



Whispers in the Alders

H.A. Callum

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Alder Ferry would have been just another nondescript suburb living in the shadow of its urban parent if not for one detail: the mysterious stand of alder trees anchoring the town to its past and standing as a reminder to the wilderness that once stood in its place.

In the shadows of the alders a boy named Tommy found refuge. There, an eclectic book collection was his only companion through a tumultuous childhood, serving as his escape from the brutal realities of his life. That was, until Aubrey appeared.

Born of different worlds, the alders become their escape while their unlikely friendship blossoms into a love that few people ever come to understand or enjoy—proving that true friendship is a romantic pursuit in its purest form.

Together they come of age in a town hostile to their friendship—a friendship that challenges the intersecting boundaries of class, gender and sexuality. Prejudice and privilege masquerade to destroy their dreams while class, gender and faith collide. All are tested as Tommy and Aubrey carry each other through their teen years and into adulthood.

Whispers in the Alders is an impassioned experience that will test the emotions and is a story that will linger with the reader long after the last page is turned.

Whispers in the Alders Details

Date : Published September 21st 2018 by Brown Posey Press (first published May 26th 2017)

ISBN :

Author : H.A. Callum

Format : Kindle Edition 310 pages

Genre :

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From Reader Review Whispers in the Alders for online ebook

Happy Booker says

Whispers in the Alders is an outstanding book written about a girl named Aubrey Worthington. Her parents move to this backdated, evil town called, Alders and that is where she meets a boy named Tommy. The story is told in the first person narrative and it does not take long to realize how badly both are suffering, individually.

Tommy and Aubrey become best friends. Aubrey realizes how mistreated this poor boy is. Tommy writes poems and shares some with Aubrey. He also is discriminated and abused by his own family. The town folk hates Aubrey's dad and that is transpired on to Aubrey as well. She also is considered to be a mistake and her family fails to understand her either.

What unfolds in this truly beautiful book is the bond of friendship. When everyone has turned their back on you and you feel absolutely alone, at an age where everything is questionable and you are still trying to figure yourself out, Aubrey and Tommy have each other.

I found the literature standard to be delightfully fulfilling. It has a hint of poetic writing, which I adore, making it very unique to read. There are sensitive topics such as sexual orientation, gender issues, faith and many more important matters teenagers face now and also back in the 1980's.

The novel is all about exposing the understanding of abuse, aiming for a better life such as a higher education, and accepting one's sexual identity. Although it may not be everyone's cup of tea, I would strongly recommend this book to people that love to read on sensitive topics and enjoy a heartfelt strong written book.

Drew says

When Aubrey Worthington and her parents first moved into the small town of Alder Ferry, she had few expectations other than it would be miserable. But soon she means Tommy, a young mistreated boy who will become her best friend. The two of them grow up, supporting each other through the trials and tragedies that befall them, all the while dreaming of getting out of Alder Ferry.

I could stop this review after a single sentence.

I am awed by Whispers in the Alders.

The quality of the language and imagery laid out in this book are incredible. Much like Tommy, Mr. Callum has the soul of a poet and this is reflected clearly in his descriptions. These descriptions may vary from the peaceful and serene beauty of the alder stand to the horrific brutality of Tommy's abuse, but they are always written in such a way as to allow the reader to form a fully realised image in their minds.

Told by an older Aubrey, as she thinks back on her earlier life and her memories of Tommy, we get to see the slow unfolding of their relationship. The story may proceed at a gentle pace but it never meanders; from their first meeting in the titular alders, the bond between the two unwanted and unloved teenagers is told in an authentic and convincing manner. He helps her cope with the knowledge that her parents view her as a mistake and that the town's hatred of her father is so easily transferred to her. We see her desire to help

Tommy when she learns some of his troubles, the fear and confusion as her actions have unintended consequences and her rage when Tommy is almost taken from her.

Due to the first person narrative, we learn less about Tommy, with the majority of what we discover coming as Aubrey learns about it herself. Most of the insight into his character comes from the dialogue during his interactions with Aubrey and the occasional pieces of his poetry that he allows her to read. He is carefully set up as perhaps the most hopeful and decent character in the novel, where virtually all the adult inhabitants of the town are variously cold, unforgiving, violent or self-serving. I will admit to occasionally wondering if anyone could retain the optimism Tommy does after the varied ill treatment he receives, but maybe that says more about me than the writing.

In summary, I would recommend this book to anyone who would appreciate lyrical storytelling, picturesque descriptiveness and a message that we can always rise above the circumstances the world puts us in. A strong contender for my favourite book of the year.

A strong contender for my favourite book of the year.

NB. I Received an advance copy of the novel in exchange for an honest review.

Roxie Prince says

Read this review and more on my blog at [Roxie Writes].

'Whispers in the Alders' by H.A. Callum

?????????? 5/5

Finished on May 7, 2017

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BOOK DESCRIPTION:

(I typically like to try and write my own descriptions for the books I review, but this book's synopsis is so beautifully written, that I had to include it here. I think it perfectly sets you up for the way this book is written and the journey it is going to take you on.)

Alder Ferry would have been just another nondescript suburb living in the shadow of its urban parent if not for one detail: the mysterious stand of alder trees anchoring the town to its past and standing as a reminder to the wilderness that once stood in its place.

In the shadows of the alders a boy named Tommy found refuge. There, an eclectic book collection was his only companion through a tumultuous childhood, serving as his escape from the brutal realities of his life. That was, until Aubrey appeared.

Born of different worlds, the alders become their escape while their unlikely friendship blossoms into a love that few people ever come to understand or enjoy—proving that true friendship is a romantic pursuit in its purest form.

Together they come of age in a town hostile to their friendship—a friendship that challenges the intersecting boundaries of class, gender and sexuality. Prejudice and privilege masquerade to destroy their dreams while class, gender and faith collide. All are tested as Tommy and Aubrey carry each other through their teen years and into adulthood. Whispers in the Alders is an impassioned experience that will test the emotions and is a story that will linger with the reader long after the last page is turned.

MY REVIEW:

I was given a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

If I could give this book ten stars, I would. This is a beautiful, poignant story about friendship and love in a painfully cruel world. Callum writes with an almost poetic style of prose that flows off the page and straight into your heart.

Aubrey moves to the town of Alder Ferry. Her father is the president of the town's central economic source, and when he starts killing off jobs, her family becomes the most hated in town. She's a social pariah, but she's used to it because this is what her dad does. But she makes an unlikely friend in Tommy, a boy who finds his solace in the copse of alders between their homes.

Both teens, although from vastly different backgrounds, suffer in quiet loneliness and deep pain. Together, they find a way to cope and survive life in Alder Ferry. Their love for one another love is in its purest sense, and it brought me to tears multiple times throughout this novel.

The relationship between these two teens is both heartbreaking and heartwarming. They have no one but each other, and as I read this, I found myself rooting for them both, but also becoming infuriated that the adults in their life failed them over and over again. Both Aubrey and Tommy are lovable and darling characters who deserve so much better than life gave them, Tommy in particular, and everyone in their lives failed them.

This is was the sort of story that, as a writer myself, made me want to become a better storyteller. It's so beautifully crafted and is such a human tale that it reaches inside you and clenches right at your soul. I have thought about this story every single day since finishing it, and I have no doubt it will stick with me long into the future.

E.L. Lindley says

Whispers in the Alders by W. A. Callum is an American based coming of age story. It is a thought provoking, lyrical novel that is permeated with an air of tragedy.

The novel is written in first person narrative from the point of view of Aubrey Worthington, the only child of an affluent couple. Due to the peripatetic nature of her father's job, Aubrey has spent her life moving around the country which has made it hard for her to fit in. She's a lonely, introspective girl until her arrival at Alder Ferry when she is thirteen. It is here that she forms a deep friendship with local boy, Tommy.

Callum uses his novel to raise lots of interesting ideas. Aubrey's father is the Vice President of a conglomerate that takes over companies, assimilating their contracts and ultimately making the workers redundant. Aubrey refers to her father as the "grim reaper". What's unusual is the way that we see how Stuart Worthington's job impacts upon his daughter who, along with her father becomes hated by the communities in which they live. The Worthingtons buy their first home in Alder Ferry, a grand colonial house which is ironic given the nature of Stuart's job. Although we sympathise with the concept of the workers losing their jobs Callum does not humanise them enough to allow us any perspective other than that of Aubrey.

Callum is obviously a skilled writer and his use of language is complex and dense. This is particularly the case when he describes the woods that are overlooked by Aubrey's house. The house is personified as "The Grand Old Lady" and her surroundings are presented as somewhat mystical. The trees that form the Alders

are given a life of their own, evoking both energy and a sense of peace that Aubrey has not known before.

The small town of Alder Ferry is also brought to life through Callum's language. The desolation of the town and lack of opportunity cements the Catholic Church as the centre of the community. The novel questions the way this power allows abuse within the church to be overlooked as people are afraid to challenge the Priest's authority and potentially lose the only sense of certainty that they have.

Alton "Tommy" Mackey is the heart of the novel. He is the grandson of Stuart Worthington's nemesis, Mike Genardo and Aubrey's only friend. Mike Genardo is the head of the union and a brutal drunk who subjects Tommy to a childhood defined by fear and loneliness. Tommy's only refuge is reading and writing poetry and despite little encouragement or education, he is a talented, intelligent boy who inspires Aubrey to embrace her own learning. Tommy struggles with his sexuality and it is only in adulthood that he is able to accept who he is and find some semblance of happiness.

The comparison between Tommy and Aubrey is stark and really brings home the inequality of an education system dependent on wealth. Aubrey's affluent background ensures that she goes to a good university despite the fact that it is Tommy who edits her work. Meanwhile Tommy is unable to fulfil his potential and has to join the Coast Guards in order to raise the money to pay for some classes at the community college.

If Tommy is the heart of the story then, for me, Aubrey is its Achilles heel. I really didn't like her and didn't fully understand whether I was supposed to. Initially I assumed that she was a purposefully unreliable witness to the events she was describing. Her childhood wasn't ideal with a driven, morally bankrupt father and functioning alcoholic mother but she presented as a whiney, self-obsessed voice. I felt that Callum had maybe chosen not to humanise the parents in order to depict the simplistic, self-involved way that children see life. However about two thirds of the way in it became clear that there was no ambiguity and they were in fact the monsters that Aubrey described as were most of the residents of Alder Ferry. I wonder if the story might have benefitted from a lighter touch and less of a sense that everything is in black and white.

As I have said Callum's skill as writer is never in any doubt, his use of language is extremely impressive. However, strangely I found that the complexity of the language sometimes got in the way of the narrative as it slowed everything down. None the less, this is a novel that is well worth reading as it raises so many relevant questions.

If you're looking for something that may not be an easy read but will certainly get you thinking then I recommend that you give this one a try.

Terry Tyler says

I received an review copy of this book from the author for an honest review.

This book was submitted to Rosie Amber's Book Review Team, of which I am a member. Interestingly, I didn't initially choose it as the genre and blurb didn't particularly appeal, but then I got talking to the author on Twitter (about something else entirely) and he asked me if I would take a review copy. I'm glad I did.

Whispers in the Alders is set in the small east US town of Alder Ferry, where young teenagers Aubrey (female) and Tommy both suffer loveless, cold childhoods. Aubrey's family are wealthy, whereas Tommy's are poorer, and his life is quite brutal. They meet in a wooded area behind Aubrey's family home, amongst the alders, a place that both of them feel is 'home'.

The book starts in the present, with Aubrey in Portland, Maine, as an adult; she has left her family and the prejudices of the small town long behind. It then goes back to her early teens, and the loneliness she feels. The books spans the period of this time until early adulthood, and follows the tragedies of her and Tommy's lives.

I'd class this book as literary fiction, as well as a contemporary 'coming of age' story. Much of the writing is beautiful; I read that Mr Callum is a poet, too, and this is evident, but it's not wordy for the sake of it. It's quite a dense sort of novel, with much description, and on occasion I felt it could have been trimmed down just a little, but that's just personal preference, and I certainly appreciated every line. The plot itself develops slowly, with some shocking outcomes (child abuse and homophobia, but nothing graphic), and it's perfectly plotted. It's a heartrending, lonely sort of book; I longed for Aubrey and Tommy to find happiness.

A hidden gem by an extremely talented writer, very American (which I liked), and one I definitely recommend.

Susan says

This was a beautifully tragic book. This was a love story between Aubrey and Anton, Bree and Tommy. This was a coming of age story but so much more. Please do not put it aside thinking that is all it is. Mr. Callum loved each and everyone of his characters, the good the bad and the ugly, and presented them to the reader to embrace. The story was so well laid out that the reader can almost imagine the author ending his writing day feeling a bit bittersweet as his story and characters grew. He held nothing back to in his writing and I frequently found myself rereading a paragraph or phrase, not because I had skimmed it the first time but because, just like the peace Bree and Tommy found in the alders, I felt the same in Mr. Callum's writing.

"Our rejection by everyone else drew us together. No matter what the people around us did to make us feel different towards one another, our compassion for each other's predicament prevent that split from occurring."

Isn't that the level of friendship everyone strives for? True understanding? Unbreakable acceptance? While this story is heartbreaking and beautiful, it does include some violence and child abuse. It was not included lightheartedly but should be noted for those that might be avoiding the subjects. However, despite these unpleasant topics, the book is well worth reading.

A copy of this book was provided by NetGalley and Sunbury Press, Inc, in exchange for an honest review.

C.M. Blackwood says

To put it simply, this is the best coming-of-age story I have ever read.

Let's begin with style. It's more than obvious that the author is also a poet; his exposition is intricate and sublime. I was talking about this book with a friend just after reading it, and thereby came up with a good comparison. Callum's prose is reminiscent of Edith Wharton's: full of the pain and tragedy of human existence, but rendered with an innate appreciation for the individual beauties offered by a broken world.

Now let's move on to subject matter. Aubrey Worthington is a teenager made prematurely cynical by a world that never seemed to want her. She is monetarily privileged but emotionally bankrupt. Until she meets Alton "Tommy" Mackay.

Imagine one of the worst literary childhoods you've ever read about – and then make that about ten times worse. That pretty much sums up Tommy's entrance into the world. He is the grandson of a worker at the factory that Aubrey's father is taking over, and logically, a friendship between the two teenagers should never take place.

But it does, and it's life-changing. I can't recall ever encountering a relationship exactly like this one. It's love as deep as love can be; and yet, it's love that can hardly be described. It's all-encompassing, but not in the "Romeo & Juliet" sense. You'd have to read it to understand it.

Not to give anything away, but the ending of the book perfectly emphasizes the entire narrative. The world is broken, but its beauties aren't few. This beauty doesn't heal – but it provides a clear channel for the navigation of our hearts and souls.

D. M. Newlun says

"The drifts formed and moved like waves animated in clay, seeming to have a purpose to the shapes they took and the directions they wandered."

From the beginning, the story swept me up and carried me along. I was entranced by H. A. Callum's poetic descriptions. He used his words to paint vivid images for his reader. Unlike other novels, I didn't feel bogged down in the description, rather I wanted to wade through the words and see this new world through Callum's eyes.

"Tommy and I had always made the vow to break the mold and live our lives on our terms regardless of the cost. And that is what I did."

By the fourth page, I had identified with Aubrey, the narrator of the story. This is a mark of how easily Callum draws you into his world. Throughout the rest of the book, I found myself in awe of Aubrey and the choices she faced. Aubrey made realistic decisions with realistic outcomes.

"Tommy went on, 'But it just happens, right? All your life you dream of getting out and exploring the world, but then life just grabs you by the foot and pulls you back in.'"

Throughout the novel, Callum used dialogue to show his characters in unique ways and to make us fall in love with them. Since the book is narrated by Aubrey, many of the dialogues between Aubrey and Tommy are the only clues we get to Tommy's worlds. The two aren't able to talk as often as they'd like, but each interaction gives us a glimpse of the kind and tender heart of Tommy.

Personally, I would have loved more interactions between Aubrey and Tommy. A few scenes explained how they continued to talk to one another, and I wish Callum had expanded those scenes with more dialogue. I think it would have anchored their relationship for me.

As much as I can identify with the characters, I can also recognize Alder Ferry. It may very well be unique in its location and setting, but the town's mindset is very much alive across the United States. Many readers will

recognize the town mentality and shudder to think what or who is falling through the cracks at this moment in time in their own chunk of the world.

I will be recommending this novel to all my fellow readers, and I look forward to seeing what this talented author has in store for us in the future.

Note: I received an advance review copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jaylene Jacobus says

"I looked into the trees then at the catkins bisecting my palm. I knew what I had to do. The trees were calling. Soon they would make my acquaintance."

Like Aubrey, the trees in Alder Ferry called to me, and I soon made their acquaintance. That acquaintance grew into a deep love for the alders and for their keepers, Tommy and Aubrey. Falling in love with trees and fictional characters is a sure sign of an outstanding novel. Whispers in the Alders is a compelling piece of literature for many reasons. The beauty of the book lies within the love and loyalty of an unwavering friendship. The friendship between Tommy and Aubrey made me laugh, it made me cry, and above all, it continues to haunt me with the need for social change.

There is no short way to fully express the layers of intricacies weaved throughout this coming of age story. Those layers depict the hypocrisies and injustices of modern times. The story explores courage, convictions, and examines love at its purest form. In summary, Whispers in the Alders is in 2017 what To Kill a Mockingbird was in 1960, a great American novel that challenges societal comforts.

L. S. says

I'm having such a crisis trying to figure out where to begin with Whispers in the Alders.

It went from 0 to 60 in no time flat.

Aubrey Worthington, daughter of a company bigwig, spends life moving from place to place. Until Alder Ferry. There she meets a young boy named Tommy, and initiates an unlikely friendship. Not an easy one, either. And I will tell you right now that it does not go where you think it goes.

Okay, tone. Let me start with the narrator's (Aubrey) voice. In the beginning, it's full of whimsy. And longing. It's full of imagery and the like. Because of this, it opens rather slow. That's okay, though, because once it gets going, it doesn't stop. The deeper into it you get, the less whimsical it feels. Right along with Aubrey's character development from teen to adult. Watching her shed the naivety of adulthood is such an emotional process. Even the minor characters took on their own, unique journeys. Through Aubrey's telling, they come alive. Characterization was different for everyone. They were easy to tell apart, with their own voice.

The pacing of the story was great. Not too long or short, but plenty of time to get to know the characters. Enough time to develop an emotional tie with them. Backgrounds and character traits aren't given immediately upon introduction. We get to know the character in pieces so they're easier to identify with. We

follow along on their journey of self-discovery and identity. The writing style fits well into how the narrative progresses. The author makes excellent use of tension and suspense. Coupled with plenty of twists, this novel has more drama than an episode of Grey's Anatomy.

I finished with only one or two questions. Everything else ties up with a nice little bow. With the opportunity for many stereotypes, this novel tends to bypass most. It makes use of the "broken family" trope, but in a way that's necessary. Even still, it doesn't feel like the same old story. It ditches the gritty atmosphere for a warmhearted one, despite the events that occur.

Whisper in the Alders was nowhere near what I expected. It was so much better. It was worth the emotional distress I went through while reading at work. The farther into I got, the harder it was to put down. A literary representation of #relationshipgoals to the letter.

Kaila says

I honestly had no clue what I was going into with this story but I'm really glad I chose to review it because this was amazing. Heartbreaking in so many ways... and heart wrenchingly beautiful in so many other ways.. This is about 2 teens so i believe it is YA.. but the things they go through are so very adult and so sad in some ways and so happy in others.. I loved watching these two grow up together.. be who they needed to be together.. love.. learn.. sadness and happiness.. all of it.. and they only had each other so they fought to be together. it was wonderful and im so glad i got to review it

Leigh Holland says

Whispers In The Alders by H. A. Callum, Kindle Edition, May 26th 2017, Genre: Coming of Age, LGBT Fiction. Warning: May Contain Spoilers. Note: I received an ARC copy in exchange for my honest review.

Whispers In The Alders is an emotionally evocative coming of age tale. H. A. Callum has proven himself to be a powerful storyteller. I wasn't sure what to expect when I began reading this book. As the story progressed, I began forming expectations, yet those were dashed as the unexpected occurred at each major point in the tale. Despite this, I was delighted and moved by this gem of a story.

Written in first person style, we relive the journey of tortured teen Aubrey Worthington, the only child of the man brought in to eventually lay everyone off and shut down the town's factory. Most of the town despises Aubrey and her family. A functional alcoholic from a wealthy family, her mother is cold and distant. She wishes deep down she'd never become pregnant with Aubrey or been coerced into marrying Aubrey's father. Aubrey's father never would've landed his high status job had he not been married to Aubrey's mother. He is a workaholic, more concerned with appearances than reality. Aubrey's worst fear is falling prey to the cycle of broken dreams prevalent in the town and being trapped in Alder's Ferry with her uncaring parents for the rest of her life. Aubrey's life changes when she discovers the Alder Stand behind her new home and the boy Tommy who makes it his sanctuary. Neither of these children deserve the abuse they receive from the families who are supposed to love and support them. While most people could never imagine some of the things they must endure, these horrible events don't turn them into jaded, hateful people. Tommy and Aubrey have each other to lean on and confide in. Their friendship is a beautiful expression of love, the "honest affection" they'd been "missing all their lives". Although I hoped for the best for these characters, world-shattering events conspired against one of them in the end.

My favorite thing about this book is the way Callum gives each character, no matter how minor, a unique voice. The characters are complex. When Mrs. K does wrong, we wonder if we would've made the same

choices. She's not evil, merely frail and human. Although the tale begins with quite a bit of narration, once past this point the story's pace picks up considerably and remains steady throughout. While character-driven, this novel provides numerous plot complications and a mystery for the reader to enjoy. Strongly moving, it tugs on the heartstrings.

I relished reading Whispers In The Alders. I'd recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys moving, coming of age stories.

C.M. Turner says

"He looked up at me, and from behind his coy smile, he said, 'My name's Tommy.' And that was where we started."

Thus begins the story of Tommy and Aubrey, two discarded and lonely teenagers trapped in the unforgiving town of Alder Ferry. There, they face the insurmountable odds of a town filled with embittered, cold-blooded citizens, who mirror the same antiquated, outdated attitudes as the institutions that failed to protect them.

Alder Ferry is a town not unlike others in the northeast. With the Lowanachen River flowing to one side, it's nestled between a blue collar city to the south and smaller, wealthier towns with expensive neighborhoods to the north. As the Worthington family car makes its way down the gravel road that leads into a two-track dirt road, thirteen-year-old Aubrey gets her first glance at the Grand Old Lady, the house purchased by her father to surprise her mother - and the Alder stand. It is these trees that become her home for the next six years until leaving for college.

With nowhere else to turn but to each other, the two escape the dysfunction of complicated home lives, and the brutality of a town, by finding sanctity inside an ancient stand of trees, their catkins becoming the symbol of love everlasting, in this masterfully written and heartfelt book.

No matter who you are, you cannot help but see glimpses of yourself in these characters, either as a teenager now, or thinking back to a time when you were - you will feel utter empathy as you follow their compelling story.

"Whispers in the Alders" is a book that will stay with you long after you finish it and one not easily put down even then. H. A. Callum has managed to create an inner world of mystique and love, inside a harsher, more realistic one of detachment, detriment, and disharmony imposed by the angered and resentful denizens of Alder Ferry. To say the two are about to collide is a gross understatement, that can only be read to be fully appreciated.

I give this book the highest recommendation possible . It has it all! A unique and unforgettable love story – played out against the turbulent background of a town's dying infrastructure, as seen through the author's excellent portrayal of a declining church and collapsing industrial factory.

I loved this book and when I was reading it, the author made me feel as though I lived in the town with Tommy and Aubrey and was experiencing all of it right along with them. I cannot wait to see what is coming next from H. A. Callum, such an amazing and talented author. I hope we won't have to wait too long.

C.M. Turner

Tooter says

So beautifully written.

Felicia says

"We came from different worlds, but here we were misery enjoying company. Our common suffering at home was the bridge that gapped the social distance between us. In the end, we were both two misbegotten children thrown to parents who could have cared less about us, except for the fact that we had had the audacity to circumvent the plans they imagined for their lives."

Are you kidding me? Who writes like that?

This book is To Kill a Mockingbird for a new generation.

Yep. I said it.

There's only one difference, H.A. Callum is a far superior writer.

Yep. I said that, too.

Simply said, this coming of age story is a work of art. Perhaps that is due to the fact Callum is not only a novelist but a poet as well. With his breathtakingly eloquent, and yes, poetic prose, he has breathed life into the pages of this story the likes of which most writers failingly strive their entire lives to achieve.

This book is as beautiful as it is tragic, featuring a pair of teenagers, Aubrey and Tommy, from different sides of the tracks that develop a relationship that not only transcends the insurmountable obstacles they both face, but it propels them to find a way to escape their circumstances, with each finding strength in the other that they never knew they had and most likely would have never found without the other.

This story is so exquisitely written that I found myself pausing to re-read many passages, multiple times in fact, until I had them committed to memory, in complete awe of the emotions the author was able to draw from me with only a few words, placed perfectly in a sequence that left me breathless.

Here's one of my favorite passages as relayed by Aubrey while Tommy reads her a poem he wrote:

"His eyes were the lungs to his soul; they breathed in each word and brought life to them as they danced across his lips."

If that's not sigh worthy then I must be ignorant of the definition.

I strongly recommend this book as it is a master class in mellifluousness the likes of which one rarely comes across, if ever.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.
