



Feels Like the First Time

Shawn Inmon

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September, 1975: Shawn meets Dawn, his one true love, when she moves into the vacant house next door. Many people spend their life searching in vain for happiness, but he was lucky; finding it at the age of fifteen.

February 1979: Forbidden to see each other and feeling he is harming her by being in her life, he walks away from the love of his life, apparently forever.

December, 2006: After decades of sadness and mourning the girl that got away, he has a chance meeting with her that might change his life forever... again. Can the sweet bond of first love not only survive, but flourish?

Feels Like the First Time lets you share in the magic of young love in small town America in the 1970s. No matter how much the world changes, some things – timeless music, high school dances, making out in the backseat of a Chevy Vega, and of course true love – will always remain the same.

Feels Like the First Time Details

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Author : Shawn Inmon

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From Reader Review Feels Like the First Time for online ebook

Al says

Any romance novelist out there who is suffering from writers block has a ready-made plot begging to be stolen in Feels Like the First Time. Although you'll have to rework it a bit to fit genre conventions (specifically, add the female's point-of-view), the plot would work great. For women who don't think men are romantic, Shawn Inmon's "true life love story" will prove that isn't true. If nothing else, he's the exception that proves the rule.

As much as I liked the love story, I also found the nostalgia in the first part of the story almost as much of a draw. Inmon's a couple years younger than I am and the first part of his story, during his high school and college days in the mid-seventies, brought back memories, both good and bad. For example, the title of the book seems like an obvious (maybe even clichéd, albeit appropriate) title. But when I considered all the references to music from that era, the book title (as well as a chapter title of the same name) is obviously an homage to the hit song from Foreigner's first (and still best) album, which makes it more than okay. I wouldn't want to return to the days of silk shirts, bell bottom pants, and getting tongue-tied around beautiful woman (actually, I'm still waiting to grow out of the last one), but the brief visit was fun.

Although it reads much like a novel, with the same structure (plot, story arc, etc.), Inmon's writing style never left a doubt that the story was real. I kept thinking about that old writing saw about opening a vein and was constantly looking for red splatters on my Kindle.

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

Debbie says

Wow!!!

This is not a romance, at least not a typical one. It is a love story. A true one. One that will touch your heart and take you on a ride of innocence, heartbreak and eventually you to a place of contentment and happiness.

I actually picked this book up on accident. I was searching for another book with a similar synopsis but had forgotten the title and I thought this one was it. Even though it wasn't the book I was searching for, I am so glad I found this one.

This book was a great trip down memory lane for me. I also grew up in the 70's and early 80's in a small town. I loved all the musical and time period references. It reminded me of how different life was back then.

Shawn and Dawn's story is one of innocence, love, and tragedy. True love found too young at a time when they didn't and couldn't have control over the direction of their own lives. People and circumstances tore them apart. It would be thirty years before chance and Shawn's undying love would eventually put them together again.

This story put me through a wide spectrum of emotions. I laughed, cried, and got angry but mostly this story touched my soul.

Shawn thank you for sharing your story and letting me come along for the ride. I am so happy that you and

Dawn got your "Happy Ever After".

Cynthia says

This true story by author Shawn Inmon took me way back to a time in my life that I miss dearly. In his book, *Feels Like the First Time*, memories flooded my way with his descriptive scenes and mention of music that can only be considered classics of an era gone by. From the cover to the very last page, Shawn takes you through the time period of the 60s through the present, while his story of love unfolds.

Shawn, meets and falls in love with Dawn Adele when her family moves into the house next door. They grew up together and learned things about life and love, before their relationship was halted by Dawn Adele's parents. Three decades later, a chance meeting brings them together again. Can Shawn and Dawn Adele's love pick-up where it left off, so many tears ago? Will you become a believer in fate? Shawn Inmon proves that true love does exist in this wonderfully romantic story of misunderstandings, heartbreak, and finally true happiness.

If you've grown up in the early setting of this book, reading it will be like a walk down memory lane.

Dawnita says

I love how simple and un-presumptuous this story is. It's a beautiful love story. There isn't a rich debonair millionaire or a seductress woman, but there are 2 teenagers who find love and life circumstances are not in their favor. Love will find a way though and it does in a simple but beautiful way.

Cherie Magnus says

The book began ok, with a flashback to create tension and suspense that kept me reading on long after I lost interest.

At first I couldn't believe a mature man wrote this about himself because it's page after page of adolescent emotions of love, soaring, falling, tears flowing, day dreaming, hoping. It felt like a young adult romance. It's repetitive and too detailed about daily activities but not about more important plot points. It was not logical or understandable why--the crux of the story--Dawn's parents turned so completely against the author, causing them to lie to her about him and creating so much unhappiness. We aren't clear either about his older siblings that live far away. And even after thirty years, Shawn is still making mix tapes for his girlfriend and lip syncing to rock records. When they meet again, it's as if he's a love-sick teenager again, with all the same words of love, blah blah, that he used in the beginning. The many song references were just too much after a while.

One would like to think that in retrospect a mature person would reflect on his first love with perspective and to show some growth.

Now he's written another book with the same story but from Dawn's point of view. It's enough already, way too much already.

I'm really sorry not to like it, and I think I might have if there had been professional editing and deep cuts. Unfortunately it reads like a teenage diary.

Andrea says

How can put into words all the emotions this book stirred in me? It's hard. I laughed a lot Shawn was so sweet and swoon worthy. He was adorkable and wonderfully vulnerable. Hard to find since boys always want to be the strong, macho, cool males. I found Shawn and his devotion for Dawn so refreshingly endearing! This boy fell in love and never lost that sweetness toward her. Boys will be boys and though I'm sure there were plenty of naughty thoughts his focus is just on the fact that he loves her through thick and thin.

I think this book is totally sweet and it's even better and sweeter since it's a real life romance told by a real life romantic who happens to be a man. I can't say enough about how wonderful this book is and hope everyone will read it.

Moe says

This book is a bittersweet love story that I couldn't put down. I cried real tears, especially when they read their wedding vows to each other. Oops is that giving the story away? Well ok i'll put a "spoiler" warning. I also liked the way the author dedicated the book to his sister. She seemed liked such a wonderful and special person.

I rarely give 5 star ratings, and struggled between rating this book 4 or 5 stars. I'd say that this book was 4.5 stars. My only disappointment was that there were no photos in the book. Whenever I read memoirs, its always nice to see photos of the people that you are reading about. Maybe a photo of their prom and KISS II, to name a few. Otherwise a beautiful, bittersweet love story.

Karla Eibling says

I had such a hard time reading this book. I wanted to just put it down and walk away, but that is not my style. So I struggled through it. The story is a true story that takes place in the 70's between Shawn and his slightly younger neighbor whom he eventually marries. The story is layered in memories and music of that era and that may be where he lost me the most. Everything had a song to it. His parents (Mom and Stepfather) really didn't seem to interested in anything he did and her parents used him to take care of their daughter as long as it suited their purposes. When the relationship between Shawn and their daughter progressed, they put a stop to it even though earlier they had encouraged it. I thought the story was touching in a painful way, but could have been written so much better. Shawn and his wife have gone on to write more of their story, but I will pass of them, This one was just too hard to read and keep my interest.

Susan says

"Feels Like the First Time" is a true romance story of Shawn and Dawn. If you grew up in the 70's like I did, this book will really hit home for you. With a well written plot, the book is full of emotions and the ups and downs of romance. I was totally captivated from the beginning to end. Highly recommended for everyone that loves a really good true romance story.

This review is based on a complimentary copy which was provided for an honest review.

D. Thrush says

Who isn't a sucker for a good love story? The best thing is that this one is true. Shawn and Dawn meet when they're too young. They live next door to each other and start out as friends but their feelings slowly grow. Shawn is older and, initially, their parents endorse their close friendship. But one error in judgment and everything falls apart. Dawn's parents forbid Shawn to see Dawn again. Due to the interference of their parents and a lack of maturity and communication skills, they each make assumptions about the other. It's over and they go on and live their own lives. 27 years later, they meet by chance. Dawn is cold and indifferent to Shawn, but he doesn't give up. This is a touching love story. It bogs down a little in the middle, but was still hard to put down.

Jeff Dawson says

Five Stars

Anyone who doesn't appreciate this work has not traveled this path. I received an email from Shawn asking if I'd be interested in giving his book a go. I looked at the title, checked the Amazon page and responded, "it'd be at least a month before I could get to it." But something caught my eye. He drove a Vega which triggered a memory of a past love that didn't work out. Needless to say, I was curious. As I started to read it, my eyes and brain became heavily invested as all I could think was, our books are parallels. So, if anyone thinks this review is biased, you would probably be correct. Like Shawn and Dawn, I too had a high school sweetheart I reunited with twenty-seven years later. Sadly, our reunion only lasted seven short months as her cancer returned with a vengeance.

That aside, I can follow Shawn and Dawn's story with a finite interest, understanding the pain, the hurt, the joy, the longing, the inability to think, the endless hours wondering how she is doing. I completely understand why his second marriage failed. Do you know how hard it is to be in love with someone when your heart is with someone else? It is utter torture, and Shawn does an excellent job in portraying his emotions towards Adinah. I remember the day my ex-bride-to-be wanted me to throw out the memories and pictures I still had of Debbie. I told her, "She came first. If I find any of those memories missing, this marriage is over." She never broached the topic again.

Is it wrong to pine for someone while we're with someone else? On the surface, the answer would be yes, but in the long run, our heart, soul and God are controlling which way the course will travel. No one said it would be easy.

Overall, this is an excellent read especially for those who have loved, lost and been given a “second chance,” to correct the mistakes of the past. Thank you for a great story Shawn and of course, Dawn. Without her, this would be just another high school love gone wrong.

Nicole says

I didn't feel the love between the two...I didn't care about KISS...I felt like the book was monotonous and anti-climatic. I am happy though, that they are together.

Bonnie Bee says

an honest story of a young love and life, and proof that soulmates do exist

Karla Goforth Abreu says

Some Spoiler Alert:

This book reads like someone's journal, which is basically what it is. The author wrote in autobiographical form, what he was feeling and his memories of his first love. Then, he began to write it out in a book to be published on an internet site. This explains, possibly, why the writing shows no creativity, to speak of. The topic is interesting enough: a man meets his girlfriend from 25 years ago and they rediscover one another. Most of the story is background material to get the reader to the point of the meeting and the after-effects. Upsides: the books begins in the present (almost) and then retreats to the past, then back to the present to wrap it up. There is raw emotion sensed throughout. If you came of age during the 70's or 80's the references to songs and other culture of that time can be funny and provoke one's own memories.

Downsides: The author seems to have arrested development, emotionally and mentally. He refers to a mock band that he was a part of, syncing the rock group, KISS, repeatedly. It seems this was a huge event in his life. He has been unstable in relationships and finances and constantly reflects on a season of his past. He stated that he wanted what was best for the girl, Dawn, thus he lets her go, ending the relationship. Then he constantly thinks about Dawn and in later years it is to the point of publishing this book, knowing full well that there was a possibility she would read it or find out about it. He uses this first love as an excuse to justify failed relationships and so forth. (the girl was a mere 14 and 15 years old at the time which justifies her parents putting a limitations on the relationship once they discover it is not a "big brother" type of neighborly fun) He justifies walking out on his current wife and kids because of this chance (or maybe not chance) meeting (not sure if the kids were from the first or the current marriage). He begins and affair with this love from his adolescence, justifying every moment of it, before any divorce has even begun and throughout the divorce proceedings with his wife. He is even planning a wedding with Dawn, and presumably living with her, and so forth, before he is barely out the door from his wife. Additionally, has the audacity to call his wife and tell her he is divorcing her over the phone and previous to that he tells her he is in contact with Dawn, his love from teen years and that he does not intend to stop and does not know where it will lead. His wife calls him a bastard, when he ends the marriage over the phone, and it seems an appropriate designation. She had, apparently, tried to make the marriage work, even somewhat admitted by the author.

Dawn seems a bit weary for the wear, having endured two relationships with severe drug addicts, one of them a marriage. She is more than excited to, possibly, have an opportunity to be with someone other than a meth head. Soon after the "chance" meeting, she begins to say she has always loved him also, just as Shawn had professed to her soon after they saw one another. Strangely, Dawn had no clue who Shawn was when he

came through her drive-thru and even when he said they went to school together and told her his name, she had to think for a moment, saying "Shawn? Who?"

It seems that Shawn Inmon uses this relationship from his adolescent life to justify pathetic, irresponsible behavior. While most of us can point to the first love, the first sexual experience, the first passion, we can never return to the past (and why would we want to, honestly), and it should not be used to justify shortcoming and inconsistency in one's life. Definitely, if a spouse was behaving in this manner many would say "there's the door and do not let it hit you when you walk out of it." It would be curious to see where this relationship is in ten years. Maybe it will work out for them, but the reasons that Shawn and Dawn ended up together were obsession and selfish behavior on the part of Shawn.

The premise of the book, a chance meeting of an old flame, was interesting, thus I continued reading. I also like to read autobiographical writing. Yet, the twist this story takes, the justifications for causing chaos to others' lives and the renouncing of marriage vows, in the name of love, tarnished the story. This, unfortunately, left me with a sense of sadness due to the lack of responsibility and integrity that the writer displays while claiming it is for "love." Love is a verb. It does no harm.

Gemma says

What a emotional read, happy moments and heart breaking moments, made even more real knowing its a true story. Would recommend it to anyone!
