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# Wintergirls



## Synopsis

The New York Times bestselling story of a friendship frozen between life and death. Lia and Cassie are best friends, wintergirls frozen in fragile bodies, competitors in a deadly contest to see who can be the thinnest. But then Cassie suffers the ultimate loss—her life—and Lia is left behind, haunted by her friend's memory and racked with guilt for not being able to help save her. In her most powerfully moving novel since *Speak*, award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson explores Lia's struggle, her painful path to recovery, and her desperate attempts to hold on to the most important thing of all: hope.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0730 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (February 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014241557X

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (470 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #19,664 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Mutilation](#) #16 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness](#) #43 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I've read more than my fair share of scary stories--from the works of Edgar Allen Poe to Stephen King to Richard Matheson. But few of those works have ever chilled me, scared me and horrified me as much as Laurie Halse Anderson's "Wintergirls." Part of it could be that Poe, King and Matheson are dealing in horrors that are terrifying but can be easily rationalized away as being supernatural in nature. The scary part of Anderson's novel is that what you're reading about is a...more I've read more than my fair share of scary stories--from the works of Edgar Allen Poe to Stephen King to Richard Matheson. But few of those works have ever chilled me, scared me and horrified me as

much as Laurie Halse Anderson's "Wintergirls." Part of it could be that Poe, King and Matheson are dealing in horrors that are terrifying but can be easily rationalized away as being supernatural in nature. The scary part of Anderson's novel is that what you're reading about is all too scarily real for a lot of young people in our world today. Lia is a teenage girl with an eating disorder. The story is told from her first-person perspective, making it all the more compelling. As the story begins, Lia is coming to terms with the death of her one-time best friend Cassie. Cassie called Lia 33 times on the night of her death, but Lia never answered. Now, Lia is haunted by that in the most literal sense of the world. Cassie begins to appear to Lia, questioning her and slowly the novel reveals the nature of their friendship and the scary pact the two made together. One afternoon, the two decide to see who can be the thinnest among them. The pact leads to two admissions to the hospital for Lia and she's slowly on the way to a third. Lia doesn't purge like Cassie does.

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