



## Leslie's Journal

*Allan Stratton*

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**Leslie's Journal** Allan Stratton

*A gripping story about the dark side of a first love.*

Awards for the previous edition:

American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults

American Library Association Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

American Library Association Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults

The Best, Notable and Recommended List, Teacher Librarian Magazine

Leslie can't seem to avoid trouble, whether it's at school or at home. Just as life seems at its lowest, Jason McCready, the exceedingly cool new guy at school, enters her life.

Now Leslie is the envy of all the girls. But Jason's appearance is deceiving -- he is determined to control every aspect of Leslie's life, and he begins terrorizing her in unimaginable ways.

When a substitute teacher reads the private English-class journal in which Leslie reveals Jason's abuse, Leslie is suddenly forced into hard choices and terrifying action to take back her life.

Updated to reflect the contemporary world of the Internet, cell phones and text messaging, *Leslie's Journal* is a suspenseful, fast-paced story about love, friendship and what it means to stand up for yourself.

## Leslie's Journal Details

Date : Published September 2nd 2000 by Annick Press

ISBN : 9781550376647

Author : Allan Stratton

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Sociology, Abuse, Romance, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Leslie's Journal for online ebook

### Allan Stratton says

Hi,

I'm the author of Leslie's Journals. I love meeting readers, so if you have a question for me, feel free to email me through this website or my own website: [www.allanstratton.com](http://www.allanstratton.com)

Leslie's Journal is a thriller/suspense about a fifteen-year girl, Leslie, who is mad at the world., Her parents are splitting up, she'd losing her best friend to a clique that tries to exclude her, her marks are dropping, she's acting out -- and all of a sudden the apparently charming, devoted senior enters her life. Only he's a very sick dude. When Leslie tries to break it off, he refuses and blackmails her with digital pix he took one night when he'd gotten her drunk. What she does -- and how she rescues herself from this pit -- is the story.

I wrote the book because of an absolute certainty that the proplem of stalking and bullying against young women is under reported, and that young women need a book that lets them know they're not alone. (And guys need it to help figure out what they can do to help.) In the adult world, women can see the stalker in his car across the street and call the police. But in the teen world the stalker can be giving the girl the evil eye in the hall, the classroom, the library, wherever -- and the teachers (school "police") will think it's normal for him to be there. And if the relationship's been sexual, he can blackmail her. And if she's at-risk, she'll be especially afraid that no one will believe her.

Very scary. Which is what ultimately makes Leslie a very special person, one about whom I care deeply.

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### Alienne says

This is the kind of book that you pick up every time a moment of free time presents itself. Once the book gets to a certain point-which doesn't take long-it is almost impossible to put down.

That said, I'm not sure whether I actually enjoyed it or not. The read, yes. The story...meh. Leslie annoyed me, to be frank. And the book definitely doesn't read like a series of journal entries; it reads like a typical book written in first person.

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### Lisa-Jaine says

I give kudos to any book that covers dark subjects such as "Leslie's Journal". If this can reach out to just one girl who is going through the same emotions and feeling confusion as Leslie when her first love turns abusive and her initiation into lovemaking is rape, then its worth every word.

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### Jessica says

Very good book.

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## **Lisa says**

I read this a couple of years ago and when I saw it in the library, I decided to re-read it.

I give it 4 stars. I'm sure a lot of people would read this book and probably be annoyed with the main character or just not like the book. I just like it because it really seems possible.

It's creepy and disturbing. The girl in the book seems to be really focused on how her peers perceive her and she gets caught in a very horrible situation.

I don't think the author wanted a quiet/shy-girl type of character. I think he purposely made his character to be like a normal teenage girl(not like every teenage girl, just the "average" one). He made her naive and rebellious with something to prove. Maybe he did this so people could see how easy you can be put in a bad situation, or maybe he wanted people to be able to relate in some way to Leslie.

Anyways, she gets involved with the wrong boy. I enjoyed the book because it isn't afraid to show how scary an abusive relationship can be. I enjoyed it because Leslie went through a lot of growth and she was pretty brave at times.

The one thing that could definitely turn off readers is Leslie. To put it bluntly, she can be a brat. The first half of the book, she's really mean to her friends and family and she's generally not likeable. I think she redeems herself(slightly) towards the end. Throughout the book, her character goes through a lot of emotional growth. She's still not extremely likeable but you realize she still has a lot of growing up to do.

I think the book is more like 3 and a half stars but lately I've been feeling generous and try to round up. It's a quick read(just short of 200 pages) but it's really quite disturbing and shows the dark side of teenage relationships.

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## **Shara Weiss says**

Have you ever been in a controlling relationship? Have you ever been fearful for your safety? This gripping novel is about a relationship gone bad.

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## **Myriam says**

Ma chronique : <http://unjour-unlivre.fr/2016/11/lech...>

Un début un peu long mais une histoire dramatique qui s'emballé et nous rappelle que trop de jeunes filles sont également victimes d'abus sexuels et de violences physiques et émotionnelles par des garçons de leur âge, et n'ont parfois pas le courage de parler, à un âge où on a l'impression que les adultes ne nous comprennent pas.

Un roman poignant, dur et puissant, à lire et faire lire à tous les adolescents.

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## Amanda says

### Leslie's Journal Fails to Impress

Leslie Philips can only be described by one word. "Trouble" (Stratton 12). She constantly rebels against her mother and teachers, experiments with drugs and alcohol and when it comes to school, if she decides to show up, her grades are less than satisfactory. With her parent's recent divorce and her new "cute, perky, overgrown cheerleader" (Stratton 21) stepmom in the picture, it seems as though Leslie's world is falling apart, until she meets Jason, the hunky heartthrob, newly transferred from a prestigious prep school. Tall, dark and handsome, Jason seems like the perfect guy, the conventional bad boy, but soon Leslie is thrown into a whirlwind of a relationship she just can't seem to get out of.

Set somewhere in the suburban United States, Leslie's Journal tells the story of the trials and tribulations of fifteen year old Leslie Philips as she pushes away her friends and family and enters a new sexually and physically abusive relationship. Although filled with both suspenseful and intriguing moments that would have you hanging off your seat, Leslie's Journal fails to impress. From the simplistic writing style to the predictable storyline, I couldn't wait for this book to be over.

The first line of the novel reads, "It's only the first week and school already sucks" (Stratton 1), and so does this book. The writing style is completely juvenile and overly simplistic, with language fit for a twelve year old but with content for much older. The author of the novel, Allan Stratton, takes on a very, and I mean very sarcastic, ironic and frankly annoying tone. When Leslie's not complaining about homework, teachers or girls at school, she's lashing out at her mother for some god-awful reason. Rude and obnoxious, Leslie is in fact a 'parent's nightmare' as I found it hard to connect or even feel a tiny bit of compassion for her. The characters are amazingly, over-superficial, from Leslie, the raging and rebellious teen, complete in her fish-net stocking and midriff-bearing tops. Burdened by the fact that her parents had moved around a lot when she was a child, she was unable to make many friends or form new relationships. Throw in the cliché divorced parents ordeal; Leslie's just a 'lost soul' looking for a stable relationship and someone to love. Enter Jason; the rich, snobby, motorcycle driving bad boy boyfriend that every girl wants but can't have. "When I look out, I see it's him the guy from the office. And come to think of it, he is really cute, slouched all alone against the goalpost, one knee slightly bent, hands on his back pockets, head back to catch some rays. He looks like an underwear model with clothes on" (Stratton 17)

Apart from the stereotypical characters, Leslie's Journal also lacks in plot. The 'I thought he was a good guy, but I was wrong' storyline, although realistic, has been recycled over and over again, in books, television and film, leaving the novel completely predictable. I was hoping for a change in Leslie's character, something that would give the book a 'morally uplifting' ending, but once again I was let down. Despite the realism of the story, the outcome was quite unrealistic. Leslie was lucky, but not many girls in this kind of situation are. Overall Leslie's Journal was quite a let down. Despite the novel's stereotypical, intolerable, under-developed characters, Leslie's arrogant, obnoxious tone and its predictable plot, I found the book hard to put down. I would recommend this book to adolescents looking for a fast, 'leisure' read and to someone who doesn't care for the elements that make up a good book. As for me, I will be moving this book to the back of my bookshelf.

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## Kelly says

Billed as this generation's Go Ask Alice, I had great hopes for this book. It was so-so. Teen girls will like the journal format and the fact that Leslie is troubled. The story deals with date rape which leads to an abusive relationshi. (Mom and dad recently divorced and Leslie's bff is finding new friends so Leslie feels left out.)

Leslie's voice is fairly authentic, but the entire story is so rushed - everything happens so quickly, and there

isn't much depth to any of it.

In the author's afterword, he talks about how he updated this book to represent today's technology with cell phones and computers, so the book has been around for a while.

Teens like realistic fiction, but this did not come off as realistic to me.

Although I found the book lacking, teen girls will probably like it more than I did.

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### **Tina says**

This was a hard book to read. A young girl who falls in love with the wrong guy. She has been asked, by her teacher, to write a journal which is supposed to be confidential, even to the school staff, except that one teacher decides to read it and helps Leslie understand that what she is living is not love, but rather rape.

Compelling, especially since this is written from the point of view of Leslie. She writes innocently about what she thinks is love and as time progresses, her journal and the tone gets darker and darker.

I think this book does a very good job of showing how rapists (and other predators) "groom" the people they want. This book shows just how easy it is for a young person (or even not so young) to fall into the trap - thinking that love = pain.

Well, written, many passages made me angry, Leslie is strong though in many ways and this book is an important read.

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### **Miss.I.Love.Reading.Books says**

I remember seeing this book on a shelf and thinking "I have to read this!" This is when I was obsessed with reading journals & diaries. I had read `Go ask Alice` `Annie's Baby` `It happened to Nancy` and other books. This book is powerful, gripping and has a little humor in it.

Leslie is a lonely student who's parents divorced and she only has one geeky friend named Katie, Leslie pretends to be popular and lies to her school mates saying she has plenty of boyfriend's when she doesn't. Then Jason comes along and her world changes, Jason is cool, smooth and bad. Leslie starts dating him. In the beginning things are going well, Jason is romantic to her. By the second date he takes her to his house, he's rich & lives in a house on the hill. His parents are gone all the time so he does what he wants, he ask Leslie if she wants a drink one minute, the next minute he's telling her "Get up and put your clothes on you have to get out of here now!!" What happened? Leslie figures it out piece by piece. She continues going out with Jason and writing about it, then one day a sub teacher reads he journal....

The teacher reports it to the principle but Leslie lies and says Its all made up because she does want Jason to get locked up. Jason finds out, hits Leslie throws her to the ground and starts kicking her. She says she's had enough and wants to break up. That's when Jason starts stalking and threatening Leslie.

The book gets really intense after that. I'd recommend this book to anyone who wants a good book to read. I can't believe a man wrote this book using the mind of a teenager.

### **Tori says**

2004- I'll admit I didn't have the highest hopes for this story about Leslie, a daughter of divorced parents, who starts to write her most personal thoughts in a journal assigned to her by her English teacher. It seems like Leslie's only outlet, and since her teacher promised never to read it, what's the harm in putting down personal stuff, like the fact she likes Jason? Jason isn't exactly your average boyfriend however. His first ""date"" with Leslie involves too much alcohol and it isn't until later that Leslie realizes she's been raped. Leslie continues to see Jason after this, seeing something in the much older and richer guy. His behavior just starts to escalate, and then a new English teacher turns over Leslie's journal to the principal. Leslie's scared for her life and so are the readers in this disturbing story of teenage relationship violence.

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### **Cecile says**

Une lecture difficile pour moi. C'est rare de tomber sur un livre qui me plonge dans une angoisse aussi grande. Attention, c'est très bien écrit. Le problème n'est pas là. C'est le sujet en lui-même. J'ai même hésité à ne pas le finir. Après tout, rien ne m'oblige à le lire et j'ai plein de livres dans ma PAL. Mais j'avais envie de poursuivre et de voir comment Leslie allait s'en sortir. Je voulais en arriver à la partie "espoir". Et j'ai eu raison. Très bon titre, même si le sujet est vraiment angoissant pour moi : manipulation perverse, violences...

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### **Meghan says**

Let's teach our children to seek the help of adults. Let us be adults that children can trust and seek for help. Leslie is a beautifully crafted character, and I'm glad she 'exists' to help and inspire others.

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### **Sana says**

The MC is probably the most annoying piece of trash on earth

Disrespectful? Whining on the first fucking page? A fucking brat? No thank you.

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