



Between Me and You: A Novel

Allison Winn Scotch

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“A smart, thoughtful look at marriage and love.” —POPSUGAR

“Through alternating views (and years), Allison Winn Scotch crafts a heart-wrenching tale.” —*Us Weekly*

When their paths first cross, Ben Livingston is a fledgling screenwriter on the brink of success; Tatum Connelly is a struggling actress tending bar in a New York City dive. They fall in love, they marry, they become parents, and they think only of the future. But as the years go by, Tatum's stardom rises while Ben's fades. In a marriage that bears the fallout of ambition and fame, Ben and Tatum are at a crossroads. Now all they can do is think back...

A life of passion, joy, tragedy, and loss—once shared—becomes one as shifting and unpredictable as a memory. And as they explore the ways love can bend and break, they recount their individual versions of the story, Ben's moving backward and Tatum's moving forward, each wondering what they can do now to make it all right.

Between Me and You: A Novel Details

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Author : Allison Winn Scotch

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From Reader Review **Between Me and You: A Novel** for online ebook

Amy says

The structure of this is ambitious and at first glance you may think it sounds confusing but I didn't find it to be too hard to follow. It alternates with one chapter told from Ben beginning in 2016 and working it's way backwards to 1999 when him and Tatum first meet then her chapters are told in chronological order. There are no big surprises since you know from the very start that where they are today is nowhere near that young, happy go lucky couple from their early days, but there was something bittersweet about reading one chapter full of resentment and bickering and then the next one is a sweet little anecdote from the past. It was unique and put a fresh spin on a love story and I admire the risk the author took, I can imagine it wasn't easy to write.

I've read a couple of Scotch's books now and I what I really like about her style is that she can show relationships that appear real, they're flawed, imperfect and wholly relatable. Getting to see a marriage from both sides was interesting, sometimes their individual perception of an event was so completely different from each other it was crazy but I think that's an honest observation and true for any relationship. I liked the way the format played into the plot in the end, it was a little AHA moment that I appreciated. If you're looking for a relationship drama/love story with a clever spin give this a try.

Erin Clemence says

Thanks to the author, the publisher and NetGalley for a free electronic ARC of this novel, received in exchange for an honest review.

"Between Me and You" by Allison Winn Scotch is a love story, if I had to sum it up. It centres on Ben and Tatum, a power couple in Hollywood (he- a screenwriter, she- an actress) who seemingly have it all. This novel chronicles their lives from the time they meet until present day, detailing their daily challenges on the rise to the top.

This novel is told in bits and pieces and it jumps around a lot- only the very last segment is told in chronological order. A reader goes from present day, to when Tatum and Ben meet, to two years after that. It is clearly marked in the novel but this format was a bit difficult to read and follow. I would've liked this story better if it was told in order, I think, although I understand the reasoning.

I enjoyed this novel more than I thought I would. I am not normally a fan of women's fiction and romance novels, but this story was delightfully told and focused on the normal relationship struggles faced by everyone- even, apparently, the Hollywood elite.

A charmingly told novel, this story has two procrastinators, and no "bad guy", which is unique in its own right. Honesty and vulnerability are themes that run rampant throughout.

Well-told and beautifully written with charming characters, "Between Me and You" runs the reader through the emotional gamut. Tatum and Ben are a couple worth cheering for.

Michelle says

2.5 stars

Told from alternating perspectives **Between Me and You** focuses on the dissolution of a marriage. Ben speaks from hindsight, his chapters analyze what went wrong in the marriage and are told in reverse order. Tatum tells the story of how they found each other, fell in love and how they see each other in ways no one else can. Both perspectives allow you to see how much we carry into our marriages -- how strained familial relationships can cast shadows; how disappointments in our professional lives can lead to resentment; how past losses can lead to distrust.

The premise behind this book is a good one, but the execution was poor. Instead of the two narratives building up to a crescendo it was somewhat confusing. By the time that I reached some clarity, I found it hard to become invested even though there was some depth to be found here. We all know that love doesn't come easy and that it takes work to build and keep a marriage. Even though some readers (view spoiler) I think that Winn Scotch took the easy way out. I do, however, admire her effort in trying to capture the essence of an honest relationship from the whimsy of infatuation to the time-tested love that endures our frailties and our transgressions.

Julie says

Between Me and You by Allison Winn Scotch is a 2018 Lake Union Publication.

I won this book from Goodreads way back in December 2017. It was a little hard to follow and I found myself struggling with it, so I put it aside. I've tried to read it several times since then, but the writing style is confusing. I have seen this formula in other books, and it has been an interesting approach, but it really takes a very seasoned author to pull that off, I think.

For now, I'm going to mark this one as DNF, but may revisit it again in the future.

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

I want you to be anything you dream of. But mostly I want you to be happy. Those things aren't always the same, you know.

I can't measure my love for Ben against Mom's love for Dad because it's not like you can quantify these things. It's not like I can pour them into a cup and see which one measures more.

It's raining in Los Angeles, and no one knows what to do about it. People are scattering around, hovering in Whole Foods, tweeting with panicked abandon: It's raining! It might be the apocalypse!

He tells me he'll be on his best behavior, but I'd cleaned up enough of Leo's messes over the years... to know that while Leo might promise the moon, he'll often never even glance up at the sky.

"He needs to grow up, Ben." I could picture my dad shaking his head like he couldn't imagine how Leo had gotten this far in life without being drafted into clown school.

My Review:

I struggled, valiantly I must add, oh, how I struggled, as this book was a full-on angst-fest and that is so not my jam. But I also couldn't stop reading. Hmm, Allison Winn Scotch seems to have a handle on this writing thing... The storylines wove in and out of various timelines, and not in chronological order, with emotions and motivations capriciously seesawing from cautious jubilation to bleak and heart-squeezing despair, with clever licks of humor and amusing observations periodically tossed in. Ms. Scotch's deftly paced, observantly insightful, and emotive writing pulled me in quickly and held my attention, despite my exasperation with the prickly and temperamental characters.

The characters weren't inherently bad people but they were fatally flawed and vastly insecure as well as alluring, complicated, moody, selfish, stubborn, and damn it, they fascinated me to no end. They weren't always likable or admirable, in fact, there were times I despised them and wanted to throw my Kindle down in disgust of their self-centered, pettish, and pedantic behaviors. And the more successful they became, the more out of sync, self-involved, dour, and loathsome they appeared. Both had made critical errors in judgment in dealing with each other, so much so that I wasn't sure a reunification was the best thing for either one. The actress's penchant for playacting had gone so far afield she had become inauthentic, even with herself. Yet despite their odious and repellent behaviors, I couldn't stop reading... I was more than satisfied with the conclusion and proud of myself for my dogged perseverance yet I had the irrational impulse to hurriedly close my Kindle before they could start in on each other and ruin it again. Silly me.

Allison says

As we kick off the early launch of my new book (be on the lookout for Goodreads galley giveaways), out January 9th, I wanted to share a bit about both it and the process of writing it. It was the hardest, most ambitious thing I've ever done, and there were plenty of times when it would have been easier to abandon it. But I was intent on exploring the idea of rewinding the history of our relationships - how time and life skew the innocence and joy of those early heady days - and what we can do, if anything, to get that happiness back.

Thus Ben, one of my protagonists, tells the story of his marriage backward, while Tatum, his wife, tells it forward. They get wrapped up in all the small moments that life brings them, as well as the larger ones too - she is an actress, he's a writer - and as fame, disappointment, heartbreak, love, betrayal, parenting, death and triumph come their way, how do they stay on the course they initially charted when they first met? Can they? Should they?

This is unquestionably my favorite thing I've ever written, and I can't wait to share it with all of you. I hope

you enjoy it as much as I am proud of it. Happy reading!

Judy Collins says

Review to follow.

Kristy says

When Ben Livingston and Tatum Connelly meet, they are both dreaming of success in Hollywood--Ben as a scriptwriter and Tatum as an actress. It's Ben who hits it big first, becoming Hollywood's It Guy and a Sundance favorite. But over time, his star slowly fades while Tatum rises to a stardom neither could have ever fully imagined. Along the way, the two wed, have a son, and experience a variety of ups and downs in their marriage. This includes several losses in their personal lives and slowly drifting apart. They once were incredibly close and deeply in love; can their love sustain everything that life throws at them?

This was a really interesting book, starting with the format. The story is told from both Tatum and Ben's perspectives. No big deal, you think, right? Except Tatum's portions start at the beginning of their journey and go in chronological order, while Ben tells his part of the story backward, starting with how they've fallen apart and going back in time. It's an odd device and definitely takes some getting used to. It was hard to keep some of the dates and timelines straight; it was one of the times where I wished I had a hardcopy of the book so I could flip back and forth more easily.

It also seemed to make the story more repetitive--when you have two people telling the same stories, you're bound to get some repetition. But what was really strange was that it sometimes felt like each chapter was a mini story that needed to reintroduce everything all over again. I don't know why the author felt this was necessary, because it's an oddly compelling book on its own even when neither main character is really that likeable. But we heard over and over about Tatum and Ben's daddy issues, career issues, that he never wrote anything for her. And oh yeah, did we mention that Tatum's an actress and doesn't eat, etc.?

At the core, this isn't really a happy book, despite it being romantic at times. Both Tatum and Ben have a lot of petty issues, but also really serious issues relating to their parents. This is fine, except we hear about it (a lot) due to the repetitive way the story is told. There's a lot of mourning and grieving and there's a dark side that deals with addiction, too. The focus on that fact that Ben has never written a script for Tatum--while this does have a point in the end--this gets to be a little much, too. The problem with all the focus on these things is that I felt like I never really learn a lot about Tatum and Ben in this format. I was always yearning for more. Is the story of two people growing apart interesting? Am I invested in them? (I was.)

It's sad, because despite everything I have said, I found this book weirdly compelling. Maybe it's because Tatum is a famous actress and there's a Hollywood setting, even if it's not really fleshed out. I wanted to know more about Tatum and Ben. I wanted them to work out. I wanted to read the book, even with the odd format and rehashing of things. It's a little hard to describe. It's like watching a romantic comedy where you desperately want the two leads to get together, despite all the odds.

So, I'm still glad I read this one. It was engaging and different. I do wish I knew more about Ben and Tatum and their motivations and what led them together (and apart).

I received a copy of this novel from the publisher and Netgalley (thank you) in return for an unbiased review. It is available everywhere as of 01/09/2018.

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[Shai] The Bibliophage says

Between Me and You is a fiction novel that tells about the story of the married couple, Ben and Tatum. It narrates the imperfect relationship they have: from the struggles, jealousy, secrets, jealousy and infidelity.

The story was narrated through Ben and Tatum's perspective; the flashbacks dated from their first meeting in the bar where Tatum used to work up to how their lives were entangled in secrets and deceit during their marriage. They both know that they still love each other, but there are instances that they felt one has already fallen out of love.

This novel sort of reminds everyone that there's no such as perfect marriage, but it's up to those who are in the relationship how to work it out. There will be problems that married couples encounter during the course of their marriage; trying to forgive and forget is one of the important factors to consider and remember. And this is what Ben and Tatum did to be able to save their relationship.

Vilma Iris says

I wanted to love this book, I loved the concept, but somewhere midway I started to wonder whether the main characters even belonged together. I wasn't sure whether to cheer them on towards reconciliation or not, and I sort of lost my way after that, unfortunately.

Kendall says

This was my first read by Allison Winn Scotch and I was super excited to have a dose of a romance. Well.... I was pretty disappointed. :(

Between Me and You started out on a bang but it started to slowly lose it's sparkle and just lost me big time.

The biggest issue I had with this novel was how it's told (dual perspective). I usually LOVE dual perspective but wow was this a serious hot mess. This was ALL over the place and not in a good way. Tatum Connelly's perspective is told from chronological order and Ben's perspective is told from the opposite/reverse order. All I can say is be prepared for some MAJOR confusion when you tread these waters. Honestly, I'm not sure at all what the author was trying to do with the timeline but it did not work at all for me.

Not only did I have issues with the delivery, but also the repetitiveness. Either we heard about "I see you" moments or Ben's writing projects. I felt like the story was a bunch of fluff without the actual meat. I was rolling me eyes pretty much the entire story.

And, let's be honest. The author brings up some serious issues that Ben and Tatum have experienced. Infidelity, resentment, and trust. The characterization was lacking BIG time with Ben and Tatum. I was expecting to hurt when Ben/Tatum were hurt. I expected to be happy when Ben/Tatum were happy. Nope.... the feelings to her characters were absent. And... wow Tatum was a spoiled brat. Ben... was also a jerk and extremely self-centered. YIKES!!!

The ending?..... also was horrible. Cheesy and unbelievable. The story held promise but unfortunately it did not live up to my expectations.

Overall 2.5 stars for this one. But, I have heard some amazing things about this author's previous novels... so I would check out this author in the future.

Thank you so much to Netgalley and Lake Union Publishing for the advanced arc in exchange for an honest review.

Publication date: 1/9/18.

Review posted: 1/15/18.

Melissa says

2.75 stars

Between me and you, this started out on a promising note, but somewhere around the halfway mark, my feelings started to wane—*big time*.

Allison Winn Scotch delivers a dose of reality with Ben and Tatum's relationship—no matter how intoxicating things starts off, nothing is ever perfect. There are some moments of brilliance sprinkled throughout the pages and plenty of passages I found myself eating up, but unfortunately the things I didn't care for cast a much bigger shadow.

My major contention with this story is the way it's told—notably the flip-flopping timeline—Tatum's perspective is told in chronological order, while simultaneously, Ben's perspective of their demise is told in reverse. The result can only be described as a **scattered mess**. Until you manage to gain somewhat of a foothold and wrap your mind around what the author is striving for, you'll be forced to find some semblance of balance by piecing things together yourself. Bottom line, **prepare for some confusion**.

Not only is the method of delivery messy, it's extremely repetitive. Naturally, with two characters relaying their version of the same events, there's bound to be some overlap, but this much? The sheer number of things that were crammed down my throat, over and over—Ben's projects, Tatum's mother's motto, the loss of their parents, their not so cutesy after the fifth time, "*I see you*" moments—made me want to scratch my eyes out. I'm sorry, I don't do well with regurgitated information that adds absolutely *nothing* but filler to the storyline and there's a ton of it here. If you took all of that away, what would be left standing? **Was the delivery a ploy to mask the mundane?**

To further add to my growing list of complaints, let's talk about Tatum and Ben for a minute. The author tackles a host of issues with these two—resentment, jealousy, lies, and infidelity—but she failed to deliver the deep, unwavering intensity a story like this demands from its lead characters. Sure, the words were there, but the underlying feelings were somehow absent. Smothered by internal monologue, maybe?

Despite Ben's declarations—ad nauseam—that he could see the *real* Tatum, I never felt like I did. What I saw was a spoiled actress playing a role, alongside her selfish husband. To further drive the nail in the coffin, the fact that Tatum excused away what Ben did so easily, not only **downplayed the situation, which felt ignorant on some level**, but also succeeded in contradicting the underlying message of the entire story—all relationships take work. Instead, we're served up a cornball ending that highlights what exactly, playing pretend is actually the better way to go?

**Thank you to Lake Union Publishing and NetGalley for a copy in exchange for an honest review.*

Catherine McKenzie says

I was fortunate enough to get an early reader copy of this from the author. I just finished it and this is clearly Allison's best book to date. It's an ambitious premise--tell the same story from two perspectives, the story of a marriage--but start one timeline today and work backwards, and the other at the beginning and go forwards. This could so easily have ended up with too many retellings of the same events, and no surprises, but that's not what happens. Instead, what happens is a love story, a LIFE story, that has its ups and downs and surprises and twists and YES, left me teary eyed at the end. Love stories, romantic comedies on the page or on the screen, often leave you feeling manipulated, but again this book doesn't go there. Rather, it follows the lives and changes of two people over twenty years, the way life is: messy and simple, complicated and fun, sad and amazing. One more thing: there is a chapter in the book that takes place on 9/11 where my heart was in my throat even though I knew what would happen, even though I knew there couldn't be a happy ending to that day. That is the best writing, which this book is. My verdict: put this book on your to-read list immediately and start counting down the days to its release. Bravo, Allison.

Julie says

Read this review on Julie's Bookshelf

Can I say that I am disappointed, but also mildly satisfied? I appreciate Allison Winn Scotch writing of real life, a real relationship and the hardships that can be faced. This was the draw for me and while *Between Me and You* started off promising, it lost momentum and became shaky; bringing about a few snags.

Written from the dual perspectives of Ben Livingston, a privileged writer from New York, and Tatum Connelly, an actor from a small town in Ohio, the flip-flopping story line of the demise of their relationship made this novel a bit confusing the follow. Tatum's view is told in chronological order, whereas Bens is told in reverse, and when added together was the recipe for a very messy plot. While trying to figure out where each chapter picked up and what has occurred in between, I found myself feeling as if I was missing something.

Ben and Tatum have this saying they repeat to one another, 'I see you,' but I did not feel like the reader was offered enough to understand the core of these character. I wanted to dig in deeper, go into the dark places of their minds, but felt the story never got there. All in all I had a difficult time connecting. Perhaps due to their lifestyle, perhaps the manner in which they approached their difficulties... I'm uncertain, but these characters in all honestly seemed like total snobs.

While there were many profound moments, there too were many repetitive moments. The exasperation of words, saying and the characters stories being retold began to make the story feel as if it was being dragged out. Although this did not pull me in like a page-turning thriller would, I did press on as the story itself did manage to hold my interest. I am not one to typically pick up romantic chick-lit novels, but it was an intriguing story that would have ranked higher for me if I was not continuously reminded of what I had previously read over and over again.

I was also bummed out by the ending. While it may have sparked an Aww moment, in truth, much like the lives of these two characters, it was very Hollywood-esque. Such happenings seem hardly probable. Overall it had the feel of a cornball ending to a story that held promise but did not completely deliver.

Many thanks to Allison Winn Scotch, Kathleen Carter Zrelak, and Lake Union Publishing for an advanced readers edition of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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Jennifer says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

3 stars

I have long been a fan of Winn Scotch which is why I was very excited to read *Between Me and You*. However, this one just didn't "do" it for me the way her other books have.

I was pretty into the story until about the 45-50% mark and then it became repetitive and I found myself losing interest. The story is told in alternative POV and Ben is narrating the story backwards while Tatum is narrating forwards. I really liked this method of telling the story, but once the timelines intersected, I didn't really care that much about the alternating point of view. It was like reading the same story again.

Then, the last 10-15% picked up a bit as the story progressed to present day and a solution. As others have mentioned, there is no big aha moment, but Women's Fiction usually doesn't have that big climatic moment, which is fine. That is not why I read books in this genre.

Overall, this book was not great, but not a total dud either. I found myself skim reading through much of the overlap. But I finished it, so that is saying something. I would say that this is not one of the better books that I have read by Winn Scotch, but I am a fan, so I will certainly be looking forward to the next book.
