

Just One More Glass



The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo

Amy Schumer

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Can be purchased **at the River's End Bookstore**

The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo grants you all the hilarities you might expect from comedian, actress, and now first time author Amy Schumer. I found myself going back to lines to check if I had read them right, only to laugh out-loud at the down to earth, comedic genius that Schumer is. In the same moment where I was rushing back to reread and chuckle, there were times in which I had to set the book down and breath. Schumer reminds us in her memoir that life picks no favorites and even in the brightest of all people, the world can still feel like it's crumbling down around them. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; but in her case, there was nothing a bottle of wine and a pint of ice-cream couldn't fix. That and sex, Schumer really loves talking about sex.

The book starts off with a roundhouse kick of a chapter called "An Open Letter to My Vagina". Schumer wastes no time in breaking the seal between dreadfully uncomfortable to too awkward but I can't help reading. She tackles her sexuality upfront and I appreciate her honesty and overall outlook on womanhood. Throughout her memoir I found myself nodding my head and exclaiming, "yeah, that's right, I CAN do whatever I want, I CAN eat a whole pizza by

myself, go out, and still feel absolutely amazing." If girls have a hard time feeling this way, I highly recommend they drive to their nearest bookstore and pick up this book. Guys, too.

"I've only had one one-night stand in my life. Yes, one. I know, I'm so sorry to disappoint anyone who thinks I walk around at all times with a margarita in one hand and a dildo in the other."

Learning the beginning of Schumer's life was messy, and I mean that in the best way possible. The way she told her life story made me feel like I was there with her. Better yet, I was putting myself into her shoes and experiencing everything she had to go through, from being a baby model to a shoplifter to the comedian she is today. Not one small detail was spared and the fact that nothing was left out is what gave the book balance. She wrote about being an experienced shoplifter and how she taught her sister the value of the five finger discount. By starting with how Schumer began stealing, she led us down the storyline of moving from small, cheap items, to big expensive things like brand name clothing, until it wrapped up with them behind bars. My greatest concern upon picking up Schumer's book was that it was going to be redundant, with the same humor used over and over again, followed by the same generic sex jokes that she often uses when she's on stage regarding drinking too much and wearing too little. I was surprised; she tells it like it is and leaves no room for sugar coating.

Not one piece of her life was safe, which is evident when she tells some of her father's most embarrassing moments during his struggle with multiple sclerosis. She was able to get away with talking about the heavy stuff; by the time I finished the chapters that involved her father's depleting health, I didn't feel depressed or feel bad for her. In fact, I smiled a lot through it, and Schumer did too. She mentions that if you can't laugh at yourself, at your family, at your friends, or at life, then what are you doing?

With such a strong and creatively voiced narration, I was let down when I became familiar with the structure of her memoir. Although each chapter was able to stand on its own, there were moments where I wished she had continued on one topic before quickly switching



"Rocking out" -The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo

directions to talk about something else. I would grow so attached to learning about one part of her life that I didn't want to leave it yet; one chapter wasn't enough to satisfy me. It took me some time to get used to the jumpiness and I can say that this is most likely a personal preference rather than a large issue that the memoir suffers from.



After putting the book down, I realized I loved Schumer a little more than I did before. Reading this book was like experiencing someone else's life, and I can honestly say that Amy Schumer has quite a history behind her. Her stories are a whirlwind of adventures I would gladly take again, granted that I can skip out on getting myself a lower back tattoo.

Emily Shaben is an avid writer and book collector. When she's not spending too much money on expanding her book collection, she's writing and illustrating her own. Emily one day hopes to be an accomplished author and publisher.