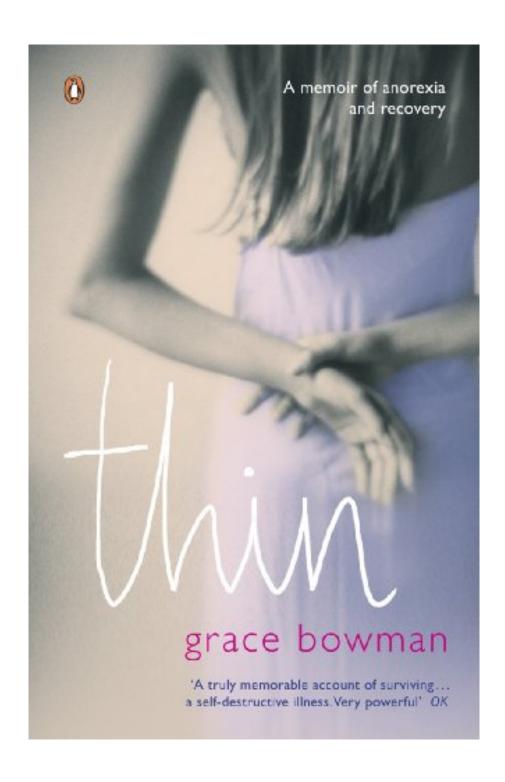


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Review

"Poignant and timely. . . the most honest account of the illness yet published." —Glamour

"Bowman describes her descent into anorexia with clinical skill; if you haven't understood it before, you will now. . . brave, revealing, and shocking." —Guardian

"A brilliant new memoir." —Sunday Telegraph

About the Author

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Bright, popular, pretty, and successful, Grace Bowman had the world at her feet. So what drove her to starve herself nearly to death at the age of 18? And what, more importantly, made her stop? A grippingly honest account of life with anorexia nervosa, Thin is Grace's heartbreaking, shocking, and, finally, inspirational memoir. An extraordinary story, it is also a common one—is there a woman in the western world who has a normal relationship with food? A compulsive read, essential for anyone hoping to understand more about eating disorders and overcoming addiction.

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Most helpful customer reviews

56 of 57 people found the following review helpful.

The best memoir of anorexia i have read thus far

By Nur Alima

This has to be my ultimate favorite memoir of a young woman's gripping battle with anorexia. It has been weeks since I read this book, but I wanted to give me some space between reading it at writing my review. The author's writing style is unique and creative. She at times writes in third person as well as first person and at other times she even stops the story to interject very honest and helpful explainations. Her ability to describe her inner thoughts and conflicts at the same time as painting a picture of her outside interactions and experiences is amazing and very important.

To be honest, I cannot say enough good things about this book to accurately explain how enraptured I am about it. I think it is written in an extraordinary poignant way to the point of being one of the most important memoir's in the field of eating disorder literature. Ms. Bowman has captured what it is like to be consumed by an eating disorder and at the same time try to navigate in the world and attempt to interact with your loved ones, doctors, acquantances, and society as a whole all while trying your hardest to hide your inside

thoughts, feelings and reasons for your disturbing behavior.

I would never have imagined someone writing such a gripping and accurate portrayal of having a severe eating disorder and what it is like inside the mind of the sufferer and outside trying to live in a world that refuses not to be judgemental. Ms. Bowman captures somewhat it is I am trying to say on page 240 of her book, "That is the odd thing about anorexia: it is seen to vanish when the body is mended. It moves from body-side to inside, and perhaps it is more dangerous when it cannot be seen."

Ms. Bowman is a remarkable and talented young woman. I am honored to have had the experience to read her story and read her thoughts. I highly recommend this book and give thanks to such a tenacious young woman for writing it.

I do think that it is important to note that Ms. Bowman has a very different recovery story than those who have spent many years in the grips of an eating disorder. This is not to compare the suffering of anybody. I just think that her recovery without ever being hospitalized is noteworthy because her quicker recovery than some might be hard to relate to for those who are more chronic.

69 of 78 people found the following review helpful.

I just didn't get it at all...

By Losin' It

Yes, this is a story of a young woman battling an eating disorder. I think...she talks about wanting to be thin, restricting her intake, her diagnosis and then she is recovered because she decided she no longer wanted to be anorexic.

I think this account is a somewhat dangerous view of anorexia. She does not go into what her treatment plan really was; what her therapy sessions really entailed; or what really made her to get well. She says she "got bored" with it and just decided to stop.

Eating disorders are an illness. It baffles me when I hear of young, naive, girls saying they wish they could be anorexic, or bulimic, or whatever...it doesn't work that way. One does not really make a conscious choice to fall deep into the throws of anorexia. It is a painful, disturbing place to be.

Likewise, I find it very difficult that one can just say "I'm bored of anorexia. I think I'll stop now."

I am very sure there is much more to Ms. Bowma's story than that. There has to be. But this book fails to go into the real emotions and feelings that haunt a person with an eating disorder. If you want a read that truly goes into the nitty-gritty of these disorders I would recommend "Wasted" by Marya Hornbacher.

As a recovering anorexic, I wish I could have just said "I don't feel like doing this anymore." and POOF! It was over. Unfortunately for me, and most anorexics, that doesn't happen. Maybe most of us are not as emotionally strong as this woman, but going through recovery with little or no professional help, I believ, is very dangerous. I think it is an irresponsible story to tell...to imply to people with eating disorders, "hey, just stop doing it. It's that simple." is a very dangerous implication. It took years of therapy and emotional healing to get to where I am today with my illness. I consider myself fully recovered, but there is always that haunting image that follows me. and there is no way I could have done it without the help of a team of experienced professionals. Yes, Ms. Bowman does suggest to seek help, but her overall tone of the book is that she did not need it. She was strong enough to do it on her own. Good for her, but I have a hard time swallowing that. This book just didn't seem to portray the real emotion and heartache that one would go through in such a situation.

More than the content being vague and lacking emotion, I found the writing style confusing and somewhat annoying. The author jumps from one tense to another and I was frequently lost as to what stage of her

disorder or recovery, or even her life, that she was in.

I wouldn't recommend it.

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

An extremely powerful memoir by a courageous woman...

By Melissa Galligan

"Thin" is a memoir about a woman suffering from anorexia nervosa. Unlike so many other memoirs or autobiographies on the subject, Ms. Bowman doesn't glorify or glamorize this disease. She writes with an unflinching style, much like Marya Hornbacher did with her infamous "Wasted," and perhaps gives the reader an even deeper insight (than Hornbacher did) into what goes on in the mind of an anorexic. I found myself unable to put this book down. It is also a book filled with hope. Ms. Bowman "found" a cure (or at least a way to cope) within herself, and despite seeing several professionals in the mental health field, made the ultimate decision to go it alone and I absolutely applaud her bravery. There is one caution I would give about the memoir, and that is its 'triggering' nature...but I believe ANY memoir that is honest is going to be triggering to the eating disordered population. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is trying to understand anorexia, and absolutely recommend it to the "experts." (Though the experts are typically too wrapped up in their own egos to take advice from one who is suffering, even one as insightful as Ms. Bowman.) Also, I must take issue with the title of the book, which is too trite and meaningless for the content. I see that the original was called "A Shape of My Own" which is much more apt, and I wonder if Ms. Bowman had anything to do with the change--my guess would be that she did not. I applaud you, Ms. Bowman, and want you to know your book touched me in ways I cannot express.

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