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Christy Leigh Stewart , Kevin Shamel (Foreword)

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Diana isn't pretty like you.

She isn't smart like you, or interesting like you.

No one loves her like we all love you.

You don't need plastic surgery on your body or therapy for your brain.

But Diana does.

Diana has to go to a rehab for ugly girls while you are too beautiful for this book.

We hope you never die.

Terminally Beautiful Details

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From Reader Review Terminally Beautiful for online ebook

BeyondTheWall says

rarely do you come across a book that says so much with so few words. this author should have more readers!

Amber says

When I finished reading *Terminally Beautiful* I was speechless. Then as I tried to think of something to say my mind fired off: Mindfuck. Disturbing. Bizarre. Oddly touching and sincere.

The characters in *Terminally Beautiful* are like living embodiments of deep-seated insecurities, neuroses, and psychoses (that most people have to some extent, but try to bury and/or ignore) magnified to the extreme and laid bare for all to see.

As always, the wit and dark humor often associated with Christy's writing are present, but seem more sparse and subtle than in previous works. The result is a book far more thought provoking than humorous, which isn't a bad thing. I feel like this book shows a more serious and mature side to Christy's writing, a facet that we haven't seen explored very much in her previous works (which were just as enjoyable, but in a different way).

Kate says

I really like Christy Leigh Stewart's writing and this was no exception to the rule, since it was a very enjoyable and interesting read that moves at break neck speed, careening you off the cliff of comfortability when you least expect it.

My only comment is that I want more!

Lobna Amer says

The kind of book that shocks you. It shocks not because the rotten feelings described in the books just hit with a blow of disgust, It shocks you because on some level the narrator is you; her terminal thoughts are yours, her sick feelings are ones you feel. This is the kind of book that revolutionize writing to me. It takes you to the dark side of the human nature and tells you: "Yea. Your darkness exist. You are sick on some level. And you know what? It is okay. You can feel your bad feelings. You can voice them, too. Doesn't mean you are bad. Doesn't mean you're rotten all the way through."

Liralen says

A puzzle of a book. It's somewhat fragmented—impressionistic in places, minimalist in others. Rehab for the

ugly: Is it dystopian? Symbolic? Social commentary? All of the above? I didn't really know what to make of this going in and I don't really know what to make of it coming out, and I'm kind of okay with that. It exists somewhere that is not quite this world, and I'm *definitely* okay with that. Maybe one that is worth a re-read at some point down the line.

Megan Hansen says

Very, very funny book! The characters were amazing and immediately relatable. I love Stewart's writing style, so full wit and sarcasm, yet she can still pull off those really sad or horrifying moments. This book will crawl into your brain and make you think, make you laugh and make you cringe, it's wonderful!

Danger says

This book has infested me.

Please, let me explain:

There is something uniquely human about Stewart's prose. It's both honest and unnerving, but not in the usual "cheap" way. It doesn't use hackneyed tricks to get you to feel a certain way, like you're a complacent member of some nameless studio audience and there's a big neon sign above your head that reads FEEL SAD. FEEL SYMPATHETIC. FEEL VINDICATED. NOW APPLAUDE, MINIONS! It's not that kind of story. Even if the situations encountered in here are somewhat fantastical, the emotional weight they carry is very REAL.

The main character is a female. The story definitely comes from a female perspective. And although I'm a man – a man with facial hair and ugly toes and a huge, gigantic, massive, enormous, impossibly long penis – it still speaks to me. And that's because this book was written in such a way that you're not just reading about this girl Diana. You are Diana. I AM DIANA! It's uncomfortable, looking in the mirror through Diana's eyes, because the reflection that shines back looks suspiciously familiar. Sort of like my own. And that's what makes this story so good. This book digs its meat hooks into your heart, yanks out your empathy and rapes it in the face. This book is now living in my blood like a parasite or a worm. It's fucking my brain. It's having sex IN me. By the time I finished the very last page, I had given birth to myself.

Hello, Danger.

You're a person now.

Congratulations.

Lisette Brodey says

I love Christy Leigh Stewart's work. *Terminally Beautiful* was everything I appreciate about this author's uncanny and unique style. Unique is a word that is often overused, but not as it describes this author and her work.

Diana is a patient at rehab for ugly girls. Told in the first person, Diana's thoughts are as edgy and twisty as the concept of this book itself. Stewart's prose is often a combination of dark reality, science fiction, and a

brilliantly fertile imagination. The author takes her readers to an altered universe where they may laugh, cringe, or gasp, as they eagerly turn the page to see what bizarre delights await.

I don't think Christy Leigh Stewart will leave this world and enter the next without a lot of people taking notice of her talent. Also, I hope she leaves her brain to science.

Stephanie Macdonald says

I read the book today, the same day I received it in the mail! Diana is a very ugly girl, she really just wants someone to care about her. She is in a facility and makes a trans-gender friend and loses another friend to suicide. She decides she hated the girl who killed herself anyway and then finally stands up and has enough. Her and her trans gender friend leave the facility together and then roofie a guy Diana used to check out on a regular basis at a gas station, however instead of taking advantage of him and her now found voice... the hole she has inside is suddenly filled in way that was unexpected as I was reading this book. There were quite a few surprises! This was a great and fast read, a good pick me up, gross out, wonder about book. My only complaint is the length of the it, it could have been "fluffed" a bit more, however the storyline and characters were very unique, I enjoyed reading this book.

David Santos says

Its one of those books where you spend more time trying to figure out what you just read than it took to read it. I don't get the cover or the title for that matter. Description, although not actually describing the book, made me curious. I figured the book would be about a woman going through life being ugly and showing us what she deals with. Nope, shes in a looney bin (sorry can't spell the professional word for it) and she tells us her day. Not too exciting. Some funny things here and there though, but nothing too humorous. I deal with crazy people all day every day. I don't need to read one who lacks a personality

No chapter numbers, no chapter titles, heck no chapters period. Some of the events could have been written more dramatically to make it more entertaining. It's not a terrible book, could just be the authors style, but as others have mentioned, there is no real plot to the story.

Christy Stewart says

This doesn't totally suck.

Ray says

A very interesting book from a very good writer. Realistic, dark, funny. An enjoyable work from a writer who I discovered by reading her short stories, which I highly suggest.

Heershan says

The author's writing style came across as childish and curt; not something that I could grapple with. The book was quite short which made it difficult for me to relate to the characters. I wish more time was spent on the development of Diana's character. Overall, really lacklustre although it was a good insight into the minds of "ugly" people. The ending for me was opportunistic and hopeful, whilst paradoxically "dead". Seems as though Anna and Diana, with the scene of her vagina touching a penis, are becoming intimate and helping each other to grow out of their childhood traumas; the book was merely a build up to freedom - how the mind is captivated in an "asylum" with dark thoughts driven by other people's perspectives and how one can eventually break-free and be themselves again, the real genuine self.

Andrew Turman says

As a journalist and advocate for people with serious mental health issues, I do a lot of research. Okay, I confess. I have a serious mental illness myself: bipolar disorder. In twenty five years I have been hospitalized over 50 times, have had 45 electroshock treatments, seen hundreds of so-called mental health professionals, and have taken various psychopharmacological cocktails, all to no avail. I am what they call "treatment resistant." I have been bound in leather restraints, forced to take medications against my will, and even kicked out of hospitals because I was too ill to be treated effectively (read: too difficult to handle). I KNOW psychiatric hospitals.

I was asked to review Christy Leigh Stewart's story, "Terminally Beautiful." Without compunction, I can attest that it is one of the most accurate portrayals of what it is like to be hospitalized with mental issues. In beautiful prose, Christy wonderfully describes how broken our mental health system really is. I have met individuals who so closely resemble her characters, this could be mistaken for a work of non-fiction. In fact, she describes some of the tricks I used when I was 'on the ward.'

Tragically, this story is about adolescents. I could tell you tales about how much worse it is in adult settings. The fact that our children must endure these conditions is abhorrent. The unhelpful, unhealthy, even unethical treatment of our society's teens should shock even the most jaded reader. To think that this treatment could aid in an individual's recovery process is absurd.

I won't spoil the ending of the story; you must read it for yourself. FEEL it for yourself. And be glad as hell it is not you. This story should be required reading for anyone who is interested in working in the mental health field. Perhaps, if we are lucky, it will be.

Natalie says

I thought the idea behind this novella was promising. Having a rehab for someone who is ugly seems like a good setup for a dystopian novel. However, I don't think that was the intent in this storyline. The world the characters inhabit is dysfunctional, but not unrealistic. Perhaps that was the most frightening part. Some of the scenes within the facility were extremely disturbing and could fall under the dystopian view, but it just wasn't consistent enough. I do think that Anna's character was far more intriguing than Diana's and I wish the story had come from his/her point of view instead. All in all, I think it could turn into a dark peek into body image and social gender roles if fleshed out a little more.

