

Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See (Ala Notable Books for Adults)

By Juliann Garey

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Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See (Ala Notable Books for Adults) By Juliann Garey

A studio executive leaves his family and travels the world giving free reign to the bipolar disorder he's been forced to hide for 20 years.

“You won’t be able to put down this exhilarating debut novel... brave and touching.”
—Marie Claire

In her tour-de-force first novel, Juliann Garey takes us inside the restless mind, ravaged heart, and anguished soul of Greyson Todd—a successful Hollywood studio executive who leaves his wife and young daughter for a decade to travel the world, giving free reign to the bipolar disorder he’s been forced to keep hidden for almost 20 years. The novel intricately weaves together three timelines: the story of Greyson’s travels (Rome, Israel, Santiago, Thailand, Uganda); the progressive unraveling of his own father seen through Greyson’s childhood eyes; and the intricacies and estrangements of his marriage. The entire narrative unfolds in the time it takes him undergo twelve 30-second electroshock treatments in a New York psychiatric ward.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
Amazon Best Books of the Month, December 2012: Debut novelist Juliann Garey channels movie studio exec Greyson Todd's spiral into madness with the intimacy of memoir. Punctuated by electroshock treatments that dampen Greyson's extremes at the expense of his sense of self, *Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See* maps his memories before and since his mother's death threw his mind for a perpetual loop. Greyson's roaring mania has an upside: It spawns a lust for risks that reward him richly in Hollywood. But as the highs give way to immobilizing lows that become impossible to hide, he leaves his wife and daughter and disappears into the Israeli outback, then Nairobi, Bangkok, and eventually New York, where everyone is "impatient and irritable and agitated," so he fits right in. Deep cash reserves allow Greyson to indulge the urges brought on by full-blown bipolar disorder for a good decade before he lands in a psych ward, and his exploits take on spectacularly lavish, absurd proportions, but you'll laugh through gritted teeth. And though you may not ever like him, you'll know his pain well enough to be grateful for every grain of sanity he regains. --*Mari Malcolm*

From Publishers Weekly
In Garey's debut novel, Greyson Todd is a high-flying movie executive who, in 1984, leaves his studio job and his wife and eight-year-old daughter, and embarks on a worldwide tour. Ten years later, he is in a New York hospital being treated for bipolar disorder—which he has struggled with for decades—and given electroshock treatment. In between, we get the story of Greyson's conflicted marriage to Ellen, and his childhood with a failure for a father. As he travels around the world, Greyson hops from Rome to the Negev, Bangkok, Santiago, and Uganda, but his adventures seldom rise above the level of travelogue. Only when he finally lands in New York, where he settles down in Chelsea, and the author details the steps leading up to Greyson's nervous breakdown, does the story become sufficiently dramatic. Otherwise, the achronological structure works against the narrative by not allowing the reader to chart the progress of Greyson's mental illness. The author's take on what it was like to be raised on the show business periphery of Beverly Hills in the late 1950s feels authentic. In the end, though, this earnest novel about depression breaks no new ground in its depiction of the subject. Agent: Paul Bresnick, the Paul Bresnick Agency. (Dec.)

From Booklist
In her debut, screenwriter Garey delivers a commanding portrait of a Hollywood studio executive who so tires of covering up his bipolar disorder that he abandons his lucrative career and his family, traveling the world for decades. Told in snippets and in nonlinear format, the story of Greyson Todd's spectacular flameout encompasses touring as a relic pilgrim in Rome, becoming the victim of a scam perpetrated by Bedouins, engaging in sexual escapades in Thailand, and entering into marriage with the widow of an AIDS victim in Africa. Through it all, Greyson is haunted by memories of his father, who also suffered from bipolar disorder and who went on extravagant spending sprees that decimated his family's finances. When Greyson finally ends up in a psychiatric ward in New York City, undergoing 12 sessions of electroshock treatments, he begins to lose some of his most cherished memories, especially those of the wife and daughter he abandoned, and yet the novel ends on a hopeful note as Greyson strives to achieve stability in his life. A vividly written chronicle of one man's attempt to conquer his mental illness. --Joanne Wilkinson

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Jones:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See (Ala Notable Books for Adults). Try to make book Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See (Ala Notable Books for Adults) as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned in your case. The book makes you more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let's make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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