



# Dear Evan Hansen

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**Dear Evan Hansen** Val Emmich , Steven Levenson , Benj Pasek , Justin Paul

**From the show's creators comes the groundbreaking novel inspired by the Broadway smash hit Dear Evan Hansen.**

*Dear Evan Hansen,*

*Today's going to be an amazing day and here's why...*

When a letter that was never meant to be seen by anyone draws high school senior Evan Hansen into a family's grief over the loss of their son, he is given the chance of a lifetime: to belong. He just has to stick to a lie he never meant to tell, that the notoriously troubled Connor Murphy was his secret best friend.

Suddenly, Evan isn't invisible anymore--even to the girl of his dreams. And Connor Murphy's parents, with their beautiful home on the other side of town, have taken him in like he was their own, desperate to know more about their enigmatic son from his closest friend. As Evan gets pulled deeper into their swirl of anger, regret, and confusion, he knows that what he's doing can't be right, but if he's helping people, how wrong can it be?

No longer tangled in his once-incapacitating anxiety, this new Evan has a purpose. And a website. He's confident. He's a viral phenomenon. Every day is amazing. Until everything is in danger of unraveling and he comes face to face with his greatest obstacle: himself.

A simple lie leads to complicated truths in this big-hearted coming-of-age story of grief, authenticity and the struggle to belong in an age of instant connectivity and profound isolation.

## Dear Evan Hansen Details

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# From Reader Review Dear Evan Hansen for online ebook

‘kayla’ says

**Even when the dark comes crashing through, when you need someone to carry you, when you're broken on the ground, you will be found.**

words can't express how much i loved this. RTC tomorrow because i have a whole page of notes about all the good and the bad things related to this book cause i know a lot of people had mixed opinions

**When you're falling in a forest and there's nobody around. Do you ever really crash, or even make a sound?**

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Wybredna says

Jeżeli uważacie, że nie możecie przeczytać tej książki, bo ma coś wspólnego z musicaliem, którego nie znacie (lub w ogóle nie lubicie musicali), to jesteście w błędzie!  
Chociaż – nie oszukujmy się. Daleko mi do obiektywizmu.

**WIŹCEJ W VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HhTG...>**

Historia jest smutna. Żeby nie powiedzieć – dołująca. Powieść dla młodzieży o samobójstwie, kłamstwie, introwertyzmie, niechęci i fobii społecznej. I o potrzebie bycia zrozumianym, zauważonym, bycia czynnikiem czegoś, pozostawienia po sobie czegośkolwiek na tym świecie. Ale jednocześnie jest przez to piękna. Bo porusza trudny temat w przystępny dla każdego sposób. Jednak ważne, by znaleźć drugie dno, by nie zrozumieć wszystkiego opacznie. Do tego została poprowadzona specyficzna narracja, dzięki której można lepiej obserwować psychikę Evana.

No i musical. Musical kocham całym sercem i nie byłam przekonana, czy obdarcie go z muzyki i spisanie w formie książki będzie dobrym pomysłem (bo tak, to książka na podstawie musicalu, nie odwrotnie). Okazało się jednak, że książka daje nam znacznie więcej, że skupia się na postaci Connora, prezentując go nam w całym innym świetle! Mam teraz ochotę jeszcze raz obejrzeć wersję sceniczną, by móc na nowo przeżyć te emocje, znaleźć już myśli poszczególnych bohaterów.

**Powody, dla których kocham DEH oraz porównanie książki z musicaliem dostępne na YouTube:**  
**Wybredna Maruda**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HhTG...>**

?? Książka z kubkiem dostępna tu: <http://bit.ly/2AXQ43q>

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## **Vicky Who Reads says**

UMMMM WHAT DEAR EVAN HANSEN THE NOVEL YES PLEASE SIGN ME UP where's the dotted line y'all?

Seriously. Cue all the squealing.

More serious non-fangirl-scream info here.

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## **Lola says**

This was my first time reading a novel based on a play. And you know what? Even though I had no idea what to expect and had mildly bad experiences with novelizations in the past, this was quite the positive experience.

It becomes obvious after the first couple of chapters that this story was modified to fit the novel format because of the way certain scenes unfold or the text itself, but that only adds to the specialness of the book.

The idea is unique: a dead teenager is found with what appears to be a suicide note in his pockets, pushing the parents to reach out to whom the letter is addressed—Evan Hansen. But it was Evan who wrote the letter... to himself. And now he's involved in something he didn't want part of, but that may be the best thing that has happened to him despite the tragedy of the situation.

I thoroughly enjoyed the story, writing, light love story, mental health theme, and Evan Hansen as well as the people in his life. Evan is someone imperfect. He lies. He overlooks. He dodges. He hides. And yet, you can't help but sympathize and wish for things in his life to turn around. You even understand many of the bad choices he makes, for they are difficult. At least I did.

Apparently the play doesn't even compare to the book, that's how incredible it is, but alas I will never know. I'm just grateful to have had the opportunity to follow Evan Hansen as he navigates his last year of high school, makes new friends and tries to deal with a very delicate situation.

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## **leslie hamod says**

"Today is going to be an amazing day and here's why"

It begins with a letter never meant for him to see. It is finally a boy's chance for acceptance. A chance to be accepted!

On the other hand, a family grieves over the loss of a son.

Evan tells a lie. A big lie. He says he was the boys best friend.

Suddenly, he is acceptable, accepted.

But with this acceptance, he is drawn into a range of emotions. His lies cause him confusion, and lead him

into more lies. As so often is the case when we begin with a lie. He realizes his one problem is himself. For in finding acceptance, he is not himself. His one problem, himself.

The simplest of lies leads to a complicated truth. This is a well written story about coming of age. What we are willing to do to belong. We live in an age where we have access to instant connections and profound loneliness. What would we do to belong!

Great story! I laughed and cried. It at times tore my heart out.

I highly recommend this book! Read it to see, as Shakespeare said "oh, what a tangled web we weave, when we practice to deceive ". A young boy just wanted to belong, and with this desire his world and that of others are charged forever!

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## **Christy says**

### **4.5 stars!!**

I am obsessed with the Dear Evan Hansen soundtrack, I mean OBSESSED. It's been on constant repeat on my Spotify for months and I have tickets to see it on Broadway in May (YAY), so when I saw there was a book, I jumped in to read it. It was really fun to listen to the sound track as the book was playing, I just knew when each song would fit after being so familiar with the songs.

"I wish that everything was different. I wish that I was a part of something. I wish that anything I said mattered, to anyone. I mean, let's face it: would anybody even notice if I disappeared tomorrow?"

Evan Hansen is a teenager who doesn't quite fit in. So is Connor Murphy. When Connor is found with Evan's letter, the one that he wrote to himself, it's easy to fall to the assumption that Evan and Connor were best friends. This lie is so easy for Evan to keep going. It gives him something he's never had before. A feeling of belonging. But Evan can't keep up the lie for forever. Even though he does a lot of good and reaches a lot of people, he can't stand living a lie. When the truth comes out, it's hard to know what will happen with Evan.

Evan is someone I think a lot of people can relate to. I love this coming of age story. It's beautiful, the story itself, especially the lyrics (PLEASE listen to this soundtrack- it's epic) and I loved it. An important YA story with a message that is moving and an unforgettable read!

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## **chandler ainsley ? says**

### **i'm gonna be real with you: this really was not for me**

i think books like these all depend on what kinds of characters and people you relate to. i have suffered with anxiety before, so i thought that i would "get" evan... but i so did not.

i'm not sure what i expected from this book but i really didn't expect a severely lonely, awkward, anxious kid

with no hobbies essentially lying to a grieving family. i mean i should have known from the synopsis but i figured there would be some levity at the very least. but no. it was just depressing all the way through.

and not even in a way that made me sympathize. if we're talking lonely characters give me a france janvier or aled from radio silence. kids with interests that their school friends don't have. where their mental illness is not their entire personality.

give me a plot that doesn't hinge on a suicide for self discovery. or a manic pixie dream girl for finally "putting themselves out there" (both of which this book had). all in all it was just so disappointing because i think the overall message was pretty nice.

**but i'm sick of bland, straight, white male wallflowers**

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### **Phils Osophie says**

Es ist perfekt. Das Broadway Musical ist ja schon großartig, der soundtrack der absolute Wahnsinn... Aber diese Story als Roman zu erleben, ist ein Geniestreich. Emotional und herzergreifend wie kaum ein Zweites Buch, hat sich diese Geschichte direkt in mein Herz geschlichen. Ich finde keine Worte.

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### **Bryne says**

A YA BOOK ADAPTATION OF ONE OF MY FAVORITE MUSICALS? KINKY!!!!

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### **Emma Giordano says**

I honestly wasn't the biggest fan of this novel. I started out absolutely loving it, but it was very lacking in the end. I've never seen or listened to the soundtrack of *Dear Evan Hansen* but still managed to find enjoyment in the story. I just wish it had made a larger impact for me.

TW: anxiety, depression, suicide, talk of drug use

I did enjoy Evan as a character. I felt his struggle with anxiety was extremely well written – it felt very honest and real. I liked his voice as a narrator and enjoyed getting to know him as a character. Unfortunately, I felt many of the other characters were underdeveloped. There were remnants of personalities there and traits to enjoy for each character, but they were nowhere near as well rounded as Evan. I actually really enjoyed the secondary characters like Zoe and Jared, but they just didn't receive enough attention.

I was surprised to find that this novel takes place from two people's perspectives. This was a point of intrigue for me as I was not expecting it and felt it contributed much to the novel! I just wish the two point's of views were more balance. I understand this is Evan's story and it's necessary for the majority of the book to take place through his eyes, but it's a pet peeve of mine when one character's perspective greatly outweighs the other. I feel I would have enjoyed a few less chapters from Evan and a few more from the other narrator to make it more even between the two.

My main gripe is mostly with the overall plot of the novel. While I'm always happy to see more novels that focus on mental health awareness and I was pleased with the representation of anxiety, I can't help but feel unsettled by the way suicide is presented in this novel. *Dear Evan Hansen* follows a boy who write letters to himself as a therapy assignment but one of his letters is stolen and later found in the pocket of a boy who has recently died of suicide. The family believes their late son wrote the letter to Evan and assumes they were best friends, so Evan begins to fabricate a deep and meaningful relationship to placate the family. I can't help but dislike the way Evan takes every ounce of autonomy away from Connor after his death, not only speaking for him to his family, but essentially to the world. It almost kind of made me disgusted at a certain point that essentially a stranger to Connor was controlling the narrative of his life when Connor can't speak for himself. I'm so encouraging of books about mental health and telling stories of those who survive victims of suicide, but I can't stand it when the person's death becomes a path to self-discovery. In truth, I probably could have forgiven a lot of that if the ending appropriately addressed the mistakes Evan made and the damage he caused, but the resolution was not strong enough for me. It's not as if I think Evan deserves to have his life ruined, but there were just not enough consequences to justify the story in my opinion.

Overall, I somewhat enjoyed *Dear Evan Hansen*, but it wasn't as fulfilling as I expected. I've heard there are significant changes to the source material in the novelization, so I would not judge the play based on the book. I'm still interested in the musical, but I definitely would not re read the book.

This book was sent to me or free by Little Brown. I had no obligation to review this book and all opinions are my own.

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### **Kat says**

[ until Connor turns up dead ? and his parents believe his last words were to Evan, and that Evan was Connor's only friend. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Clara says**

Today is going to be a good day and here's why: IT'S COMING OUT A FEW DAYS BEFORE MY BIRTHDAY. IT'S EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED.

**26/08/18**

I don't know how to rate this book yet, and my review is coming. I'm so thankful Penguin decided to send me an ARC of it as it was one of my most anticipated releases of the year. Let's just say I sobbed a lot. Still am.

**26/11/18**

Finally decided to give it 3.5 stars!

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### **Charlotte May says**

*"No one deserves to be forgotten, no one deserves to fade away. No one should come and go and have no one know he was ever even here. No one should flicker out or have any doubt that it matters that they are*



*here. No one deserves to disappear."*

Well this was every bit as lush as I hoped it would be ??

I've listened to a few of the songs from the theatre soundtrack and have been desperate to watch the show for ages (unfortunately it's not being shown in the UK yet) so when I saw Dear Evan Hansen was being made into a novel - I had to have it!

Evan Hansen is a loner, he has severe anxiety and is basically invisible. When he breaks his arm, his mum sees it as an opportunity for him to talk to people, maybe get some signatures on his cast. In the meantime, he goes to therapy, and writes letters to himself as part of his therapy to create a more positive mind set. One of these letters to himself is picked up by Connor Murphy, who misinterprets its meaning and steals it, after writing his name in giant letters across Evan's cast. Despite having never spoken before.

The next day Connor is found to have committed suicide. No one knew him, so when his parents find Evan's letter in Connor's pocket addressed 'Dear Evan Hansen' they believe Connor wrote it to Evan and that they were friends.

Pretty soon Evan is in way over his head. Connor's whole family believe he and Connor were best friends, Evan starts dating Connor's sister Zoe and he creates fake email conversations between him and Connor with the help of his 'friend' Jared'.

*When they didn't know where to aim their rage. Or how to endure their isolation. Or reverse their mistakes. Or not give up"*

At times quite difficult to read, as we know the truth, and it's only a matter of time before it all comes out. I loved Evan's flawed but lovable character, and despite the lie, a lot of good comes from it when he creates 'the Connor Project'. A website designed to raise money and help those struggling with mental health. We find out about Evan's background and how he actually broke his arm, and the entire novel is just wonderful. No one is perfect. But no one should be alone.

*"If the pain is in you, it's in you. It follows you everywhere. Can't outrun it. Can't erase it. Can't push it away; it only comes back."*

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## **Taylor says**

Happiest of Pub Day's to *DEH*!

I'll fully admit that my rating for this book will be slightly skewed due to my love of the show and soundtrack, which I admit are better than this book. However, I still enjoyed getting a deeper insight and perspective into the characters that could only be provided via this medium.

And while there are parts of this book that I'm certain readers are going to have issues with I still think the overall message is inspiring, hopeful, and so necessary in today's chaotic world.

I need to really study my notes and try to separate book from show to produce a full review, but I do believe this novel serves as a solid standalone. If you haven't seen the show, or listened to the OBC album, you'll still understand Evan's plight.

Stay tuned for my full review closer to pub date.

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### **Hailey (Hailey in Bookland) says**

DNF @ 20%

I'm sure the musical is lovely and I definitely want to see it but unfortunately the book just isn't interesting me.

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