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# Angry: A Novel



## Synopsis

Emma is angry. She's angry at her siblings, who she always has to baby sit; her parents, who are divorcing and ruining her life in the process; and herself for not measuring up to anyone's standards. With her simmering feelings ready to spill over at any time, Emma's self-worth plummets. Her faith in God is tested in the face of overwhelming hurt that threatens to send her over the edge. Can she turn back in time? Online study guide companion available.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Angry is compelling and heart-wrenching. Laura Smith grabs your attention and has it throughout the entirety of the book. As Emma goes through hard times, you feel for her as if it were you back in high school. --UP Magazine editor Kelci HouseSmith writes as if she remembers her own teenage years, nailing the social drama, academic responsibilities and turbulent emotions of youth right on the head. --TotallyHer.com writer Melissa J. CarswellLaura L. Smith writes of a very familiar experience; life falling apart and falling back together with God's love and forgiveness. --Miami University student Amanda TullisEmotion, familiarity and faith in Angry capture your attention to a point where you feel as if you are Emma, her anger is your anger, her struggles are your struggles, and her relief is your relief. --Miami University student Olivia KrawczykLaura Smith's books are about every day life! --Talawanda High School student, Brianna Nixon

Are your parents divorced? One out of two people reading this will answer yes. If you are one

of those people, (I am) you most likely experienced feelings of disbelief, blame, guilt, sorrow, loneliness and anger when your parents dissolved their marriage. Divorce is never easy, yet it happens all around us. One out of two marriages ends in divorce, leaving a whole lot of people with a whole lot of scars. Emma, the main character in my new book, *Angry*, is one of those people. *Angry* is the third book in my Christian teen fiction series which revolves around a group of five high school friends and the issues they face during their high school years. The first book, *Skinny*, follows Melissa as she gets swallowed by an eating disorder. *Hot*, the second book, revolves around Lindsey as she gets engulfed by the flames of passion when she meets her first real boyfriend. And now, in *Angry*, Emma feels torn by the pain of her parents' divorce.

I bought this book for my grand daughters and read it myself. This book's story line will resonate with many teens dealing with parents divorce and their own self-worth in the midst of the turmoil. I would recommend this book for anyone 14 or 15 and older. Although, kids are exposed to so much more than we ever thought possible twenty or thirty years ago.

Very excellent story of real life - what our kids go through during a divorce is accurately portrayed in this book. A lot of it is hard - not for children, but Godly guidance that would help older kids & parents know they are not alone AND that God has a plan for their lives no matter what they have been through. Praise God!

Great read.. the whole series is a great read for teens/ young adults.. I suggest that you read this whole series..

I really enjoyed this book and highly recommend it to anyone. I read it in one day, because I could not put it down.

This was an okay book but didn't really hold my interest as much as I would have liked. It is more for a younger person.

Emma's parent's unexpected divorce has thrown her world out of control. Everything seems to be falling apart and Emma is the one stuck trying to hold it together. The guilt her parents inflict on her causes her to respond in anger and the last thing she wants to do is be around them. The two bright spots in her life are her friends and the upcoming school production of *Les Miserables*. When Emma

lands the part of Eponine, she finds a unique way to deal with the pain. What she does not know is that God is going to use this play to draw her to him. When I read the synopsis for *Angry*, I expected it to be heavy reading full of drama and teenage angst. I was pleasantly surprised to find that although the author deals with Emma's anger, the book is not depressing and heavy. Emma is presented as an authentic teenage girl whose life is changing. She is angry at her parents and a bit rebellious, but anger does not define all of who she is. Rather Emma is fun-loving and happy at some parts. She genuinely cares about her siblings, friends, and even parents. The story emphasizes the use of God-given passions as a coping technique for dealing with pain and anger. It's a good idea and far better than some of the unhealthy ways that some people cope with their anger. I would recommend this book for teenage girls as that is who it is aimed towards. However, as a 20-something, who hasn't been in high school for awhile, I still enjoyed the book.

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Although *Angry* by Laura L. Smith is marketed as "teen fiction", I don't believe I would allow my teenage daughter to read this. (if I had one) Divorce, adultery and alcoholism are some of the sensitive topics mentioned in this book and I strongly suggest that parents read this for themselves before handing it over to their teenager. Readers should also be aware that "slang" is used in this book and the main character talks about losing her virginity. All of these issues are very hot topics and I think that parents will have to decide for themselves whether or not this is an appropriate book for their child to read. The book is about an angry teenage girl whose parents are divorcing after an extramarital affair. This story details the thoughts, feelings and emotions that a teenager might experience while going through this. Emma, (the main character) is also angry at God. Based on the book's description of this family, they do not appear to be actively practicing any type of faith so I'm not sure how the main character even knows about God. There's no mention of church attendance (past or present) or religious beliefs and God, family and marriage aren't a high priority in this family. The parents have both thrown themselves into their careers, neglecting each other and leaving their teenage daughter to care for her siblings. Emma is confused, frustrated and battling low self esteem. At the end of the book, Emma talks about a "warm golden feeling" which she attributes to God, but the reader doesn't walk away with a sense of reconciliation. There's nothing to indicate that Emma is making major changes in her life other than not being so angry at God.

anymore. While she "talks" to God and asks Him for things, that's about the extent of her relationship with Him. She doesn't seek out a pastor, counseling or a church, she doesn't read the Bible; there's just a lot of conversation between her and God in which she supposes what He says back to her. I have to say I was a little disappointed in this book. It didn't convey the message of Christ that I thought it would. Granted, you don't have to be preachy to get the Gospel across but this title didn't share much of any message, in my opinion. Maybe I misconstrued the intent of this book? I was hoping that it would not only help readers who have gone through this, identify with Emma, but perhaps it would point them to Christ, the only source of help we can rely on in times of crisis. I would have liked to have seen Emma and her family come to know Christ, establish a solid relationship with Him and possibly reconcile with each other. Or maybe the parents could have made some type of effort to work things out - that scenario would at least give some hope. This story basically writes off one parent who slowly disappears from the scene, while the other plows through life, relying on alcohol to cope. I didn't find it necessarily uplifting nor encouraging, which I expected from NavPress.

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