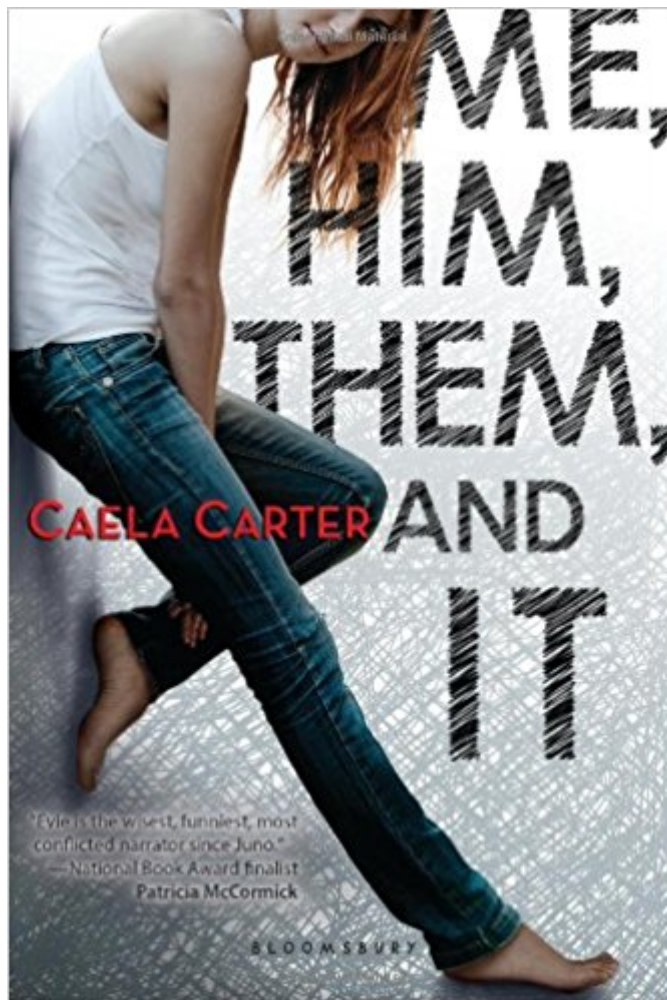


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# Me, Him, Them, And It



## Synopsis

ME: Evelyn, closeted good girl turned bad. HIM: Todd, her supposed Friend with Benefits. THEM: Her cold, distant parents. IT: The baby that's growing inside her. When Evelyn decided to piss off her parents with a bad reputation, she wasn't planning to ruin her valedictorian status. She also wasn't planning to fall for Todd-the guy she was just using for sex. And she definitely wasn't planning on getting pregnant. When Todd turns his back on her, Evelyn's not sure where to go. Can a distant mother, a cheating father, an angry best friend, and a (thankfully) loving aunt with adopted daughters of her own help Evelyn make the heart-wrenching decisions that follow?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In order to get attention from the Ice Queen (her mother) and The Stranger (her father), Evelyn, a junior in high school, shrugs off her good-girl image for a bad-girl reputation and ends up pregnant with Todd's baby. Carter's debut novel is effectively structured as a series of countdowns: first, the amount of time remaining for Evelyn to decide whether or not to abort; then, the months and days until she delivers. She's sent to Chicago to live with her aunt Linda, along with her partner, Nora, and their two adopted girls, in a loud, caring, talkative home that's so different from her own Silent House back in Jacksonville, Florida. Evelyn is bombarded with questions she can't answer, and her confusion and refusal to face reality or make decisions and hatred of the bean growing inside her feels very honest. Carter delves into all sides of the issue and captures the isolation, guilt, and complex

boyfriend/friend/family dynamics surrounding teen pregnancy in well-drawn Evelyn. The popular subject matter should resonate with, and interest, many YAs. Grades 9-12, --Ann Kelley --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“Evie . . . is the wisest, funniest, most conflicted narrator since Juno. Me, Him, Them, and It ought to be assigned alongside *The Scarlet Letter*.”  
—Patricia McCormick, National Book Award finalist and bestselling author  
“Caela Carter paints a raw and unflinching picture of the truth about teen pregnancy--a truth every teen should know . . . Readers looking for a bold and gripping addition to their bookshelf will not be disappointed--and will not be able to put this book down.”  
—Jennifer Brown, author of *Hate List and Bitter End*  
“Deftly captures the emotional complexities of teenage pregnancy . . . For readers looking for genres that express the stark realities of life with all their highs and lows, this book will be one to recommend.”  
—VOYA  
“Breathtaking, brutal, and beautifully real, Carter’s debut is stunning.”  
—Romantic Times

Grade: D  
Former good girl Evelyn uses her kinda sorta boyfriend for sex. Now she’s pregnant and has some decisions to make. Abortion? Adoption? Raising the baby? He has no interest in being a father and she, well, she’d rather have the baby disappear and not have to make any decisions. She’s also juggling a cheating father, cold mother, narcissistic best friend. Evelyn was a hard character to embrace. While I could easily see why she was withdrawn, noncommittal, unfriendly and sometimes unkind, I didn’t feel particularly sympathetic to her plight. She had so many people who loved and wanted to support her. Yes, they were imperfect, but she didn’t appreciate anyone or realize that others had feelings and a right to their reactions to her behavior. Caela Carter did make most of the characters multidimensional and avoided following back on stereotypes, but none of the characters were particularly memorable. I was glad to see Carter filled the novel with diverse characters. Similarly, the writing was marginal, I didn’t highlight any profound statements or feel wowed, but I also didn’t roll my eyes wondering how ME, HIM, THEM, IT got published either. I never felt like Evelyn was really making a choice, or that Carter put any tension into that decision. I knew there was one choice she’d never make, in fact, Carter did a pretty half baked job making me believe Evelyn even considered that option, which, on my opinion, would have made for a much braver path to take. Themes: teen pregnancy, birth control, sex, family, dysfunction, friendship, multicultural characters, lesbian families  
ME, HIM, THEM, IT is a below average read, with some bright spots.

This book was recommended to me by a friend, and I'll admit to being a little surprised. It often doesn't occur to me to read Young Adult literature, but if *Me Him Them* and *It* is any indication, I'll be revisiting this genre more often. Evie is perhaps the most maddening narrator I have ever encountered, but that's the point. If she weren't so well developed and true to life, I wouldn't want to reach through the pages and shake her. She is so fully developed that it's hard to keep in mind that she is a character. Her growth is marked by one step forward, two steps back, which is something I remember from my teenage years. I had no idea how the story would end, and I found myself simultaneously being excited and disappointed when the number of pages I still had to read were diminishing. I wanted to know what happened, but I didn't want the book to end. I could not put the book down. I would recommend this book to readers of any age. I look forward to future books from Ms. Carter.

We've all seen the teen pregnancy book before. The one about the nice, smart, pretty girl who no one thought it would ever happen to. About the difficult decision she'd have to make that, really, could only go one of three ways: Abortion. Adoption. Pre-mature motherhood. But I have to say, not since reading Joyce Sweeney's *WAITING FOR JUNE*, have I read a pregnancy book that made me feel something fresh and raw, the way Caela Carter's debut novel, *ME, HIM, THEM, and IT* did. Immediately, I loved protagonist, Evelyn, and believed the pain she suffered while her parent's marriage turned from distant and vacant, to ugly. I sympathized with her need to shake her "good-girl" image just to make them see anything other than the hate they hurled at each other. And I felt her sorrow, her rock-bottom feeling of helplessness, when her life went from bad, to way, way worse. And when the unthinkable did happen, I felt pained over which road she should take: I wanted her to keep the baby. I wanted her to give it to a loving family that couldn't have children of their own. I wanted her to just get rid of it and get her old life back and pretend it never happened in the first place. For me, *ME, HIM, THEM, and IT* will always stand out in my mind as one of the most poignantly written stories about the power of choosing who we are, and who we want to become.

I loved every word of this book. Evelyn is such a compelling, real, accessible character. Not only was I completely riveted by what choice she was going to make, I just loved being inside her head and going along on this journey with her. Teen pregnancy is such a difficult subject to tackle, but Caela Carter did it beautifully. I never once blamed Evelyn for the choices she made, even if at times I'd like to think I would have handled things a little differently were I in her situation. The writing

is stellar, the story is riveting, and the ending will almost definitely make you cry. It's just that good. I hope many, many teenagers will find their way to this book. It's not preachy, and it doesn't center around the "right" and "wrong," like many other teen pregnancy novels do. Instead, it tells one story of one girl who must figure out what to do after making one of the biggest mistakes of her life. Mistakes and ramifications are something that we can all identify with, and this book really makes you really think about choices, chance, endings, beginnings, and how sometimes we all need the support of others to keep us strong.

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