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Walking The Dog



Synopsis

Former child prodigy and rich-girl kleptomaniac, Ester is renamed into the gentile Carleen for her own protection; is incarcerated after a botched heist. For two decades, time is the enemy. Her twenties and thirties crawl by in stifling isolation. When finally let loose onto the streets of New York, she finds a job wrestling spoiled canines as a dog walker in Manhattan's most elite neighborhoods, relating better with their brutish instincts than with their human owners. Determined to also prove herself a real person, Carleen tries to reconnect with her estranged and ferociously Orthodox daughter. Amid the strained brunch dates, unsent letters, and the continuing trauma of prison, Carleen begins a slow and halting process of self-discovery. Strikingly funny and self aware, this belated coming-of-age novel asks the question: How do you restart after crashing your first chance at life?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This a great book...one of those books that are hard to put down. It's hard to believe it's fiction. Swados must have done a lot of research on prison systems! There is also a great deal of humor. It is shame that this is Swados's last book! She carries you with her throughout the entire book.

A fascinating look at life from the perspective of a differently-wired person, while avoiding prurient or overly sentimental indulgence. I love books that show a person working out how to live best with what they are.

This is an extraordinary book. Multi-faceted, many layered, political and personal, heartbreaking and heart-warming. I only wish Liz Swados was still with us.

The story of Carleen Kepper (AKA Ester Rosenthal) who after a long and horrific prison sentence is trying to adjust to life on the outside. I loved this book. It's hilarious, authentic, and colorfully written. Swados, who unfortunately passed away in early 2016 had a unique voice and creates vivid characters, including the dogs that Carleen walks to make a living. As close to perfect as you can get in a book!

I regret that this was my first encounter with this author who is now no longer with us. Her stories about life in the prisons seem like they are almost autobiographical. An unusual book that stays in my memory after finishing it.

Very strange, very dramatic, very violent, very interesting.

This book unfolds its story in such an interesting and unexpected manner that you can't wait to get to the next chapter. I absolutely loved this book.

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