

candy by luke davies

Candy by Luke Davies: A Deep Dive into the Novel and Its Impact

candy by luke davies is a novel that has resonated with readers and critics alike for its raw, compelling portrayal of love, addiction, and the human condition. Luke Davies, an Australian writer and screenwriter, crafted this semi-autobiographical work with such authenticity that it has become a cornerstone in contemporary literature dealing with substance abuse and emotional turmoil. Whether you're familiar with the story or hearing about it for the first time, exploring candy by luke davies reveals much more than just a tale of addiction; it opens a window into the struggles and resilience of the human spirit.

The Origins of Candy by Luke Davies

Luke Davies wrote candy during the early 1990s, drawing heavily from his own experiences with heroin addiction. This deeply personal background lends the narrative an unflinching honesty that is both heartbreaking and illuminating. Candy was first published in 1997, and it quickly became recognized as a landmark piece in Australian literature for its candid exploration of the dark realities surrounding drug dependency.

The novel was later adapted into a film in 2006, starring Heath Ledger and Abbie Cornish, which further amplified its reach and influence. The cinematic adaptation brought the emotional intensity and tragic beauty of candy to a wider audience, cementing its place in popular culture.

Exploring the Themes in Candy by Luke Davies

One of the most striking aspects of candy by luke davies is how it weaves together several profound themes that resonate universally.

Love and Addiction

At its core, candy is a story about the complex relationship between love and addiction. The protagonists' love story is intertwined with their shared battle with heroin, creating a poignant narrative that explores how addiction can both bond and destroy relationships. Luke Davies captures the paradox of love in such circumstances — how it can be a source of hope and despair simultaneously.

The Destructive Nature of Heroin

Unlike many narratives that either glamorize or overly demonize drug use, candy presents

heroin addiction in a brutally honest light. The novel delves into the physical, psychological, and social devastation caused by heroin, from the initial allure to the inescapable downward spiral. This raw portrayal helps readers understand the grip of addiction beyond stereotypes, highlighting the vulnerability and desperation faced by users.

Hope and Redemption

Despite its dark subject matter, *candy* by Luke Davies is not without moments of hope. The story acknowledges the possibility of recovery and redemption, though it never simplifies the journey. This nuanced perspective is part of what makes the novel so impactful, offering a realistic yet compassionate view of addiction and its aftermath.

Writing Style and Literary Significance

Luke Davies' writing style in *candy* is notable for its poetic sensibility and emotional depth. His prose often carries a lyrical quality, reflecting the highs and lows of addiction and love with vivid imagery and raw emotion. This approach draws readers deeply into the characters' internal worlds, making their experiences palpable and relatable.

In literary circles, *candy* is praised for its contribution to addiction literature and its role in destigmatizing discussions around drug dependency. It stands as a testament to how personal storytelling can foster empathy and understanding in broader societal contexts.

Use of Symbolism

Throughout the novel, Davies employs symbolism to enrich the narrative. For example, the recurring motif of "candy" itself serves as a metaphor for the allure of heroin — sweet, tempting, but ultimately harmful. These symbolic elements add layers of meaning that invite readers to reflect on the complexities of temptation and consequence.

Impact and Legacy of *Candy* by Luke Davies

Since its publication, *candy* by Luke Davies has influenced not just readers but also public conversations about addiction. It has been used in educational settings to help students and professionals better understand the psychological and social facets of substance abuse.

The novel's impact extends into mental health advocacy, where its honest depiction of addiction challenges stigma and encourages empathy. By humanizing the experience of addiction, *candy* helps bridge gaps between those struggling and the wider community.

The Film Adaptation and Its Role

The 2006 film adaptation of *Candy* brought the story to an international audience, with Heath Ledger's critically acclaimed performance highlighting the tragic dimensions of addiction. The movie, like the book, does not shy away from portraying the harsh realities, contributing to a more nuanced public perception of drug dependency.

Why *Candy* by Luke Davies Remains Relevant Today

Even decades after its release, *Candy* by Luke Davies remains a powerful read. The issues it addresses — addiction, love, loss, and recovery — are as relevant today as ever. In an era where mental health and substance abuse awareness continue to grow, the novel offers insight and understanding that transcend time and geography.

Lessons from *Candy* for Readers and Society

There are several valuable takeaways from *Candy* that resonate on both personal and societal levels:

- **Empathy over judgment:** Understanding addiction as a human struggle rather than a moral failing.
- **The complexity of relationships:** Recognizing that love can be complicated by external challenges like addiction.
- **The importance of support systems:** Highlighting the role of community and care in recovery.
- **Awareness and education:** Encouraging informed conversations to reduce stigma around drug use.

Where to Find *Candy* by Luke Davies

For those interested in reading *Candy* by Luke Davies, the novel is widely available in bookstores and online retailers, both in print and digital formats. Many libraries also carry it as part of their contemporary literature collections. Additionally, the film adaptation is accessible via streaming platforms and DVD, offering another medium through which to experience this compelling story.

Whether you're drawn to the literary craft, the emotional depth, or the social commentary, *Candy* offers a profound experience that stays with you long after the last page is turned.

Exploring *Candy* by Luke Davies gives readers more than just a narrative about addiction; it provides a mirror reflecting the complexity of human emotions and the resilience found in even the darkest moments. Its enduring relevance is a testament to Luke Davies' skillful storytelling and his courage in sharing a deeply personal journey with the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Candy' and what is the book about?

The author of 'Candy' is Luke Davies. The book is a semi-autobiographical novel that explores the intense and destructive relationship between two lovers struggling with heroin addiction.

Is 'Candy' by Luke Davies based on a true story?

Yes, 'Candy' is largely based on Luke Davies' own experiences with addiction and his relationship with his partner, making it a raw and authentic portrayal of drug dependency.

What themes are explored in 'Candy' by Luke Davies?

The novel explores themes such as love, addiction, loss, and redemption, highlighting the emotional and physical toll of heroin addiction on individuals and their relationships.

Has 'Candy' by Luke Davies been adapted into any other media?

Yes, 'Candy' was adapted into a film in 2006, starring Heath Ledger and Abbie Cornish, which closely follows the novel's storyline about addiction and recovery.

What makes 'Candy' by Luke Davies a significant work in addiction literature?

Candy is significant because it provides a deeply personal and honest look at the struggles of addiction, combining poetic prose with brutal realism, which resonates with readers and offers insight into the challenges of overcoming substance abuse.

Additional Resources

Candy by Luke Davies: A Deep Dive into Addiction and Redemption

candy by luke daves stands as a compelling narrative that delves into the harrowing realities of drug addiction and the complex process of recovery. This semi-autobiographical novel, which later inspired a critically acclaimed film adaptation, is often regarded as a poignant exploration of love, dependency, and human frailty. Luke Davies, an Australian writer and screenwriter, draws from his own experiences to craft a story that is both intimate and universal, offering readers an unflinching look at the devastating grip of heroin addiction.

Exploring the Themes of Candy by Luke Davies

At its core, *candy by luke daves* is a raw portrayal of addiction's destructive power and the emotional turmoil it inflicts on individuals and their loved ones. The narrative follows the turbulent relationship between the protagonist, an unnamed young man, and Candy, a passionate and troubled woman battling her own demons. The story's strength lies in its honest depiction of how addiction permeates every aspect of life—from fractured relationships to shattered dreams.

Davies' writing style is notably candid and introspective, allowing readers to witness the protagonist's descent into dependency with both empathy and critical distance. The recurring motifs of love intertwined with self-destruction highlight the paradoxical nature of addiction, where affection becomes inseparable from pain and loss.

Characterization and Emotional Depth

One of the most striking features of *candy by luke daves* is its nuanced characterization. The central figures are not merely addicts; they are complex individuals grappling with vulnerability, hope, and despair. Candy, as a character, embodies both the allure and the tragedy of addiction. Her name itself becomes symbolic—sweet yet ultimately harmful.

The protagonist's narrative voice is introspective and vulnerable, providing insight into the psychological complexities of addiction. This depth of characterization distinguishes the novel from more sensationalized accounts of drug abuse, grounding it instead in genuine human experience.

Comparative Analysis with Other Addiction Narratives

When placed alongside other notable addiction memoirs and novels, *candy by luke daves* offers a distinctive perspective that balances personal anguish with literary craftsmanship. Unlike works such as William S. Burroughs' "Junky" or Irvine Welsh's "Trainspotting,"

which often adopt a grittier or more chaotic tone, Davies' narrative maintains a poetic and reflective quality.

This contrast is significant in how it shapes reader engagement. While "Junky" confronts addiction with raw immediacy and "Trainspotting" with dark humor, candy adopts a more melancholic lens, emphasizing the emotional cost of addiction over the physical or social consequences alone. This approach broadens the conversation around substance abuse, inviting readers to consider the internal struggles often overshadowed by external symptoms.

The Role of Setting and Cultural Context

Set primarily in Australia during the late 20th century, candy by luke davies also offers a glimpse into the socio-cultural environment that influences its characters. The urban backdrop, coupled with the emerging drug culture of the time, situates the narrative within a specific historical moment. This contextualization enhances the authenticity of the story and provides a framework for understanding the systemic challenges faced by those caught in addiction cycles.

Furthermore, the Australian setting allows Davies to explore themes of identity and belonging, which resonate beyond the immediate scope of substance abuse. The sense of isolation and the search for connection are universal themes rendered through the lens of a particular place and era.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Davies employs a range of literary techniques to convey the emotional intensity of candy by luke davies. The prose is often lyrical, marked by vivid imagery and poignant metaphors that evoke the sensory experiences associated with addiction. This stylistic choice amplifies the novel's impact, transforming what could be a clinical account into an immersive and affecting journey.

The nonlinear narrative structure occasionally disrupts chronological order, mirroring the fragmented and chaotic nature of the protagonist's life. This technique underscores the disorientation inherent in addiction and recovery, allowing readers to experience the protagonist's mental state more viscerally.

Use of Symbolism and Motifs

Symbolism is prevalent throughout candy by luke davies, enriching the text's thematic complexity. For instance, the recurring motif of "candy" itself serves multiple functions: it references sweetness and temptation, but also highlights the deceptive nature of addiction. Drugs, much like candy, offer momentary pleasure but ultimately cause harm.

Other symbols include the contrasting imagery of light and darkness, which encapsulate

the tension between hope and despair. The cyclical nature of addiction is also reflected in repetitive patterns and echoes within the narrative, reinforcing the inescapability of the characters' struggles.

Impact and Reception of Candy by Luke Davies

Since its publication, *Candy* by Luke Davies has been recognized for its honest and unvarnished portrayal of addiction. The novel's adaptation into a feature film in 2006, starring Heath Ledger and Abbie Cornish, further amplified its cultural footprint. The film maintained the book's emotional core, introducing the story to a broader audience and sparking renewed discussion about drug dependency and recovery.

Critics have praised Davies for avoiding clichés and melodrama, instead opting for a thoughtful and empathetic exploration. However, some have noted that the novel's introspective style may challenge readers seeking a more straightforward or plot-driven narrative.

Pros and Cons of Candy by Luke Davies

- **Pros:**

- Authentic and personal depiction of addiction.
- Rich character development and emotional depth.
- Poetic prose and effective use of symbolism.
- Insightful exploration of love entwined with dependency.

- **Cons:**

- Nonlinear narrative may confuse some readers.
- Introspective style can feel slow-paced.
- Limited focus on external social factors beyond personal experience.

Relevance of Candy by Luke Davies in Contemporary Discussions on Addiction

In today's context, where opioid addiction and mental health issues are at the forefront of public health discourse, *candy* by Luke Davies remains a relevant and insightful work. Its emphasis on the psychological and relational dimensions of addiction complements more clinical or policy-focused discussions. By humanizing the experience, Davies encourages empathy and a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in substance abuse.

The narrative also prompts reflection on the societal stigma attached to addiction, highlighting how love and support can both complicate and facilitate recovery. For practitioners, educators, and advocates, *candy* offers a valuable perspective that enriches the broader conversation about effective treatment and social reintegration.

Educational and Therapeutic Applications

Beyond its literary merits, *candy* by Luke Davies has been utilized in academic and therapeutic settings to foster dialogue around addiction. Its candid portrayal makes it a useful tool for raising awareness among students, healthcare professionals, and families affected by substance abuse.

Reading the novel can open pathways for discussing the emotional challenges of addiction, breaking down stereotypes, and promoting compassionate approaches. The story's emphasis on personal accountability alongside vulnerability provides a balanced framework for exploring recovery narratives.

As the dialogue surrounding addiction continues to evolve, *candy* by Luke Davies offers a lasting contribution that combines artistic expression with social relevance, making it an essential read for those seeking to understand the multifaceted nature of dependency and healing.

[Candy By Luke Davies](#)

candy by luke davies: *Candy* Luke Davies, 1998-06-16 Candy is beside me, drenched in sweat. She's breathing gently, long slow breaths. I imagine her soul going in and out: wanting to leave, wanting to come back, wanting to leave, wanting to come back. The day will soon harden into what we need to do. But for now we have each other. . . . He met Candy amid a lush Sydney summer. Gorgeous, sexy, free-spirited Candy. They fell in love fast, lots of laughter and lust, the days melting warmly into each other. He never planned to give her a habit. But she wanted a taste. And wasn't love, after all, about sharing lives? Candy had a bit of money and in the beginning, everything was beautiful. Hazy, heroin-hazed days, the world open and inviting. But when the money ran out, the craving remained, and the days ceased their luxurious stretch. But there was still love. Only now, it was a threesome. Heroin had its own demands, its own timetable, and thoughts of nabbing the next fix hurled them into each day. Then, when desperation sets in, Candy will stop at nothing to secure a

blast, as she and her lover become hostage to the nightmarish world of addiction. Painful, sexy, tender, and charged with dark humor, Candy provocatively charts the daily rituals of two lovers maintaining a long-term junk habit. Told in stunningly vivid prose and set against the backdrop of suburban and urban Australia, Candy is both an electrifying and frightening glimpse of contemporary life and love.

candy by luke davies: *Running with Light* Luke Davies, 1999-02-01 With his collection *Absolute Event Horizon* and the novel *Candy*, Luke Davies has quickly established himself as one of Australia's most thoughtful and unflinching writers. *Running With Light* sees him delivering on the promise of his earlier work, as well as branching out in rich new directions, as he wrestles vigorously with ways of appreciating the physical and emotional worlds in all their complexity. Balancing on the dividing line between the colloquial and the formal, Davies presents himself and the universe around him in a way that makes the familiar disconcertingly foreign, and the foreign strangely familiar. In doing so, he causes us to look again at the world and ourselves through surprising, provoking filters. Confronting in its exploration of love, mortality and our aloneness, *Running With Light* is a volume that encourages us to engage with the sanctity of our elemental surroundings, and to recognize ourselves there.

candy by luke davies: Addiction, Representation and the Experimental Novel, 19852015 Heath A. Diehl, 2020-12-15 Since the nineteenth century, the Western realistic novel has persistently represented the addict as a morally toxic force bent on destroying the institutions, practices, and ideologies that historically have connoted reason, order, civilization. *Addiction, Representation* undertakes an investigation into an alternative literary tradition that unsettles this limited portrayal of the addict. The book analyzes the practices and politics of reading the experimental addiction novel, and outlines both a practice and an ethics of reading that advocates for a more compassionate response to both diegetic and extra-diegetic addicts—an approach that, at its core, is focused on understanding.

candy by luke davies: *Intervening Spaces* Nycole Prowse, 2018-05-07 *Intervening Spaces* examines the interconnectedness between bodies, time and space - the oscillating and at times political impact that occurs when bodies and space engage in non-conventional ways. Bodies intervene with space, creating place. Likewise, space can reconceptualise notions of the subject-body. Such respatialisation does not occur in a temporal vacuum. The moment can be more significant than a millennia in producing new ways to see corporeal connections with space. Drawing on theorists as diverse as Foucault, Deleuze, Guattari, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Lefebvre and Grosz, temporal and spatial dichotomies are dissolved, disrupted and interrupted via interventions—revealing new ways of inhabiting space. The volume crosses disciplines contributing to the fields of Sociology, Literature, Performance Arts, Visual Arts, Architecture and Urban Design. Contributors are Burcu Baykan, Pelin Dursun Çebi, Michelle Collins, Christobel Kelly, Anthi Kosma, Ana Carolina Lima e Ferreira, Katerina Mojanchevska, Clementine Monro, Katsuhiko Muramoto, Nycole Prowse, Shelley Smith, Nicolai Steinø and İklim Topaloğlu.

candy by luke davies: The Ultimate Teen Book Guide Daniel Hahn, Leonie Flynn, Susan Reuben, 2007-12-26 Covering such genres as fantasy, horror, chick lit, graphic novels, sci-fi, and mystery, an all-encompassing, must-have resource profiles more than 700 of the best books for teens, from the classics to the latest bestsellers. Simultaneous.

candy by luke davies: Time, Space and the Human Body: An Interdisciplinary Look Rafael F. Narváez, Leslie R. Malland, 2019-01-04 This volume was first published by Inter-Disciplinary Press in 2016. Concerns about the human body and soul, and their relationship to the world around us, are as old as Western Culture itself. Beyond philosophy and theology, these sorts of preoccupations have also marked the arts, literature, and poetry; and to be sure, they have influenced Western culture, and have marked westerners' imaginations and our everyday understanding of human nature. This book considers various ways in which the body is, and has been, addressed and depicted over time, and it is also a reflection on the ways in which the very spaces that we design and inhabit likewise reflect perceived ideas and misconceptions about the

human body.

candy by luke davies: Teaching Social Issues with Film William B. Russell, 2009-09-01

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the film industry has confronted, challenged, and explored various social issues through its films. Social issue films are an excellent resource for teaching social issues. Teachers will find this book to be a valuable resource for teaching social issues. This book includes a discussion on teaching social issues, teaching with film, and how social issue films can be utilized to enhance the curriculum. This volume offers teachers an effective means for teaching social issues to today's digital and media savvy students. Furthermore, this volume details how film can be used to teach social issues, discusses relevant legal issues surrounding the use of film in the classroom, and details two separate models for teaching social issues with film. The heart of the book includes a detailed filmography of 180 films that pertain to 30 social issues. Each social issue includes a definition/explanation of the social issue and details six films. Each film detailed includes complete bibliographic information and a synopsis. This volume is clearly organized and expertly written for educators and is beneficial to librarians and teachers at the secondary and college level, particularly in social studies, sociology, history, political science, literature, film studies, and other social sciences.

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candy by luke davies: Australian Classics Jane Gleeson-White, 2010 What are the classic works of Australian literature? And what can they tell us about ourselves and the land we live in? Providing a selected overview of Australia's greatest literature, Australian Classics is an accessible companion to our literature and a story of writing in Australia from the nineteenth century to the present. Australian Class...

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candy by luke davies: Candy Luke Davies, 2000

candy by luke davies: Tinderbox Megan Dunn, 2024-08-13 Megan Dunn had lost the plot—in her life and in her art. Her attempt to write a fictional tribute to Fahrenheit 451 wasn't going well. Her employer, the bookseller Borders, was going bust. Her marriage was failing. Her prospects were narrowing. The world wasn't quite against her – but it wasn't with her either. Riffing on Ray Bradbury's classic novel about the end of reading, Tinderbox is one of the most interesting books in decades about literary culture and its place in the world. More than that, it's about how every one of us fits into that bigger picture – and the struggle to make sense of life in the twenty-first century. Ironically enough for a book about failures in art, Tinderbox itself is a fantastic achievement: a wonderfully crafted and beautifully written work of non-fiction that is by turns brilliantly funny and achingly sad. Tinderbox is one of the most successful books about failure you will ever read. Praise for Tinderbox: 'Megan Dunn's writing is utterly modern, sharp, unsentimental and beautiful; she tells a gripping story laced with humour and pathos. She is a writer to watch.' - Michèle Roberts 'Megan Dunn possesses a rare combination of assets – a highly original voice, great subject matter, enormous insight and serious literary ambition. Plus, she's funny. Her work leaps off the page and makes the reader want more.' - Kate Pullinger "It's already one of my favourite New Zealand books." - Hera Lindsay Bird, The Spinoff "Megan Dunn is a comic genius." - Susanna Andrew, Metro "A wonderful, restless, formally daring first book" - James Cook, Review 31 Praise for Things I Learned at Art School: "It is, quite simply, a work of brilliance. It is an intelligent, sharp, and incisive body of work." - Lana Lopesi, Metro "Dunn has an extraordinary facility with tone, an ability to be consistently funny while telling sad stories." - David McCooey, Sydney Review of Books. "A rich, rewarding, funny and poignant memoir." - Sally Blundell, Academy of New Zealand Literature "Dunn takes the reader on a digressive, funny and unflinching journey through late-20th-century New Zealand." - Paula Morris, New Zealand Listener "As Megan Dunn makes clear in her wise, witty and wonderful memoir, the seeds of a creative life will bloom in the most unexpected of places." - Jennifer Higgie, author of The Other Side

candy by luke davies: The Cambridge Companion to the Australian Novel Nicholas Birns,

Louis Klee, 2023-03-02 The Cambridge Companion to the Australian Novel provides a clear, lively, and accessible account of the novel in Australia. The chapters of this book survey significant issues and developments in the Australian novel, offer historical and conceptual frameworks, and demonstrate what reading an Australian novel looks like in practice. The book begins with novels by literary visitors to Australia and concludes with those by refugees. In between, the reader encounters the Australian novel in its splendid contradictoriness, from nineteenth-century settler fiction by women writers through to literary images of the Anthropocene, from sexuality in the novels of Patrick White to Waanyi writer Alexis Wright's call for a sovereign First Nations literature. This book is an invitation to students, instructors, and researchers alike to expand and broaden their knowledge of the complex histories and crucial present of the Australian novel.

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candy by luke davis: Film Review , 2006-10

candy by luke davis: Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide Leonard Maltin, 2017-11-28 Previously published as Leonard Maltin's 2015 Movie Guide, this capstone edition includes a new Introduction by the author. (Note: No new reviews have been added to this edition) Now that streaming services like Netflix and Hulu can deliver thousands of movies at the touch of a button, the only question is: What should I watch? Summer blockbusters and independent sleepers; the masterworks of Alfred Hitchcock, Billy Wilder, and Martin Scorsese; the timeless comedy of the Marx Brothers and Woody Allen; animated classics from Walt Disney and Pixar; the finest foreign films ever made. This capstone edition covers the modern era while including all the great older films you can't afford to miss—and those you can—from box-office smashes to cult classics to forgotten gems to forgettable bombs, listed alphabetically, and complete with all the essential information you could ask for. With nearly 16,000 entries and more than 13,000 DVD listings, Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide remains "head and shoulders above the rest." (The New York Times) Also included are a list of mail-order and online sources for buying and renting DVDs and videos, official motion picture code ratings from G to NC-17, and Leonard's list of recommended films.

candy by luke davis: Heath Ledger Brian J. Robb, 2019-10-02 Heath Ledger was one the most charismatic and powerful screen presences of his generation. Having established a high-profile acting career by the age of 21 with the lead in 'A Knight's Tale', the young Australian went on to pursue a succession of increasingly diverse and often subversive roles that challenged the film industry's initial impression of him as a mere teen-idol. While a limited number of his early roles would hint at the greatness of which he was capable, it was not until his melancholy, Oscar-nominated performance in Ang Lee's modern classic 'Brokeback Mountain' that Heath proved beyond question the blistering extent of his abilities and secured his place amongst the Hollywood elite, bringing to this new status a depth of artistry absent in all but the most accomplished of his contemporaries. His sudden death at the age of 28 rocked the film industry to its core, created an international media storm, and threw a poignant shadow over the completed body of work that has now become his legacy. This book explores Heath's relationships with actresses Heather Graham, Naomi Watts, and Michelle Williams (his ex-fiancée and the mother of his daughter Matilda), recounts the full story of the making of 'Brokeback Mountain', and details that film's subsequent impact. It charts Ledger's increasingly troubled state of mind as the role of the Joker in 'The Dark Knight' took a disturbing physical and psychological toll, and examines the dissatisfaction with his own performances that plagued him until the very end. Heath Ledger: Hollywood's Dark Star is the definitive story of the life and times of a compelling and intense young man whose loss will be profoundly felt for many years to come.

candy by luke davis: Killing Season Peter Canning, 2021-04-06 A devastating, empathetic look at the opioid epidemic in the United States, through the eyes of a paramedic on the front lines. [I] set my cardiac monitor down by the young man's head. He is lifeless, his face white with a blue

tinge. I apply the defibrillator pads to his hairless chest . . . A week from today, after the young man's brain shows no signs of electrical activity, the medical staff will take the breathing tube out, and with his family gathered by his side, he will pass away at the age of twenty-three. When Peter Canning started work as a paramedic on the streets of Hartford, Connecticut, twenty-five years ago, he believed drug users were victims only of their own character flaws. Although he took care of them, he did not care for them. But as the overdoses escalated, Canning began asking his patients how they had gotten started on their perilous journeys. And while no two tales were the same, their heartrending similarities changed Canning's view and moved him to educate himself about the science of addiction. Armed with that understanding, he began his fight against the stigmatization of users. In *Killing Season*, we ride along with Canning through the streets of Hartford as he tells stories of opioid overdose from a street-level vantage point. A first responder to hundreds of overdoses throughout the rise of America's epidemic, Canning has seen the impact of prescription painkillers, heroin, and the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl firsthand. Bringing us into the room (or the car, or the portable toilet) with the victims of this epidemic, Canning explains how he came to favor harm reduction, which advocates for needle exchange, community naloxone, and safe-injection sites. Through the rapid-fire nature of one paramedic's view of addiction and overdose, readers will come to understand more than just the science and misguided policies behind the opioid epidemic. They'll also share in Canning's developing empathy. Stripping away the stigma of addiction through stories that are hard-hitting, poignant, sad, confessional, funny, and overall, human, *Killing Season* will change minds about the epidemic, help obliterate stigma, and save lives.

candy by luke daves: Isabelle the Navigator Luke Davies, 2008-07-10 How do we find ourselves when we lose others? This striking novel from the author of the widely acclaimed cult bestseller *Candy* explores the life of a young woman as she deals with the deaths of the two important men in her life: her great love Matthew Smith, and her 'gorgeous, sad father' Tom Airly. A lyrical meditation on love, loss, betrayal, disintegration and the passage of time, *Isabelle the Navigator* charts Isabelle's inner journey, as well as her actual travels - from childhood in Sydney, to love in the vast spaces off the Western Australian coast, to grief and eventually hope in Paris. This is a portrait of an extraordinarily vital woman that is at once epic and fable, swirling and intensely focused. 'Isabelle Airly is a triumph of Davies' poetic imagination . . . [a] prodigious talent . . . staggering prose' *The Age* 'stunningly beautiful narrative' *The Bulletin* 'it leaves you admiring Davies's gifts and his desire to take risks.' *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

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