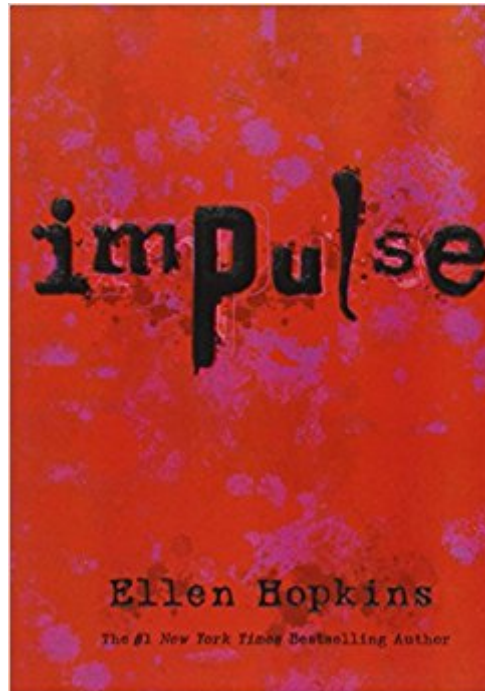


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# Impulse



## Synopsis

Sometimes you don't wake up. But if you happen to, you know things will never be the same. Three lives, three different paths to the same destination: Aspen Springs, a psychiatric hospital for those who have attempted the ultimate act -- suicide. Vanessa is beautiful and smart, but her secrets keep her answering the call of the blade. Tony, after suffering a painful childhood, can only find peace through pills. And Conner, outwardly, has the perfect life. But dig a little deeper and find a boy who is in constant battle with his parents, his life, himself. In one instant each of these young people decided enough was enough. They grabbed the blade, the bottle, the gun -- and tried to end it all. Now they have a second chance, and just maybe, with each other's help, they can find their way to a better life -- but only if they're strong and can fight the demons that brought them here in the first place.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Upâ "Three teens tell their stories, in free verse, from a psychiatric hospital after failed suicide attempts. Their lives unfold in alternating chapters, revealing emotionally scarred family relationships. An absent father, a bipolar mother, and a secret abortion have caused Vanessa to slash her wrists. As a compulsive cutter, she hides a paper clip to dig into her skin. Tony's drug overdose was triggered by an addiction in which he exchanged sex for money. Abused as a child, he is confused about his sexuality. Connor is the son of rich, controlling parents, and he survives a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a doomed affair with a female teacher. Initially, the narrators are

inwardly focused, having arrived at "level zero," the beginning of their treatment. As they become acquainted with one another, the story, told in spare verse and colorful imagery, becomes more plot-driven and filled with witty dialogue. Both boys value Vanessa's friendship and there is an inkling of competition for her affection, although she assumes that Tony is gay. During a wilderness camping trip with other patients and staff, which would graduate the trio to the final level of treatment, it becomes apparent that one of them is mentally backsliding at the thought of returning home and has stopped taking meds. The consequences are played out, leaving the others to grapple with an additional loss and a newfound appreciation for life. Mature fans of the verse format will devour this hefty problem novel.â "Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

â œSharp, searing free verse . . . fast, jagged, hypnotic.â • â •Kirkus Reviews (VOYA)â œA riveting, fast-paced story of teenage hurt and healing.â •â •VOYA (Booklist)â œReaders [Laura] Flanagan, Jeremy Guskin, and Steve Coombs bring credible resonance to the respective characters.â •â •Booklistâ œReaders Laura Flanagan, Jeremy Guskin, and Steve Coombs tap into the raw, overwhelmed feelings of abused adolescents and deliver such an honest performance that itâ™s startling. They perform with a visceral complexity and perfect timing that are nothing short of masterful.â •â •AudioFile --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

My 15 year old loves this author and all of her books. They keep her attention and that's important as she hates to read and this author has her captivated by her books. I don't mind spending money when it comes to books for my kids. For a teenager, the content is mature enough where she feels that she is reading a book geared for older teens but not so much where is be getting her an adult book thanks beyond her maturity level.

I bought this book for my daughter. She really liked it. So much so that she has since read a few more books by Ellen Hopkins. The way the book is written about three characters it is almost like three books in one but still connected. A lot of plot twists and turns. This book has it all. Sadness and some humor. The ending is just WOW! Ellen Hopkins is the New York Times bestselling author of Crank, Burned, Glass and several other best sellers. She is very popular with teen girls. She has a gift for understanding what teen girls think and feel. Recommend it to everyone. Parents of teen girls need to read this book. Impulse

Anything Ellen Hopkins is my favorite. She is always able to suck you into her books and you can never put them down. She is able to capture the heartache and struggles of each different character; even though each one struggles in a different way. She shows how something can seem so perfect but be so incredibly broken. Always an excellent read.

This book is amazing, just like all the other Ellen Hopkins books! As for the actual purchasing and receiving, this book came to me in perfect condition from the seller. When you first get the book, it looks a bit daunting because of how thick the book is, but don't worry, it's all in free verse poetry so the pages are rarely even half filled with words. Seriously, it's a great read!

Not the most believable IMO as far as some of the inner-thoughts and such. But it was an enlightening read in a way, and I could relate to some of the characters. The end was very fitting.

I'm really glad I finally read a book by Ellen Hopkins. I really love deeper, disturbing reads (but not horror, mind you) especially when they're psychological or existential. I figured this would be a great author to read from. And it did deliver. I do think that the poetic writing style contributed to how heavily the stories of the characters impacted me and it's incredibly unique, which made me like it even more. Personally I found that all three of the main characters had unique stories and I liked that when they all interacted, you could get the point of views from each of them instead of just having one character that we know the thoughts of. I like knowing each characters perspectives on the situations. There were some shocking moments, and some disturbing moments as to be expected. Although a little watered down on the disturbing side but this isn't an adult novel so it's to be expected. At the time of purchasing this novel, I also took the chance and bought two other Hopkins novels, just based on the assumption that I would like them (as in, perhaps I should have just bought one first to see if I enjoy it, then I can go out and buy more). And I'm glad I liked Impulse because now I'm looking even more forward to read the other two books I got.

This book is so unbelievably sad. I felt horrible for Vanessa, Conner, and Tony by the end. This book addresses some major issues that pertain to teenagers this day and age such as suicide, drug use, self-harm, death, HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, sexual abuse, perfectionism, issues with parents, mental illness in families, parents away in the military, juvenile detention, trusting others, opening up, learning how to love, and dealing with life. There are so many powerful messages in

this book. Teens should read this. Although suicide is what brought Conner, Vanessa, and Tony together it is certainly not the point of the book. The way it is written at first bothered me. I noticed that some pages only contained a few sentences. I thought I had been cheated out of details on the characters even though the book is 688 pages. I read it on my Kindle so I had to flip the page every three seconds because the pages were so short. In the end however, I enjoyed the way Hopkins wrote the book. It was certainly different, but we got to see the perspective from all three characters in a very unique way. I think I would not have pulled away so many important things had it been weighed down with so many details about the hospital, scenery, other patients, etc. All we had to do was focus on what was being said, thought, remembered, or shared. Nothing else. There were no meaningless details that just fill space. I enjoyed this book even though it was so sad.

Even though the book is over 600 pages, it reads like its ten. I could not believe that I had finished it so quickly. It's thought provoking and opens conversations up. This is a great book for parents to share with a teen. I am a school counselor and one of my kids told me to read it... I loved it. I am telling all my "kids" to pick it up because it puts the reader directly into the minds of depressed teens. It's a great way to learn so that when they don't understand why kids attempt to kill themselves, or have diagnosed depression they will be able to empathize and know what a nasty toll on everyone's lives it can have. I have ordered more of her books and cannot wait to share them with others.

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