



*Dear Evan Hansen* by Val Emmich  
Reviewed by Harini



Stand Alone, Contemporary Fiction

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

Dear Evan Hansen is a novel inspired by a famous Broadway Show, Dear Evan Hansen. The book follows Evan, a high school senior with severe anxiety and depression. After getting advice from his therapist to write letters to himself each day as a way of relieving his anxiety, Evan gets caught up in a misunderstanding after Connor Murphy, another high school senior, commits suicide, and Evan's letter is found by Conner's parents, which they believed meant that Conner wrote letters to Evan. As Evan becomes trapped in a web of lies not to disappoint Conner's parents, he finds himself in a moral dilemma. Evans's dilemma throughout the novel is explored through themes of loneliness, mental health, and the consequences of deception.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I was drawn to this novel because I had watched the Broadway show and was very excited to read the novel adaptation of it.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

This novel is similar to All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven because both novels deal with mental health, self-discovery, and the importance of meaningful connections.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

I recommend this novel to fans of the stage production of Dear Evan Hansen as the novel adaptation delves closer into the characters and emotions portrayed in the production.

### **Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

I liked this novel, and would recommend it to others because it does an excellent job of representing mental health and how it can impact individuals and their connections.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

Many of those who watched the Broadway production of Dear Evan Hansen have also praised the book adaptation, so I read it because of that.