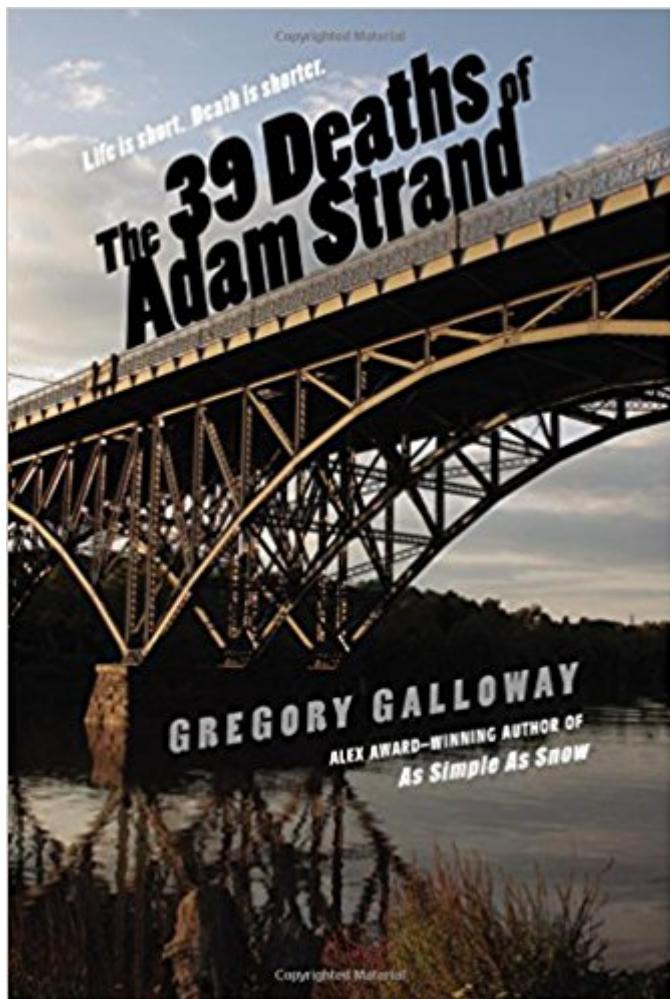


The book was found

The 39 Deaths Of Adam Strand



Synopsis

Adam Strand isn't depressed. He's just bored. Disaffected. So he kills himself 39 times. No matter the method, Adam can't seem to stay dead; he awakes after each suicide alive and physically unharmed, more determined to succeed and undeterred by others' concerns. But when his self-contained, self-absorbed path is diverted, Adam is struck by the reality that life is an ever-expanding web of impact and forged connections, and that nothing—not even death—can sever those bonds. In this hyper-edgy coming-of-age story told in stark, arresting prose, Alex Award-winning author Gregory Galloway finds hope and understanding in the blackest humor.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (February 6, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142425311

ISBN-13: 978-0142425312

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,247,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Mutilation #232 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Suicide #1224 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Teenager Adam Strand is bored, self-absorbed, and desperate to have some control over his own life; he has committed suicide 39 times. However, after each act he has awoken hours or days later, physically unscathed. The people in his bleak factory town in rural Iowa have come to view his failed suicides as more of a nuisance than a miracle. Adam's narrative includes several nonlinear flashbacks dating back to his early childhood, but the primary story takes place over the course of the summer before his senior year. The chapter titles, which include the chronological number of the suicide contained within, help to clarify the time line. The lack of action may leave some readers restless; the novel is made up largely of static situations, such as Adam and his friends getting drunk and watching a dead cow decompose or Adam complaining about his parents'

many idiosyncrasies. Galloway's exquisite writing, however, more than makes up for the slow pace. Using raw imagery, he perfectly crafts Adam's philosophical, meandering account of his life and deaths. He relates Adam's plight to that of Sisyphus, and also includes references to the works of Kafka, Twain, and Poe, among others. Secondary characters are well developed and easily distinguishable. Fans of gritty realistic fiction such as Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* (Farrar, 1999) and Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* (Penguin, 2007) will appreciate Adam's thoughtful, authentic adolescent voice, and the honesty and boldness with which Galloway treats the issue of suicide.-Liz Overberg, Darlington Middle School, Rome, GA
© Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Starred Review At 16, Adam Strand has committed suicide 39 times and each time has returned to life whole and unscathed, no matter how violent his death. He is, Adam thinks, genetically hardwired to kill himself, and his condition is exacerbated by his rejection of a world where, he thinks, "we're all horrible." Better to find oblivion in death, for "the dead are perfect." Profoundly pessimistic and solipsistic, Adam begins to look beyond himself for the first time when a young girl whom he is fond of becomes perhaps ill, and he is called on to help her. Will his acts of charity be enough to temper his addiction to death? Galloway, the author of the Alex Award-winning *As Simple as Snow* (2005), offers a riveting second novel that explores the issue of suicide with a philosophical, never sensational, approach, inviting considerations of existentialism and nihilism. Adam is tragically out of tune with what he regards as a meaningless world in which fishing and drinking are the only ways to spend the summer he turns 17. Is his disaffection universal or is it an anomaly confined to his own troubled self? As it addresses these questions, Galloway's book requires careful reading, but the effort is well worth it. Grades 10-12. --Cart, Michael --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I read *As Simple As Snow* and really loved it. I was hoping this would be similar. As an "old" person, I couldn't really get into this book, it just seemed repetitive to me. I still have to finish it after about 6 months. Maybe it will get better. I think someone up to the age of early 20's would enjoy it more.

The *39 Deaths of Adam Strand* is a fascinating read that keeps you thinking long after you've finished. Galloway hooks you and keeps you invested in the characters right from the start. I highly recommend.

This was a very well written book with a great purpose. I highly recommend it to those struggling with the choice of living or taking your own life. The right choice is always life.

Adam is bored. Every day he goes drinking with his boring friends, in the same boring location by the boring river, and they do the same boring things. He gets urges to commit suicide because itâfÂçâ →â „çll take him away from his boring life and the boring future that stretches out before him. Despite his best attempts to kill himself, nothing works. He wakes up a few days later fresh as a daisy. The whole town is tired of finding his crumpled or mangled body after each attempt, but each failed attempt only makes Adam want to try harder. HeâfÂçâ →â „çs frustrated because heâfÂçâ →â „çs in love with his best friend and upset/bored with life. Going to a therapist doesnâfÂçâ →â „çt help, reading books doesnâfÂçâ →â „çt help, but he knows that if he can only kill himself everything will be better. As I read of AdamâfÂçâ →â „çs many different, detailed attempts to kill himself because he was bored and frustrated, all I could think was AdamâfÂçâ →â „çs the point of this book? Adam canâfÂçâ →â „çt kill himself, so he tries all sorts of different ways hoping one of them will work. Thus, is this book supposed to be some sort of âfÂçâ →â „ç“how-toâfÂçâ →â „ç manual for those reading it and contemplating suicide? What was GallowayâfÂçâ →â „çs point? If anything, it seemed to be glorifying teen drinking, reckless driving, and suicide attempts. Having seen no point to it, and not enjoying AdamâfÂçâ →â „çs repeated attempts, there is no way IâfÂçâ →â „çd recommend this book to anyone. In fact, IâfÂçâ →â „çm throwing my ARC into the recycling bin instead of giving it away so no one will decide to get inspired by Adam. I honestly couldnâfÂçâ →â „çt find a reason for Galloway to write it, as Adam never felt truly remorseful for what he was putting everyone through when they found his body, it was more like an âfÂçâ →â „ç“aw shucks, I didnâfÂçâ →â „çt know it was you who found meâfÂçâ →â „ç as off he skipped to try again. Of all the books IâfÂçâ →â „çve read about teen suicide, this was the worst. My recommendation is not to bother to read it. IâfÂçâ →â „çm sorry I wasted my time with it.

I'm not even sure how to review this one. I didn't hate it. The writing was fine. I never reached a point where I felt like not finishing it but it was just meh. The concept of a kid who wants to die...and does time and again only to inexplicably wake up fine was an interesting premise but the book itself was just not...interesting that is. Adam spends most of the book doing nothing other than drinking

with his friends and wanting a girl who he's been friends with his whole life. Nothing happens...as in NOTHING. There's not really a story until maybe the last seventy five pages or so and even that is resolved abruptly. Adam doesn't want to die because he's depressed. He doesn't want to die because he's unstable. He wants to die because he's bored and has this "calling"...this drive to kill himself. He likes those moments of peace and nothing he gets in the short amount of time that he's dead before he eventually wakes up alive. That's it? Yeah, that's it. The author's note at the end states that the author decided to explore the idea of suicide after countless people he knew committed suicide. I was even more confused about the point of this book when I read that. It seems like a really odd way of exploring suicide to feature a boy who can't die and wants to kill himself because he's bored. It almost diminishes or disrespects those people who are in so much pain that suicide seems like the only option. And yet I didn't hate it. I can't figure out why.

Authors sometimes have books within them that they are compelled to write. *Liesl & Po* was one such book. *The 39 Deaths of Adam Strand* is another. In the first case I must be honest and say that I remember only vaguely why Lauren Oliver felt compelled to tell such a grim tale. It had something to do with personal loss. Much the same with Gregory Galloway. A man who has had the great misfortune to have had over a dozen acquaintances who have taken their own lives. (How absolutely dreadful for him.)-----You might be wondering what brings both books to mind. I'm afraid to say it is not only the dark subject of death, but the fact that these books aren't for me. In the case of Liesl and Po, I absolutely hated the book and wrote that I wouldn't recommend to anyone with any child left in them. (It was violent, dark toned, and sloooooooooooooow.) And alas, I'm not having a good time with 39 Deaths either. I'm currently half way through --struggle, yank teeth-- and all I can say is that I very much like Galloway's wordsmithing and I will be waiting for his next book. But this one does nothing for me. The story concept is new, but dull. The principle character has zero appeal, and the amount of teen-angst (though well captured) is off the chart.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The 39 Deaths of Adam Strand Unexplained Vanishings & Mysterious Deaths; Creepy Mysteries of the Unexplained.: Twisted tales of the most baffling unexplained disappearances & unexplained deaths... & the cryptic clues left behind A Certain Justice: An Adam Dalgliesh Novel (Adam Dalgliesh Mysteries Book 10) Index to the Works of Adam Smith (Glasgow Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith, The) The House on the Strand Tales Along the Grand Strand of South Carolina Paul Strand: The World On My Doorstep Abenteuer Auswandern. Mein Leben auf

Grenada: Strand, Meer und Lebensfreude: Der paradiesische Alltag in der Karibik (German Edition)
Explorer's Guide Myrtle Beach & South Carolina's Grand Strand: A Great Destination: Includes
Wilmington and the North Carolina Low Country (Explorer's Great Destinations) Insiders' Guide® to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand (Insiders' Guide Series) A Culinary History of Myrtle Beach & the Grand Strand: Fish & Grits, Oyster Roasts and Boiled Peanuts (American Palate) Insiders' Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand, 8th (Insiders' Guide Series) The 100 Greatest Holes along the Grand Strand: A Picturesque Look at One Hundred of the Most Unique Golf Courses In and Around Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Insiders' Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand, 9th (Insiders' Guide Series) Insiders' Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand, 10th (Insiders' Guide Series) Myrtle Beach: A Guide to South Carolina's Grand Strand (Tourist Town Guides) Insiders' Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand A Visitor's Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand (Coastal Cities Guidebook Series) The Insider's Guide to South Carolina's Myrtle Beach & the Grand Strand The Insiders' Guide to Myrtle Beach and the Grand Strand--4th Edition

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)