



2018

# The Art of Feeling

Taylor Nelson

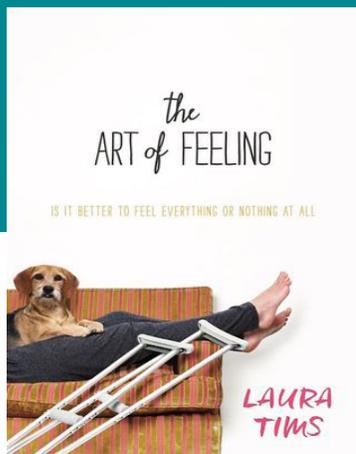
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## Book Review

# The Art of Feeling

### Author

Laura Tims

### Illustrator

### Reviewer

Taylor Nelson

### Rating

Outstanding

### Level

Young Adult

### Pages

326

### Year

2017

### Publisher

HarperTeen

### ISBN

9780062317353

Since the car accident which killed her mom and left her with a permanent and painful leg injury, Samantha Herring has been existing in a state of numbness and depression. That is, until she meets Eliot, a reckless misanthrope with a rare disorder that makes him unable to feel pain. When Sam rescues Eliot from a fight, they strike up a strange and wonderful friendship. Both are outcasts in a school full of bullies, so they seek comfort and protection from each other. Over time, the two begin to realize that healing takes time and empathy, and meaningful relationships, though sometimes painful, can help you get there.

This is an amazing book. The characters are so well developed and wonderfully flawed. Even the secondary characters are lovable and so genuine in their own issues and grief. Sam and Eliot's romance is slow-burning but oh-so-satisfactory. The story beautifully contrasts the constant, unending pain of a girl suffering both mentally and physically and a boy who cannot feel any physical pain and retreats within himself to avoid emotional pain. This book is a wonderful look at pain and grief, and full of lovably human characters, quirk, humor, and depth.

Contains moderate language and moderate violence, and substance abuse