



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Remember Me Always By Renee Collins Reviewed by Abigail Wilson

Name: Abigail Wilson

Grade: 11

Book Title: Remember Me Always

Author: Renee Collins

Number of Pages: 309

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 4/5

Character List:

- **Shelby:** Shelby is a young high school girl who got into a car accident that left her with severe anxiety, which is treated with a clinical program meant to wipe her memory of triggering images and feelings.
- **Auden:** Auden is a young boy with dark and mysterious eyes. He makes an appearance after the completion of Shelby's treatment, and leads her to believe that her family and friends may be hiding something from her.
- **Grace:** Grace is Shelby's best friend, and one of the few people who know about her treatment. She has been involved in an emotionally abusive relationship, and helps Shelby realize that her relationship with Auden may not be healthy.
- **Cam:** Referred to as "the big fish in a little pond" by Shelby, Cam is an old flame of hers. He is a talented actor with curly blond hair, and tries to charm his way back into Shelby's life on several occasions.

Review:

In her junior year of high school, Shelby was involved in a devastating accident which left her extremely vulnerable and prone to anxiety, leading to the common occurrence of debilitating panic attacks. That summer she underwent a clinical program for "neural restructuring," meaning that her memories of the accident, as well as the pain she endured, would be erased from her memory, hopefully curing her anxiety. Shelby is now about to enter her senior year of high school and she is ready to snap back into her old routine, but things are far from normal and something feels off. She meets a boy named Auden, who claims they know each other, and even goes as far as to say that they are in love. Shelby begins to question the extent of her treatment, and she must decide who she can really trust. Shelby's best friend Grace was tied into an emotionally abusive relationship for a long period of time, and her experience led to the questioning of Shelby's relationship with Auden and whether it is healthy. Shelby can't shake the feeling that something is missing, as if she lost a part of herself. If only she could remember...

Remember Me Always is a romantic thriller which explores some triggering topics, including emotional abuse. The author's use of narration in the first person follows the storyline as Shelby views it, and explores different themes from her perspective. The novel has a few flaws, one being predictability of the plot. The author's knowledge on the main topics, including abuse, is adequate and she develops this theme effectively. I would recommend this book to mature teens with a craving for romance, as well as mystery and drama.