



# Valencia and Valentine

Written by Suzy Krause

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Valencia and Valentine

That was part of the charm of the story with both these narratives I was never quite sure what was truth, what was a lie, and what was a figment of the characters imagination. Reading this book really was like putting a puzzle together. It really didn't make much sense and you couldn't see the beauty of it until it was all pieced together.

A lovely tale you need to read with an open mind. The beginning of the story is a little convoluted, a little muddled.. But these characters are so endearing, so engaging, you can't help but fall in love with them and want to know what happens in their lives. A delightful debut looking forward to what's next from Suzy Krause.

\*\*\* many thanks to Lake Union for my copy of this book \*\*\* ...more

## Valencia And Valentine Book

There is a reason I don't read mental illness books. I got this as a Kindle First read and both the cover illustration and first 20 pages lured me into thinking this would be a cuter read than it was. Instead, I got an unreliable narrator who came off as deeply disturbed, more so than I think the writer aimed to convey. What could have been cute and romancy was a confusing ball of mess. I get the author's underlying message, but it didn't redeem the book for me.

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, [click here](#).

I see that a lot of readers were annoyed by Valencia's mental illness in this book. As someone with OCD and anxiety, I can say that is pretty much the way the population tends to react to actual people with similar issues. Myself, I loved the story. Yes, I figured out that Valencia and Valentine were one and the same, but I was left guessing at other things. Was Valencia hallucinating? Was Mrs Valentine ever really married? I loved the ending. I loved that Valencia/Mrs Valentine was finally able to overcome her OCD by realizing that the worse had already happened and she SURVIVED. It is a not-so-subtle reminder to tell that little voice (the one that whispers "What if?" in the back of my head) to take a flying leap and shut the heck up. ...more

## Valencia And Valentine Synopsis

“For readers of Eleanor Oliphant” was very misleading. I wish people would stop using other books as carrots to get readers to pick up a book. Or maybe I just need to stop being so easily led.

I just really did not like this story, and yet I couldn't stop reading it “ kind of like when a car wreck is going to happen, and you hope and hope it won't happen and you can't look away in hopes the wreck won't happen, but it happens anyway. I prefer stories with at least some hope, but this one was just “For readers of Eleanor Oliphant” was very misleading. I wish people would stop using other books as carrots to get readers to pick up a book. Or maybe I just need to stop being so easily led.

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...more

I have very mixed feelings about this book. I almost put it down a hundred times, but the author had piqued my interest about a few events that made me keep reading to find out what happened. But I really did NOT enjoy the book until my kindle told me I was 70% done. Then, the book became interesting and I enjoyed the rest of the read. But to take 3/4 of a book before it really grabs you, is just too long. It could also be extremely confusing as to the past and the present and what was real and what wasn't. All in all this was a decent read but I really can't say I would recommend it. ...more

## Valencia And Valentine Summary

What an enjoyable debut! From the cover to the name to the description, I was excited to read this book and it didn't disappoint. Both Valencia and Mrs. Valentine were likable from the start in spite of - and actually because of - their quirks. Readers will devour this feel-good book and eagerly anticipate more from this author.

Valencia is a 35-year-old debt collector. Mrs. Valentine is an 87-year-old lonely widow. Both are somewhat obsessed with death.

Valencia and Mrs. Valentine's stories are told with alternating points of view. Valencia is stuck in a job she doesn't love, has no friends, and struggles with her crippling fears and OCD. She wants to change her life, and starts to make strides in that direction. Along the way, she starts a romance with a man she talks with on the phone at work and she becomes friends with a new coworker. Mrs. Valentine is lonely, and talks to anyone who gives her the chance - neighbors, telemarketers, and her new cleaning lady. She loves to tell her stories, and is excited the new cleaning lady wants to hear about her life.

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This was my pick for Amazon's First Reads in May 2019. I wasn't a big fan of this book. I found the plot too convoluted, yet predictable. The characters both have fairly sad lives, and some parts came off as quite dark. I was expecting something a little more heartwarming and light. A bittersweet novel of love and loneliness. ...more

## Valencia And Valentine Excerpt

Wow. I truly loved this book. Krause has written characters you will fall in love with, root for, and laugh along with (and sometimes at). Valencia and Valentine is a truly impressive debut from an incredibly talented writer. I can't wait for what's next.

OH MY HEART. What a glorious book! Very much in tune with Eleanor Oliphant, but remarkably different as well, I burned through this gem. So many feelings, a real mix of humour and heartbreak. Valencia's voice leapt off the page and the OCD elements felt all too real. By the end, I was legit weeping. Astounding debut!!

Big thanks to Lake Union for a complimentary finished review copy!