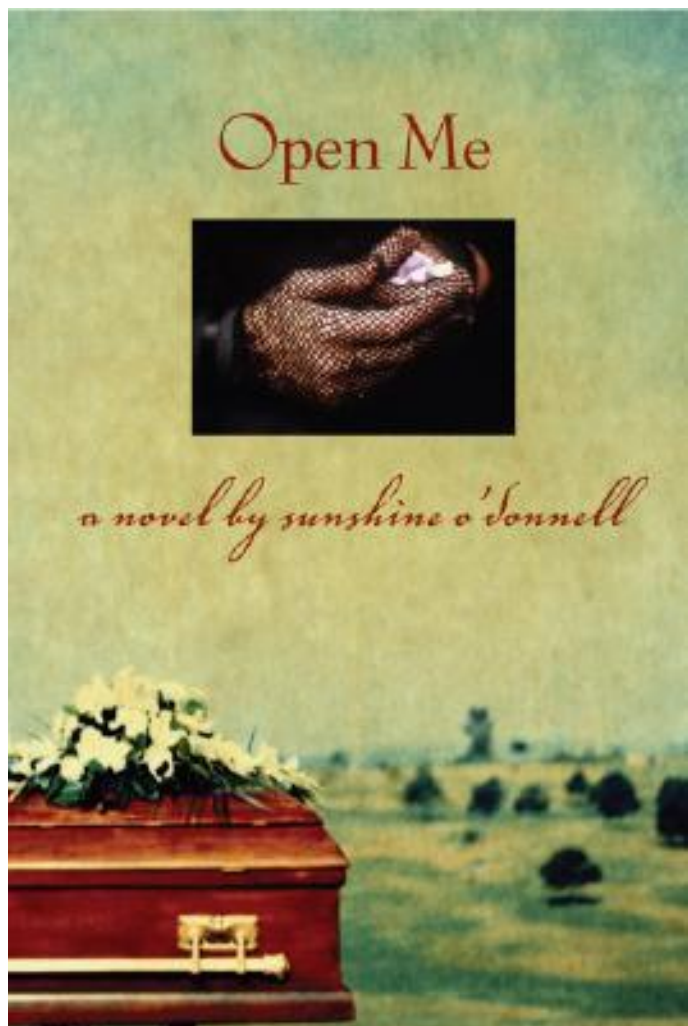

Sunshine O'Donnell

Open Me



Title: Open Me

Author: Sunshine O'Donnell

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 230

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Download: allowed

Description

A debut novel about a young girl at the center of the secret world of professional mourners, where women are trained extensively and paid handsomely to attend the funerals of strangers. Mem is a wailer, a professional mourner hired to cry at funerals. One of the few remaining American girls in this secret, illegal profession, Mem hails from a long line of mourners, including her mother, a legendary master wailer hired for the most important funerals in her hometown of Philadelphia. Though Mem is to eventually become a renowned wailer herself, she at first struggles with her calling. She is a girl who cannot make herself cry, and though her mother loves her fiercely, she must use ancient, emotionally abusive, cultlike rituals to train Mem to weep. When Mem emerges as the greatest wailer that the profession has ever seen, her infamy brings with it unwanted attention, especially from the authorities. Interweaving poetic prose and artifacts spanning six thousand years and seven continents, *Open Me* is an utterly original novel about mothers and daughters, dark underworlds, and the play between fact and fiction.

Insightful reviews

Jessica: Not sure where I picked up this book - I think it was last summer's clearance sale at B&N..... This was interesting but honestly if the book had a preview on the back cover of what it was really about, I don't know if I would have picked it up. Of course I'm trying to "branch out" from what I normally read, so I did finish this and am glad that I did. It is an easy read although a rather interesting topic (women and their daughters paid to wail at funerals and the history of their lineage through ancient times). This was an easy read and one I'll pass along but not one I would read again.

Rita: I'm really not sure what to think of this book.

While there were good parts and the characters were well developed, it went on for too, too long and took itself far too, too seriously. Plus, I'm not really sure *what* to think about the "historical references" since they were only more bits of fiction added to reflect the storyline. It would have been interesting for some actual historical references to be added. The fake ones seemed to be pointless.

It is an interesting population, these professional mourners. But, like every interesting population that is little-known, the reader would like to find more information along the way. The searches I did came up with almost nothing about the modern history of these groups, so it was somewhat disappointing to realize that probably most of what was written in this book was simply made up in the author's head with no outside sources to back it up at all. Which makes it unlike other historical fiction, like that of Lisa See or Ami McKay.

I finished it. But, I wished it had been more than it was.

Tara: This book is one of the most original books that I have read in a while, especially due to the subject matter. It is half historical artifacts and half a fictional account of a young wailer. I

found it highly engaging and her style of writing easy to read. It is about funerals and wailing so it is not the most uplifting book though.

Jennifer: think residing all your existence waking up every one morning and being compelled to cry. think the worst phrases an individual has ever stated to you and picture they stated them for the soul objective of training you ways to cry on command. think that your one and basically task as a person was once to cry for individuals you by no means knew, by no means met, by no means saw. This is "Mirabelle's" life. She does not exist within the common world. She was once born and raised for the only function of crying at funerals. She does not exist, but, she's sought after greater than a person and the folk that wish her are prepared to pay top-dollar for her services. those providers simply ensue to be opposed to the law. And what occurs while Mirabelle eventually sees how the remainder of the realm lives? Will she try and get out of her profession? Will she make it? Or is she caught wailing for the deceased the remainder of her life? In Sunshine O'Donnell's debut novel, she creates what may perhaps simply be a old fiction masterpiece if Wailing was once real. And who knows? might be it is. I learn this booklet cover-to-cover in a single evening simply because I simply could not place it down. It used to be as though I used to be gazing the whole heritage of Wailing unfolding prior to my eyes and that I may pass over an enormous improvement if I regarded away for a moment. Between each one bankruptcy lies a key record within the background of Wailing starting from historical appeals to goddesses to newspaper articles to senate bills. those snapshots of time make an already attention-grabbing publication much more so. The characters are so... raw, is the single be aware that matches them, I think. you will both love them or you will hate them. aside from Aunt Raziel, she's simply bizarre within the quirky sense. if you are something like me, there are a number of characters you will like to achieve in the course of the publication and slap and a pair you simply are looking to hug and carry onto forever, shield them from the world's evil. The in simple terms actual feedback I've got for Open Me will be that I hated the ending. It was once an abrupt plot twist so huge that it left me pressured till I learn it thrice over. I felt like rather a lot paintings went into the full book, then the tip was once simply driven out as speedy as possible. I did not deal with it at all. Overall though, the booklet was once notable and hugely suggest it to an individual that enjoys this genre!

Sarah: This used to be a desirable book! I had learn another e-book with a point out of "wailers" at a funeral. I had no proposal it used to be nonetheless going on. I had no proposal what the name of "Wailer" intended - the history, the lifestyle, the strangeness of it. even if the tale of this little girl, groomed by means of her mom to be a wailer, is unhappy I did not locate the publication miserable or morbid. It was once challenging to place down since it used to be such an engaging glimpse right into a thoroughly exceptional world!

Karen: rather loved studying this book! firstly the subject material used to be very interesting, whatever I by no means relatively knew something approximately until eventually now. I additionally greatly loved the best way that Sunshine O'Donnell writes, it's very lyrical and mesmerizing. I significantly expect her subsequent book, with a bit of luck it's popping out ahead of later.

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