

I Am an Emotional Creature: The Secret Life of Girls Around the World

By Eve Ensler



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In this daring book, internationally acclaimed author and playwright Eve Ensler offers fictional monologues and stories inspired by girls around the globe. Fierce, tender, and smart, I Am an Emotional Creature is a celebration of the authentic voice inside every girl and an inspiring call to action for girls everywhere to speak up, follow their dreams, and become the women they were always meant to be.

This edition features new material about starting a discussion group based on the book.



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Sales Rank: #312760 in eBooks
Published on: 2010-01-29
Released on: 2010-02-09
Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

Starred Review Written in the same format as her watershed work, The Vagina Monologues (1998), Ensler's latest mélange of dramatic voices continues the mission of her philanthropic organization, V-Day, to stop violence against women. Published for adults but aimed straight at young adults, this volume provides a searing look at the inner lives of young females today in entries that explore sex, violence, love, body image, materialism, identity, family, friends, and the future. "You Tell Me How to Be a Girl in 2010" begins the collection with a furious catalog of the state of a girl's world, from global war to everyday heartbreak: "Girls younger than me are giving blowjobs / in homeroom / and they don't even know it's sex." The sobering international voices include child soldiers, young sex slaves, girls whose boyfriends hit them, and girls who starve and cut themselves. Other girls speak of honesty, tenderness, freedom, accomplishment, self-love, and defiance: "My short skirt / is not an invitation / a provocation / an indication / that I want it / or give it / or that I hook. . . . My short skirt is happiness. / I can feel myself on the ground. I am here. And I am hot." With moving forewords by Carol Gilligan and Ensler, this powerful title, interspersed with shocking "Girl Facts," serves as a potent call to girls to honor their emotions and to readers of all ages to uphold human rights at every level, from the boardroom to the bedroom. --Gillian Engberg

Review

"When I encounter 'teenage girl' stories, whether in novel, play, or film form, I tend to change the channel. Participating in pop culture's clichéd teen experience is like recalling "simpler times." It is remembering a past we can never get back, because it never existed. I can't think of a time when my life was less defined—popularity was a murky concept, rules were rubber, and perfection was always just out of reach.

Leave it to Eve Ensler to get it right. Her new book, **I** Am an Emotional Creature, made me want to vomit from its emotional power. Ensler does not coddle the reader; instead she forces us to realize that teenage girls possess the largest untapped energy source in the world. Written in a similar format as her groundbreaking 1996 feminist theatrical work, *The Vagina Monologues*, **I** Am an Emotional Creature is a disjointed roller coaster of poems, fictional monologues, and scenes inspired by real girls around the world. Much like a quilt, the seams—the disparity between each piece—draw them closer together, even when the girls the stories describe live on opposite sides of the globe.

Ensler's world is a place where one high-school girl is tortured for her Ugg boots and another is mutilated for having a vagina, and she manages to tell both sides with equal degrees of honesty, courage, and heartache. Ultimately about all girls, this is a tale about dreams, nightmares, realities, boyfriends, fathers, body image, sports, friendship, popularity, mothers, piercings, and poetry. It's the God's honest truth, as my mother would say".—*Bust Magazine*

"A searing look at the inner lives of young females today in entries that explore sex, violence, love, body image, materialism, identity, family, friends, and the future...A potent call to girls to honor their emotions and to readers of all ages to uphold human rights at ev...

About the Author

Eve Ensler is an internationally bestselling author and an acclaimed playwright whose works for the stage include *The Vagina Monologues, Necessary Targets*, and *The Good Body*. She is the author of *Insecure at Last*, a political memoir. Ensler is the founder of V-Day, the global movement to end violence against women and girls. In the last decade, V-Day has raised more than \$70 million for grassroots groups that work

to end violence against women and girls around the world. Eve Ensler lives in Paris and New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tonya Hooper:

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Courtney O\'Donnell:

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Sheree Gonzalez:

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Rhonda Kirby:

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