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### Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock

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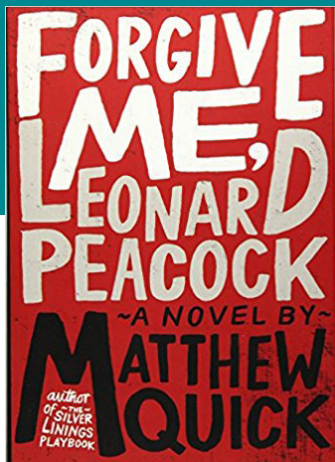
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## Book Review

# Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock

### Author

Matthew Quick

### Illustrator

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### Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

### Rating

Dependable

### Level

Young Adult

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### Pages

273

### Year

2013

### Publisher

Little, Brown and Com-

### ISBN

9780316221351

Leonard Peacock plans to go to school, come home, shoot his ex-best friend Asher Beal, and then kill himself. But first, he has to give the few friends and important people in his life some farewell gifts. He reminisces on how he got to where he currently is and how life never gets any better. Alternating between moments of truth and clarity and moments of self-loathing and despair, Leonard's journey is full of many ups and downs. Ultimately, Leonard realizes he doesn't have it in him to kill Asher, who we later find out sexually abused Leonard for two years when they were younger. He also doesn't quite have the strength to kill himself either, and, thanks to a perceptive and loyal teacher, decides to wait out his life for now and hope for a better future, one full of people who love him unconditionally.

This book is very emotional and gives the reader a good glimpse into the mind of a depressed and lonely teenager who thinks that suicide is the only good option in life. Although the message is ultimately one of hope, there are a lot of moments where Leonard tries to do something good and it ends up failing, leaving the reader frustrated. Leonard is also a very unreliable narrator, alternating between compassionate and kind and sociopathic and creepy. While this book has some good lines and some good messages, the back-and-forth of Leonard's personality and actions can be a little jarring and disorienting for readers. Readers should be aware that this book contains depictions of sexual abuse of minors and severe suicidal thoughts and actions.

\*Contains severe language, moderate sexual content, and mild violence.