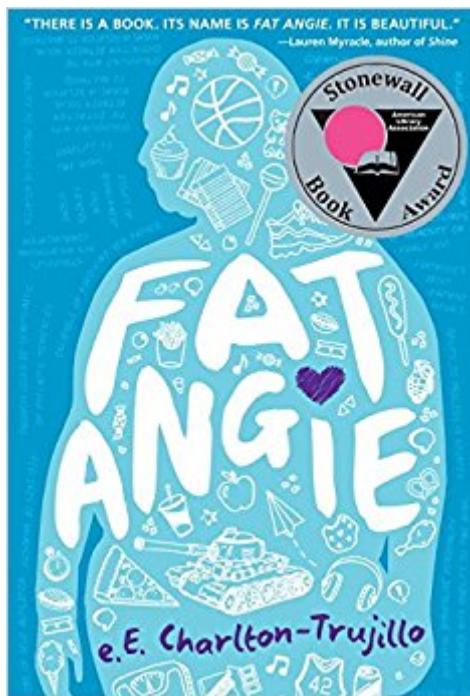


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Fat Angie



Synopsis

Winner of a 2014 Stonewall Book Award Her sister was captured in Iraq, she's the resident laughingstock at school, and her therapist tells her to count instead of eat. Can a daring new girl in her life really change anything? Angie is broken • by her can't-be-bothered mother, by her high-school tormenters, and by being the only one who thinks her varsity-athlete-turned-war-hero sister is still alive. Hiding under a mountain of junk food hasn't kept the pain (or the shouts of "crazy mad cow!") away. Having failed to kill herself • in front of a gym full of kids • she's back at high school just trying to make it through each day. That is, until the arrival of KC Romance, the kind of girl who doesn't exist in Dryfalls, Ohio. A girl who is one hundred and ninety-nine percent wow! A girl who never sees her as Fat Angie, and who knows too well that the package doesn't always match what's inside. With an offbeat sensibility, mean girls to rival a horror classic, and characters both outrageous and touching, this darkly comic anti-romantic romance will appeal to anyone who likes entertaining and meaningful fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up--Angie clings to the hope that her missing-in-action sister is alive in Afghanistan, no matter what her pessimistic family believes. Her mother never has a kind word for Angie, and her adopted brother treats her with disdain. Things are no better at school where malicious Stacy Ann and her minions make Angie's life miserable. Known as Fat Angie to her classmates, she's seen as the

friendless girl who tried to kill herself in front of a gym filled with people. Bullied and tormented, she's understandably leery when beautiful new girl KC Romance arrives in Dryfalls, Ohio, and attempts to befriend her. As their relationship grows, Angie begins to see herself through KC's eyes, and they help each other come to terms with who they really are. Narrated by Angela Dawe, Charlton-Trujillo's book (Candlewick, 2013) comes across as flat. The characters sound bored and disaffected in spite of the plot's drama and tension, and Dawe's reading shows little variation in tone and inflection from character to character. The narration also draws attention to narrative quirks that may have been overlooked in the book's written form, such as hearing the narrator repeatedly say Fat Angie. Similarly, the idiosyncratic slang that KC uses makes her seem more like a caricature than a real teen. While this is not Dawe's fault, her performance makes clear that the book tries too hard to be relevant at the expense of fully realized, well-developed characters. An additional purchase.-Audrey Sumser, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Mayfield, OH Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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Angie is fat. And miserable. And she has her reasons. Her sister, a star basketball player turned soldier, has been captured in Afghanistan. Everyone thinks she's dead. Angie's lawyer mother busies herself with work. Her adopted Korean brother busies himself being obnoxious. And Angie goes around wearing her sister's too-small b-ball T-shirt, trying to stay out of the mean girls' way. At one point, she tries to slit her wrists and comes out bleeding onto the basketball court. Then KC comes to town. Cool and cute, she makes a beeline for Angie and no one can figure out why (including the reader). But as the world turns, so do the pages, and Angie decides maybe she can play varsity basketball like her sister, and maybe she can have a "gay-girl-gay" relationship with KC•although KC's cutting gets in the way. Some of the characters don't push much beyond stereotype, but Angie's anguish and the dysfunction of her family seem quite real. As the story spins toward its conclusion, elements may seem preordained, but the emotion with which they're infused gives them new life. Grades 9-12. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I believe that *Fat Angie* should be required reading for all who work with teens, and for teens too. It captures the heart of being different in high school, both the heart ache that it brings as well as the triumph of overcoming that adversity. If even one person can see you for what you really are, it frees

you to see yourself that way too, and that is the first step to acceptance. This is a beautiful story, and a significant book. It will stand the test of time. I know because I am 59 years old and it spoke to the me that survived the nightmare of high school with the help of friends. I understand Fat Angie; I lived her pain. To see a book that does not dwell on self pity but rather focuses on the joy of never giving up and not giving in, to see that nonconformity is not a sin and should not feel the need to be forgiven, is wonderful. I highly recommend this book. It's stunning. My deepest gratitude to the author for planting this beacon of hope to all of us who work with kids and want so very deeply for them to survive intact and unique, as beautiful as we know they can be.

This is an absolutely fabulous read!! So very touching (painfully at times!), Fat Angie has the kind of heart, soul and kick-ass attitude of the shows it pays homage to throughout the book, Buffy The Vampire Slayer and Freaks and Geeks. I picked it out purely based on the title, but soon found it spoke to me in much more important ways. Anyone who has ever wanted to prove she is more than just what people think they know about her will hold Fat Angie close to her heart. And anyone who is a sucker for a sweet love story that proves there is someone out there who can look past appearances will find themselves falling in love with the characters. Angie ("Fat Angie" to her tormentors and her mom) never gives up hope on the things that matter to her even when everything is beating her down. KC Romance (yep, that's her name) is a kindred spirit even if she looks more like she'd fit in with the popular girls. They both fight their own self-destructive spirits to emerge better for having met each other. I hated finishing Fat Angie. Even after I waited the proper "this is waaay too good to start a new book right away" amount of time, I still found my next to be read title to pale in comparison.

As someone who had a sister overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, I felt a connection to this story. Although the period of time my sister's whereabouts was unknown was much shorter, it still took a toll on our family. There are many other ways in which I felt a connection to Angie, through the bullying at her school and the issues she faces with her mother, so this book was a bit heavy of a read for me at times. Especially because everything is happening at once, so there really isn't time to come to terms with a situation before more things get piled on top of it. For the most part I liked the book. But I also found it incredibly frustrating. I think the book would have been better if it were in first person. I am adding a platiptire for how emotional the book made me feel. I love when books make me react, especially if it can make me cry. Which it did.

2.5 of 5 stars

Fat Angie has a sister missing in Afghanistan, a juvenile delinquent brother who bullies her as bad as the kids at school do, an absentee father and a mother who constantly reminds her that she's fat. When new girl KC befriends her, Fat Angie begins to see her positive features and believes she can improve herself. For anyone who's felt different or been bullied **FAT ANGIE** will touch a cord of familiarity. For anyone who's stood by and watched someone bully or be bullied, this novel gives insight as well. While Fat Angie was a three dimensional character, the adults felt more stereotypical than unique. **FAT ANGIE** might have been a better read had it been written in the first, rather than omniscient voice. The narrator called the heroine "Fat Angie", rather than simply by her first name, which felt awkward. Charlton-Trujillo's overuse of passive verbs at times flattened the story. Overall I give **FAT ANGIE** a lukewarm recommendation.

Fat Angie is so much more than a book about bullying. It's more than a book about loss. And it's more than a book about self-discovery. It's a cautionary tale about what happens to the people left behind in war and an illustration of the disconnect that occurs in families suffering through intense grief. The subject matter is raw at times, the approach unblinking, but there's an undercurrent of hope in the face of daunting situations and against sizeable odds that makes Fat Angie a joy to read. And in case this review sounds too dark, let me add (without spoilers) that there are Hoosier-type moments and a quirky version of happily ever after, too:-) Thank you for a great read!

Poorly edited. Inconsistent writing. The fact that this book won the Stonewall award is a testament to the dire state of young adult LGBTQ positive material. Read this because my goddaughter wanted to read it, and I wanted to be able to talk with her about it. Now I think our talk will be less about the important themes of the book and more about what makes good vs bad literature. I really tried to like this book. Too poorly written to win me over, however. It needed a stronger editor to merit publication.

My teen wanted this book. Good book and price.

At first the writing appeared to be sloppy and the topics jumpy, but the more I got to know Angie, the more I understood that the way the author wrote the book truly reflected the way Angie's mind worked. I enjoyed a glimpse inside Angie's mind, even with the first-person perspective. In the hands of the right people, I think this book has the power to make the world a better place. I highly recommend this for high school students, and maybe even mature middle schoolers. What Angie

goes through in this book will be relatable to some and eye-opening for others.

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