



Sorry For Your Loss

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Printz Honor winner and William Morris Award finalist Jessie Ann Foley's latest YA novel is a comi-tragic coming-of-age story about an awkward teenage guy who, after the loss of his brother, finds healing and a sense of self where he least expected to.

As the youngest of eight, painfully average Pup Flanagan is used to flying under the radar. He's barely passing his classes. He lets his longtime crush walk all over him. And he's in no hurry to decide on a college path. The only person who ever made him think he could be more was his older brother Patrick, the family's golden child. But that was before Patrick died suddenly, leaving Pup with a family who won't talk about it and acquaintances who just keep saying, "sorry for your loss."

But when Pup excels at a photography assignment he thought he'd bomb, things start to come into focus. His dream girl shows her true colors. An unexpected friend exposes Pup to a whole new world, right under his nose. And the photograph that was supposed to show Pup a way out of his grief ultimately reveals someone else who is still stuck in their own. Someone with a secret regret Pup never could have imagined.

Sorry For Your Loss Details

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Author : Jessie Ann Foley

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From Reader Review Sorry For Your Loss for online ebook

Jamie says

To say I wasn't expecting this would be to pretend like I had any expectations to begin with; it was just another book picked up off my pile. And yet I stayed up until 2 a.m. reading it, so deeply engrossed in Pup Flanagan's story that there was no way I wasn't going to finish it in one sitting. This book had me putting it down and sighing. I said, "Oh that was lovely," aloud more than once. I shook my head and said damn damn DAMN a few times. And at the end, I cried like a baby. Books like this are rare: small gems with characters who make you love them and ache for them and hope for them.

YA publishers love to comp books to THE SERPENT KING, and I'll be honest that it never clicks - until it does. Pup is just the most wonderfully average and yet extraordinary young character with the weight of the world on his skinny shoulders, and the way he's written gave me so many Dill in THE SERPENT KING moments. The details of his family and his relationship with his two brothers - one dead, one trying to atone for something that isn't his fault and nearly killing himself in the process - was just exceptional. And holy hell that ending. All the tears.

Erin Quinn says

I've been in a bit of a reading slump for awhile - reading, but the books I was reading were just okay, not the kind of books you'd stay up late to read, or to sneak a few minutes between tasks to get a chapter in. And then came Sorry For Your Loss, by Jessie Ann Foley.

Sorry For Your Loss follows Pup (which is a nickname; his real name is James) and his huge family of 26 - he is the last of 8 brothers and sisters. The story follows Pup as he tries to come to grips with life a few years after his brother Patrick suddenly passed away. Pup's family isn't one to talk about uncomfortable things, and so Patrick's name is never mentioned, and his high school graduation photo on the wall going up the stairs was replaced by an image of a baby angel. And because Patrick's never mentioned, everyone in the family deals with his death on their own, leading often to catastrophic results. Pup seems doomed to a life of mediocrity as he numbly fights his way through life, but then one teacher, Mr. Hughes, his art teacher, takes a chance on him and one stunning photograph he'd taken. And in this one chance, Pup's life begins to change.

Jessie Ann Foley is masterful with words and in immersing you in the lives of her characters. They feel so real. This made the experience of living with Pup for a bit feel like a delicious dip in someone else's world for a while.

Thank you to Edelweiss and HarperTeen for providing me with an eARC in exchange for an honest review.

Haley says

I cried a LOT.

Danielle says

This is a young adult novel centered around a teenager named Pup who is barely squeaking by in his life and is just trying to hide from everyone after the death of his popular older brother. In order to not fail in photography class he is forced to work with someone who helps him see his world in a whole new way. There is a lot of really good stuff about grief, loss, and family in this book with some teenage romance as well.

grieshaber_reads says

I love Jessie Ann Foley! This one doesn't come out until June so I'll save my review but for now, add it to your TBR. It's a GORGEOUS story of large families, grief, and coming of age. Beautifully done.

Jessie says

Well, I wrote it, so I like it. ;)

Kim says

A powerful and ultimately uplifting exploration of family and grief and love and forgiveness. Pup—er, James— and the rest of the Flanagans are going to stay with me for a long time.
