



Crash Into Me

Albert Borris

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Owen, Frank, Audrey, and Jin-Ae have one thing in common: they all want to die. When they meet online after each attempts suicide and fails, the four teens make a deadly pact: they will escape together on a summer road trip to visit the sites of celebrity suicides...and at their final destination, they will all end their lives. As they drive cross-country, bonding over their dark impulses, sharing their deepest secrets and desires, living it up, hooking up, and becoming true friends, each must decide whether life is worth living--or if there's no turning back. *Crash Into Me* puts readers in the driver's seat with four teens teetering on the edge of suicide. But will their cross country odyssey push them all the way over? Only the final page turn will tell, in Albert Borris's finely-crafted tale of friendship forged from a desperate need of connection.

Crash Into Me Details

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Author : Albert Borris

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From Reader Review Crash Into Me for online ebook

♥ Sarah says

2.5 - 3 stars

Four suicidal teens who meet online, decide to go on a road trip and visit the graves of famous people that committed suicide. Their last stop: Death Valley, where they'll kill themselves.

Doesn't that sound like one hell of a plot? I was instantly drawn to the original, bleak, morbid, depressing description of the book. I mean, 4 suicidal teens going on a road trip? I was hoping for one hell of an emotional rollercoaster.

Alas, the emotional content was *painfully* lacking. I didn't really like the narrator, Owen. It would've been better if there were multiple POVs like *Pieces of Us*. I was bored at times. Their pain just didn't feel real enough for me (I probably sound like an insensitive jerk, but it is true). Their "issues" really seemed like normal teenage complaints, and did not sound genuine. And I don't know why but Audrey bugged the hell out of me. She was constantly calling out Jin-Ae for being a "drama queen" yet she was the one lying. I guess I wanted something a bit more serious and bleak. Also, the little romance between Owen & Audrey was **TOTALLY** unnecessary. The whole thing was kind of ruined for me because of that. It just felt kind of forced and inappropriate for a suicide book. Or not, but I just really wasn't feeling it.

I'm not sure if I actually expected the group to go through with their suicides. Maybe I expected a hugely poignant climax or some kind of life-changing epiphany or a huge emotional kick in the gut. What I did end up with was a very predictable, anticlimactic and abrupt ending. It just fell flat for me mid-way; too much background noise (about celebrity suicides & useless factoids). Not enough meat for me to truly empathize with any of the characters. A serious disappointment, because there was so much potential.

Haley Thompson says

I read the book Crash into me, because I was at the half priced book store and was looking for a book to read an I picked up this book and read the back and I know I had to get it because it had me hooked from the time I picked it up to the time I put it down 6 days later.

At the beginning it kind of felt like I shouldn't be reading it because it is about suicide but it was a very good book. And I read it the whole time on the plane ,4 hours 30 minutes, to Boston, Massachusetts from Dallas, Texas.

I think anybody who enjoys a good fiction book ought to read Crash into Me.

Cory says

Warning: This morning I was feeling kind of bad because lately, I've given a lot of books really low ratings. Then it came to me -- I didn't write these stupid books, why should I feel afraid to give my honest opinion? Therefore, if you like this book, I'll advise you not to read this review because I'm going to be as honest as I can.

Crash into Me is the second book I've read that deals with teen suicide. The first was Thirteen Reasons Why. Crash into Me had potential, but ultimately it failed.

It revolves around four teens who plan to commit suicide after taking a road trip across the USA to visit the graves of their favorite celebrities that committed suicide. Their trip will end in Death Valley where they will end their lives.

(view spoiler)

This book reads like something off of FictionPress.com, that site where teens get together and pore out all the angst that won't fit into their fanfictions. Every time the chat speak would come up, I'd skim until it was over. It read kind of like this:

Audrey: i luv nirvana. me n kurt 4ever

Jin-Ea: im a smart lesbian. i hate my parents.

Frank: im an alcoholic loser n i like sports a lot...i wanna die

Owen: im lonely

The Characters

Our narrator is Owen, a lonely emo kid who watched his fourteen-year-old brother die when he was seven. Then he tried to kill himself by jumping in front of a car. That's pretty much Owen's personality right there. Yep, he doesn't have one. Owen's narration is kind of boring. There is no word to describe his personality. He has no hobbies. The only thing he likes to do is memorize statistics about suicide.

Audrey is a compulsive liar, and she's obsessed with Nirvana -- well not really, just Kurt Cobain. Apparently, the rest of the band doesn't matter. She's tried to kill herself by jumping off a building, and hitting herself over the head with a frying pan.

(view spoiler)

Jin-Ea is Korean, smart, and a lesbian. She hates herself because she is a lesbian. I never for a second believed that she was actually gay. That might be because she lacks a personality outside of being Korean and smart, but truth be told, I think she was just pretending to be gay because she wanted to get on her parents nerves. Her entire plot line revolves around being ashamed of gay. And she never accepts being gay.

But she's my favorite character, which is kinda sad because her development is so poor.

Frank is my least favorite character. He whines about being athletic, he whines about being an alcoholic, and he whines about how much he hates his father. Out of everyone, I felt the least pity for him. Also, I suspect Frank, or the author, is somewhat racist. There were a few comments about black people in this book that rubbed me the wrong way.

The Plot

There is nothing more to the plot that isn't on the book jacket. The characters whine about how hard life is for 300 hundred pages, they visit graves, they make-out, then they decide that life is worth living after all.

Nothing annoyed me more than when they started talking about their suicide attempts. None of them, except for Owen, had a justified reason for wanting to die. They wanted attention, nothing more. And Owen is a selfish jerk.

(view spoiler)

Every time they started whining I wanted them to hurry up and get to Death Valley. When you have me rooting for your characters to finish their suicide pledges, you know something is wrong. There are flawed realistic characters, and then there are whiny annoying characters.

Also, I hate the way depression is glossed over. Apparently sex, alcohol, and drugs can cure anything!

The Writing Style

Chat speak doesn't do it for me. Neither does spending an entire book in Owen's head.

The Pretentiousness

I hate when authors make their characters so special and so smart. Does the average teenager quote Hemingway and Sylvia Plath? No. Your characters act like morons, why are you trying to tell me they're geniuses? This worked in Looking for Alaska, but not here.

The Pacing

If I'm skimming 2/5ths of the way through, you know you've got something horrible on your hands.

The Conclusion

Do not, I repeat **do not**, recommend this book to anyone who has tried to commit suicide. These characters are flat and one dimensional. The plot is predictable. You'll only succeed in making them feel worse.

A much better book that deals with suicide is Thirteen Reasons Why. Hannah might be selfish, but the book is a good read. A better book about a group of friends is Looking for Alaska. And a better book that features

a girl that tried to kill herself to get attention is The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Lauren Ashley for TeensReadToo.com

Owen blames himself for something he can't change. After a few suicide attempts, he meets Jin-Ae, Frank, and Audrey online and they form a bond, a friendship, a pact. The four of them set out on a road trip to visit the graves of several suicide victims, such as Kurt Cobain in Seattle.

At the end, they promise to all kill themselves in Death Valley, California. But during the trip, what will change? Will Owen find the happiness he yearns to have?

CRASH INTO ME is a very intense and emotional debut from Albert Borris.

Owen is a sweet kid who is just trying to make his way through life but thinks he has nobody to turn to. This starts to change as he meets the three other teens, especially Audrey, who becomes his very first girlfriend.

One of the things that I enjoyed about this novel was that you could relate to the teens' feelings of worthlessness and unhappiness - even if yours never amounted to the same amount of pain.

This is one of those books that reads fast, with a slightly predictable ending, but is still worth reading. I thought I understood these kids from the beginning and the story they had to tell, but CRASH INTO ME proves that wrong.

Owen's life, especially, reveals a twist near the end that has you understanding him even more.

Sesana says

Four suicidal teens decide to go on a road trip. They'll tour the graves of famous people who killed themselves, then commit suicide as a group in Death Valley. Sound tense? It certainly can be.

But the pacing is so very slow. Considering how important the suicide grave tour seems to be in the blurb, and at the beginning of the story, most of the book takes place in between. This is not necessarily bad, because some of the best moments in the book happen in those in between places. But it does mean that the hook gets lost, and that's a shame.

This is one book where I do wish that the author had gone with multiple POVs. I would have loved to have seen into the heads of the other characters, and I think it would have kept the story from dragging. Because for me, I think the POV character, Owen, was one of the less interesting ones in the book. I especially would have loved to have seen what exactly was going on in Audrey's head, since she baffled me as a character throughout. I'm left, at the end of the book, wondering what exactly she wanted and expected to happen going into this. But that's just one of the many open questions left at the end of the book.

It certainly isn't a bad book, though. I think a lot of the conversations and reactions the characters had were genuine, even if the situation as a whole isn't exactly the most believable. The ending probably won't surprise anyone, at least not once they get there, and there are plenty of loose ends for these characters. Satisfying enough of an ending, though.

Also reviewed at Shelf Inflicted.

Ashley says

Wow, okay. So I found this thing online about trying to read books out of your interest zone. One of the suggestions was to pick a book based solely on a cover that you would otherwise not read. Don't look at the summary - just pick a book and go for it. I'd been reading a bunch of depressing contemporary YA (often suicide-related), and I picked this because the cover makes it look like a corny romance with the brooding bad boy and the shy girl. It is a silly trope that I don't normally go for, so I thought it was appropriately out of my interest zone to give it a shot and ~expand my horizons.~

After checking the book out from the library I read the summary and lo! it's a book about four teens going on a suicide trip. Not so far out of my comfort zone. I decided to read it anyway even though it didn't fit the little challenge I was going for, and a well-written YA book on depression and suicide tends to speak to me.

This book didn't speak to me. I hated all four characters. They were all annoying caricatures, and pretty much every moment any of them spoke was insufferable. The bits of internet chat sprinkled throughout were obnoxious. The plot meandered along at a really boring pace (and it was all so redundant - they go a place, talk about suicide, Frank gets drunk, they go another place, rinse and repeat). There were little sparks of interesting things (mainly the stuff about Owen's brother), but they were few and far between.

It took me ages to finally finish this book, but I am stubborn and refused to give up. The ending was so cheesy, but I didn't even care at that point because I was so ready to be over it.

I feel badly about this rating, but man, this book just really did not work for me.

Tammy Dahle says

My thoughts:

Is life worth living in spite of the pain? That is the question that I believe is asked and answered during this journey. Owen, Jin-Ae, Frank and Audry have formed an unusual bond. They met in an online "suicide" chat room and they all desperately want to end their lives.

This story is narrated by Owen-the quiet, observant one of the group. Besides Owen, the group includes Frank who has a drinking problem, Jin-Ae a closet lesbian and Audrey, a compulsive liar. Their pasts are revealed through IMs scattered throughout the story as well as Owen's flashbacks. The decision is made to take a cross country trip from New Jersey to San Francisco-to visit the graves of famous people who have killed themselves. The trip will end in Death Valley where the group have made a pact to do the deed and end their lives. We, the readers know that Owen has no desire to live. The reason is slowly revealed as the story unfolds.

Of course this story centers around the hard subjects of suicide and depression but what impressed me was

that first time author Albert Borris was able to weave humor, friendship and love into his tale. He makes the each character stand out and become unforgettable. By the end of the journey I was hoping these friends would choose life. With friendship and love- pain is a little more bearable.

Crash Into Me is a great story that will stay with me long after I return the book.

I recommend this book for readers fifteen and up. The topics covered are death, suicide, sex, drugs and alcohol. I borrowed this book through the inter library loan system at my public library.

Ellen Hopkins says

Al Borris's work as a high school counselor really gives this book an authenticity others on the same subject lack. My only issues is the ending which felt a bit contrived.

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

I loved this book because of the hope it brings. Four friends gather together for one last trip before they kill themselves. All of them stricken by some type of guilt or pain just want out of this world. During this trip they discover that there is much more to life.

Hope. I love this book. All four of them found each other with no one else to lean one, they found hope together in their unique friendship. During their trip, they visit graves of people who committed suicide as well as fulfilling their one last wish.

I loved that while reading this book you found yourself watching them find hope in the new found friendship. Little by little each of them let down their guard letting the others in to their world. We saw Owen who carried an extreme amount of guilt for years. Frank who felt like no one was their him. Audrey who just wanted to get away. And Jin-Ae who had trouble being herself.

In the end they realized that they are not alone and always had each other. They also fell in love. And love made them see the world in a different place. They wanted to travel more and do things that they have never done before. Love and hope gave them a hunger for something they never thought they have.

There was some sex(nothing graphic just talk of it), drugs, and of course illegal stuff.*

Nick says

['No, I want to know about the rest of their lives!' (hide spoiler)]

Caroline (Words & Whispers) says

Picking up Crash Into Me, I'll admit, I was skeptical. The back sounds morbid, and in all honesty, this book is drenched in morbid and depressed thoughts. Don't expect a light read with this one. The characters, especially the main character whose perspective the novel is written from, Owen, are all singled-minded and intent on ending their lives. Or so it seems when you first start. While I wasn't pining for the romance or feeling all that sympathetic for Owen, even I was scared when it seemed like something had happened to any one of the four teens. The writing was good, if not a tad bit repetitive, and the style of writing was definitely easy to read and easy to follow. I'm not sure this book is a favorite, or that everything that happened was realistic, it was a good book, and in the end, I enjoyed it more than I had thought I would. Also, Jin-Ae, the in-the-closet gay, was most definitely up there in my favorite characters of the month. She was funny and serious at the same time, and just the right amount of sarcastic that I loved her. Audrey and Frank were interesting, but the story didn't dwell much on their backstory or their emotional problems as much.

3.5 stars and a recommendation to readers who like morbidity and suicide or feel like digging slightly into human depression.

Nahia says

Más bien tirando a 2'5 en realidad.

No sé qué esperaba de este libro pero al final ha resultado ser un gran MEH. Me han sobrado cosas, me han faltado otras y el final, pues más de lo mismo. En parte me gusta y en parte no me gusta. Uno de esos libros que de aquí a nada ya habré olvidado.

BookCupid says

Nothing screams excitement more than a roadtrip story -- but what about a suicide trip?

Owen and three online pals embark on a mission to visit death celebrity sites before they willingly drive off to a deserted spot and end their lives. All of them have tried on their own and failed. Will this be a final destination or can all these teens help one another overcome their issues?

Absent parents, heartbreak, sexual identity issues, the loss of a loved one ... there are many reasons why teens commit suicide and Borris does his best to give us an overview of why it's important to have friends we can confide in and let some steam out. Lists are one of the recurrent methods used within this book, forcing the characters to reason, particularly the list of things they would love to do before they died. There's no problem bigger than another because everyone deals with their pain differently. I loved how the characters didn't judge. They listened, thus allowing us to get to know them better.

The ending felt like it came out of nowhere, with new information thrown out as a way to shock the reader. Frankly, I felt cheated, hence my three star rating.

Josheka says

Ahhghhh!!! After several attempts to get interested in this book, I finally gave up! Seriously, even a tortoise can move faster than this story!

I think the concept of 4 suicidal teens going on a road-trip only to die in the end together was weirdly innovative....only it would've been much better if the story had something other than past IM messages that the teens had and small clips of what was actually happening. I had to keep myself from sleeping while reading this book as there was nothing interesting or exciting. It was just, blabbering between the 4 of them, Owen's mental banter, past IM messages, more Owen's mental banter and more blabbering. This is one of the books where you know the ending is gonna be surprising but unfortunately I have a very low-tolerance power for slow paced stories. So, for now its been kept aside.

Arlene says

I didn't know what to expect when I started *Crashing into Me*. Actually, I was a bit nervous having just finished *Black Box* by Schumacher, so picking up another angst YA novel about teen su!c!de was an inadvertent mistake on my part. However, once I started reading about Owen, Frank, Jin-Ae and Audrey's story, I was drawn into a not-so-morbid-after-all account of their lives.

These four teenagers each have one thing in common, they are all planning to commit su!c!de. Very, very sad... But before they do, they all meet up and take a road trip from east to west visiting the graves/death sites of famous people who have taken their own life for one reason or another. As the trip progresses, they develop a protective friendship with each other by opening up to one another about their secrets, desires and fears. Throughout the book, I came across Top Ten Lists of various topics which they wrote as they drove from town to town. Some of them were factually interesting, others were morbid and a few were downright sad.

Overall, the book was insightful, very well written, and moving to say the least. From the begining of the book, I was hopeful for these four teens and as the story progressed and I witnessed the inevitable bond they forged with each other, I believed they would be okay by the conclusion of their journey. Very good read!
