



## **I'll Always Be with You**

*Violetta Armour*

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Since the horrific night a drunk driver slammed into their car during his driving lesson, young Teddy has had to live with the memory of seeing his beloved father, Stan, die. Now just sixteen, he carries both sorrow and survivor's guilt.

Concerned for her grieving son, Mary decides to put as much distance as she can between Teddy and the nightmarish Phoenix intersection that claimed Stan's life. She moves the family to Stan's small Indiana hometown, a place of peace in which she hopes they can build new memories. There, Teddy finds inspiration in an old book his great-grandfather carried with him to America, a book Bulgarian fathers have always read to their sons.

*Is Stan reaching out to his son from the grave?*

Mary also makes an equally life-changing discovery in the small town—Rosetta, Stan's high school sweetheart. The deeper Mary digs, the more she learns of the forbidden love Stan and Rosetta shared. During the Civil Rights Movement, they dared to reach out for love across racial lines.

Now as their three lives intertwine, Teddy, Mary, and Rosetta must make difficult choices. Will they choose happiness? Or will old pains cause them to live as victims of circumstances?

Beginning in 1912 on Ellis Island and told in three voices over four generations, *I'll Always Be with You* is a profound celebration of the power of family.

## **I'll Always Be with You Details**

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Author : Violetta Armour

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# From Reader Review I'll Always Be with You for online ebook

## Reader Views says

### I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

Violetta Armour

iUniverse (2015)

ISBN 9781491768303

Reviewed by Sheri Hoyte for Reader Views (02/15)

I heard somewhere that you can tell whether a book is good or not from the first sentence, and the first sentence in "I'll Always Be with You" by Violetta Armour absolutely blew me away. I knew immediately I was its hostage, and in fact, I never put the book down until I finished the very last sentence.

Sixteen-year-old Teddy has to live with the memory and guilt of the death of his father, Stan, as the result of a fatal auto accident. The entire family is struggling with the loss, but Mary is especially concerned for her son Teddy, who feels he is at fault. Mary intends to put as much distance between her family and the fatal intersection that will always be a painful reminder of what happened, by moving to Stan's small hometown in Indiana, to be with his mother, Baba, and the rest of the family.

Living in the childhood home of their father, surrounded with love from Baba and his Uncle Dan, Teddy begins the slow process of healing. One day in Baba's attic Teddy finds an old book his great-grandfather carried with him to America. Baba tells him it is a book that Bulgarian fathers have always read to their sons, and Teddy finds inspiration in reading the book, it almost seems like his father is talking to him through the pages.

While Teddy is on his journey of healing and rediscovery, Mary is also finding her way, and gets a job in the local bookstore. There she meets several people who knew Stan, including Rosetta, who Mary discovers was secretly Stan's high school sweetheart. Mary learns of the forbidden love Stan and Rosetta shared during the Civil Rights Movement, and how they dared to reach out for love across racial lines. Now, as the events of the past unfold and lives intertwine, difficult choices must be made. Can Mary and Rosetta rise above the events leading up to these moments and choose happiness for their families, or will they dwell in the past?

The story is told in the alternating voices of Teddy, Mary and Rosetta, with the background story of Stan and Rosetta in the middle. Told in this manner, the story becomes even more profound as the reader is invited directly into the minds and hearts of each character, almost like reading three separate stories, which indeed, is the case. It is a well-written, well-told heartfelt saga, with references to some of the most important events in American history that shaped the world as we know it today. The author has a wonderful storytelling gift and I eagerly connected with each of the characters, celebrating their highs moments and being empathetic to their struggles as they dealt with and pushed through their grief.

"I'll Always Be with You" is an inspiring tale of love, loss and renewal and reads much like a story from a seasoned author, which is why I highly recommend this story from debut author, Violetta Armour. If this is the kind of work she puts out on her first go-round, I can't wait to see what she has in store next!

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## **Mommaleena says**

I'll Always Be With You by Violetta Armour

- Tragedy

What a beautiful but painful story! We all have our own tragedies regardless of what caused them. It's what we do AFTER the tragedy that matters! What would you do after your spouse died? Whether you had 3 children like Mary in this story or its just you...I'm honestly not sure if have the same courage as the characters within this story. Be prepared with some tissues, but it's an amazing story. The grief, love, friendships, caring ... Violetta Armour made you feel like you were right there with her characters. I loved it and plan to see what else this author has out there. ARC received from Netgalley for an honest voluntary review.

Favorite Passages ~

- Every failure is a blessing in disguise.
- Life is a gift, but only if we open it.
- Without hope, there is no life.
- "No good deed goes unnoticed."
- A coin left on a headstone is a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else paid respect. A penny means you visited. A nickel means you and the deceased trained at boot camp together. A dime means you served with him in some way. A quarter means you were with the soldier when he was killed."
- Summers are hot, but you know, you never have to shovel sunshine."
- 'No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.'

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## **Cindy Bokash says**

FANTASTIC. Great insight to the characters, their thoughts, feelings and growth. An entertaining, exciting page turner. A heart-warming story with great attention to detail. Loved it. A great story for any age. I liked the bonus of Baba's recipes.

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## **H.A. Leuschel says**

This was a beautiful and very gentle book about grief and survivor's guilt. The author does a great job in conveying the moods and desperate state of mind that the characters are going through. The topic is handled with empathy and care.

Despite the sadness about losing a loved one in a most tragic way, what transpires as a healing force is the idea that love and friendship can carry people back into a life worth living, a life where the memories are not forgotten but new beginnings can mean that the only way forward is to accept that pain cannot and should not be ignored and that many people are willing to share the burden.

I particularly liked young Teddy as he was a believable and lovable character and the hidden secret his mother discovers about her late husband's former high school sweetheart was intriguing and added depth to the overall story.

If you are looking for a read that offers a realistic look at the process of grieving as well as an interesting twist, this is a good choice.

Big thank you to the author for a copy of her book in exchange for an honest review.

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## Aimee Ann says

*I'll Always Be with You* is a read that kept me engrossed enthralled and enchanted until the very last page. This book is a charming, but a very sad book that made me feel a host of different emotions; it was simply phenomenal and very addictive. I struggled to put this novel down thanks to the novels engrossing literature and astonishing characters. All of these factors combined make *I'll Always Be with You* a memorable, incredible, breath-taking read that made me fall in love with literature all over again. These reasons listed above and so many more I am yet to list, is why I recommend that all of you lovely book readers read *I'll Always Be with You*, I promise you now that you will not be disappointed if you choose to read this book; never before have I read anything quite so brilliant so please, I urge all of you to read and immerse yourself in this wonderful book! If you need more convincing then read the rest of my review to hear more about this poignant piece of literature.

The synopsis of *I'll Always Be with You* is gripping, glorious, and let's not forget breath-taking. The novel has a plot that has kept me intrigued and in love from beginning to end; one thing is for certain when you read this brilliant book and that is you will never be bored reading because it is a diverse all-consuming assault of brilliance that will keep you motivated to read until the very end, it is like the author has a binding spell on you and the only way to break this spell is to fully immerse yourself in the novels layers upon layers of excellence and brilliance.

The story of *I'll Always Be with You* is an incredibly dynamic, special piece of work that took my breath away on more than one occasion, the pacing of this story was wonderfully written and plotted so that I did not get bored at any given time. I always measure my likeness of a book on whether I find myself looking at the page number; if I do in fact do this I know that the novel is taking its toll... in other words it is dragging and I want it to end but *I'll Always Be with You* was different than this and not like this at all as never once did I find myself referring to the page number and that is a sure sign that this book is a compelling piece of work that draws the reader in and captivates them to read it quickly and to reach the end of the book very fast.

The author of the novel Violetta Armour can only be described as a literary artisan. Writing for me is an art form, it is much of an art as beautiful renaissance sculptures (I have a passion for reading as well as the renaissance period!), paintings and wonderfully executed movies that excite the viewer. The objective of any great writer is that of any kind of artist; it is to communicate a message and to delight the recipient whether that be the listener, the viewer or the reader... in this case the reader. Armour has wonderfully delighted me and has communicated the novel's message to me soundly and perfectly. This is why I am in such awe of Armour she is a creative genius and a visionary thinker that is also passionate and articulate and this, in my opinion, is a hard balance to find these days in the art of literature.

Armour's writing was radiant, the words from her visionary thinking mind shone of the page luminous that I felt a glow of pure enjoyment from reading this engrossing book. It is the type of book that the reader will want to read over and over again so that he and/or she can pick up new details to fully immerse themselves in the brilliant world of *I'll Always Be with You*.

To summarize my thoughts on the beautiful novel that is *I'll Always Be with You* I would say if you are a reader who is tired of reading the same old books that are lacklustre and forgettable then take a chance with this magnificent book because I promise you now that you will not be disappointed. It is a novel that has

everything the reader would want in a read and so much more; it has spine-tingling good content, dynamic, memorable characters, a charismatic author that writes beautifully and wonderfully so and lastly it is an all-around, interesting, memorable read that you will not be disappointed if you choose to read it. My rating for this wonderful book, of course, has to be Five Stars, it would be crazy if I did not give it this rating after all of my praise over these paragraphs!

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### **Michelle says**

A tragedy rocks these fictional characters to their core, and this very talented author is able to show us the different perspectives and how the tragedy impacts each character differently. After a parental death occurs by an accident, the son left behind feels responsible for his father's death. The book immediately gives the reader insight into what tends to happen right after the death of a loved one. Author Violetta Armour delicately intertwines the different emotions each character feels individually as a reaction to the devastating loss they are all suffering from together. She accurately portrays grief triggers and how the household dynamics tend to change after a parental death. This book is a gift to be treasured and is highly recommended to be used as a tool for any teen experiencing parental death, especially if the grieving teen feels responsible. I also highly recommend that teachers, counselors, librarians, and family members use this book as a tool to help grieving children, teens, and families who may be struggling with a parental death situation. Bravo to this amazing author who nailed grief from parental death in a compassionate and realistic way to where all readers can relate to.

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### **Kathy Carroll says**

This book is great! I just finished Part 1, and I can't wait to continue! I am really impressed, Violet!

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### **Sandra (Crandomblog) says**

Every once in a while, you stumble across something that takes your breath away. A story that needs telling, a lesson that needs to be learned, and a friend that just knows that you need them even when you have said nothing. What if I told you that you can get all three of those just by picking up a single book? This year has been hard for me on so many levels. My daughter is growing up quicker than I could ever imagine, every day is like she learns a new thing (though some days it seems like she learns ten!). My baby isn't really a baby anymore, those days are slipping away quickly. She turns one in less than a month! This year has also been full of death and heartache. I lost my Uncle and a good high school friend this year, in the first month of 2016. I was filled with regrets about each, due to me being anxiety ridden and semi(haha, who am I joking) antisocial my baby girl never got to meet either of them. That still nags the heck out of me, even though I know they are probably watching us right now.

Anyways, I am digressing from the point of this post and I really don't want to talk about anything too in depth about my personal life at the moment. I was sent a copy of this book for review consideration and I have read it not once, not twice, but THREE times over the course of the past few months. It tells the story of both a mother and a son in the aftermath of the husband/father dying in a car accident. It hits so close to home in a few ways, ways I am sure everyone can relate to. It is human nature for human's to blame themselves for stuff that happens, especially the bad stuff. Remember that time something bad happened and

in the aftermath it seemed preventable? Like it was something you should have seen coming and magically stopped it from happening? I know you do, all humans have those moments. I have had them myself.

This story is written in the perspective of three different people. It is an amazing tale of pain, love, forgiving (other people and yourself), family, growing up, getting to know yourself, and even so many more things that I can't really list or else it would go on forever. This is a story that I can't really fit into a genre other than Fiction, and it's AMAZING fiction at that. This is a book that I find myself going to every time I feel down or alone, every time that I find myself struggling with grieving and every time that I find myself feeling up for a well written story. It is extremely uplifting from the beginning all the way to the end. While I was left wanting to know more about what happened to the characters, the ending is still very satisfying. I recommend this book to anyone and everyone. It is full of twist and surprises and deals with many of lives lessons.

I received this novel in exchange for my honest and unbiased review. All opinions expressed are genuine, truthful and impartial.

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### **Rachelle says**

Definitely a emotional rollercoaster, but a must read, especially anyone going through a similar situation!

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### **Jackie says**

There are weavings of many facets of love with easily written prose for a swift read.

Our lives have twists and turns, some of them defining moments of change. We need to heed which changes are for our good and embrace them. Others we need to walk away in hopes that in the future we will also see their good.

And remember a quote from this book to center your direction: "Life Is A Gift".

The characters of this story have lives that intertwine and become richer for the circumstances that they all have had to overcome.

You may shed a tear, you will find yourself smiling and then you will tell your friends to pick up a copy and read it for themselves.

Thank you friend Vy for bringing back memories of my European heritage.

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### **John says**

Review available on Foreword Reviews.

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### **Sandra Stiles says**

: I received a copy to facilitate my review. The opinions expressed here are my own.

If you are looking for a great book, one that will tug at your heartstrings then look no further. This is a story



that could have been ripped right out of the headlines. It is told through three points of view. First we have Teddy, the son and survivor of a horrible accident. He is dealing with survivor's guilt because he was at the wheel when a drunk driver hit them killing his father. Then we have his mother Mary who is trying to hold it all together for the sake of her three children, help her son "deal" with the accident while feeling she is being guided by her husband to make decisions that will affect them all. Finally there is Rosetta, the girlfriend from the past, a past that frowned on blacks and whites dating. All three of them deal with grief in their own way. There are several things I found amusing. Whenever Teddy comes upon a situation he immediately sees a headline. His first friend is a girl he has to share a locker with. Mindy is very unusual. She had one best friend who moved away. She remembers the weirdest, random facts and they seem to pop out at the most inopportune times. But Mindy really was a character I loved.

The author did a great job of showing realistically how death can tear a family apart, while at the same time showing that it doesn't mean we lose our memories of the one who died. She also showed the process that grief takes and how it is different for each person. The steps to getting back on their feet and learning to live life again was so realistic. I have only one warning for you. Do NOT go into this book without a box of tissues. This is a great way to start off my new year of reading. Definitely a book I will recommend to everyone. There are life lessons for all. It is such a clean read that I believe it is a book I will put on my shelves at school, because it seems every year I find one student who experiences a death in their family and maybe what they learn by reading Teddy's side of the story will help them.

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### **Firecooked says**

A truly wonderful and heartwarming story about overcoming grief, injustice, and living life. Very good discussion material for book clubs, in addition to the coming of age story, there is a very good thread on racial divides in the 60's. Highly recommended for both teens and adults.

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### **Rebecca Chiffelle says**

One of my all time favorite fiction books <3

It's a sweet, easy read. Not too sad, not too cheesy, just a nice lifelike outlook on a tragedy, with a really wonderful take on recovery, and the importance of life, family and friends.

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### **Christine Gorospe says**

I was able to receive a free e-book in exchange for my honest review from the author herself, Ms. Violetta Armour thru Bostick Communications.

To start this review, I must say I didn't regret every single tears and minutes I shed and spent on this book and if there's one thought, one value, one take-away that I had learned and gained from the story, above all, it is the importance and essence of life. To directly quote it, "Life is a gift." We often take for granted the moments and the time that we have with our loved-ones thinking that we still have much time left to spend with them and only when they're gone, that we can truly appreciate the chances that we should have taken while they're alive - and the story of this book, through the thoughts of the characters, made the readers

realize that value itself.

I love how the author presented a different approach on introducing the characters in the story. As contrary to the usual notion of being narrated single-handedly, It was narrated from three point of views of the main characters who gradually acquaint themselves to the readers by showcasing their thoughts, strengths, and weaknesses which were all became apparent through the flow of the story.

At the end of it, I became so involved and engrossed in the storyline that I don't want to put it down. But as what they say, All good things must come to an end and this is definitely one of them.

Thank you Ms. Violetta for the chance and for taking me back to the old generations. I know, it will only be a matter of time before the reading community get wind of this.

Suggestion: I hope the cover and the design of the book justify the story! Please make it more engaging so the readers 'won't judge the story by its cover.' But other than that, It's amazing! Congratulations!!

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