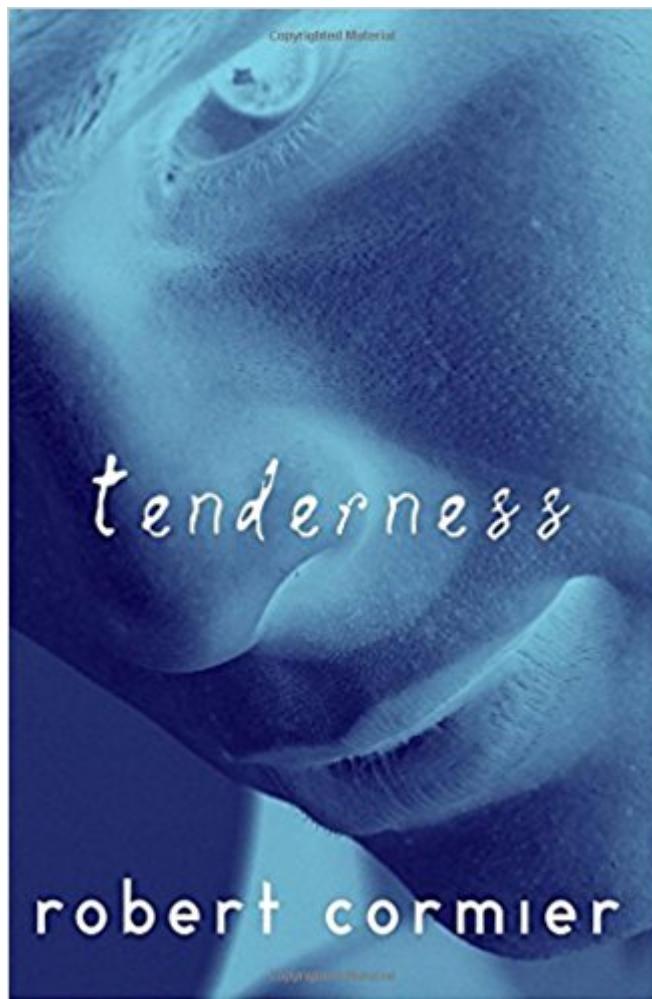


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Tenderness



Synopsis

EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD ERIC HAS just been released from juvenile detention for murdering his mother and stepfather. Now he's looking for some tenderness. tenderness he finds in caressing and killing beautiful girls. Fifteen-year-old Lori has run away from home again. Emotionally naive but sexually precocious, she is also looking for tenderness. tenderness she finds in Eric. Will Lori and Eric be each other's salvation or destruction? Cormier is in top form in this chilling portrait of a serial murderer. . . . Gripping. School Library Journal, Starred An ALA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The path of a serial killer intertwines with that of a teenage runaway who cannot resist his charm. "Readers will stay on the edge of their seats," said PW. Ages 14-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6 Up. Cormier is in top form in this chilling portrait of a serial murderer. Eric Poole has progressed from killing kittens, cats, and a canary to parents and unsuspecting young women. Now 18, he has paid for his mother and stepfather's murders with three years of juvenile detention and is ready to continue his "plan." Unfortunately, his looks and shallow charm are as pleasing on the outside as his character is ugly on the inside. The story unfolds through the eyes of two characters:

Eric, and the luckless 15-year-old Lori, a runaway who met Eric once when she was 12 and is drawn to him like a moth to the flame. Even when she realizes his guilt, after he attempts to kill her, she can not desert him. The ugliness of the story contrasts with the beauty of the language. Perfectly titled with characteristic irony, a sense of "tenderness" pervades this gripping tale. Where other, lesser writers would have screamed the story in full-blown tabloid prose, Cormier is the model of decorum. No overt blood and gore are needed for this author to terrify his readers. Eric is not an antihero. Sympathy is not so much for the undeserving villain, but for the society that spawned and neutered him. A meaty horror study that's a fine substitute for the anemic, but popular "Fear Street" books. ?Marilyn Payne Phillips, University City Public Library, MOCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An excellent book. I've always liked Robert Cormier and this is one of my wife's favorite books so when she suggested I buy it, I did. Creepy and sad and beautiful. The just don't write YA literature like they used to! ;)

Great read!! The film that the book is based on is quite an exemplary tale of woe. I read this book from start to finish in less than a day; I just couldn't put this book down! Worth the read.

This is an entertainingly dark novel. Ends in a fairly predictable, anticlimactic way, but is still great to read. I agree with another reviewer that Cormier takes a seemingly "nice" word and turns it into something quite nasty. For lack of a better term, the use of the words "the tenderness" throughout the novel... Eric is looking for "the tenderness" is really quite "skeevy." These characters are either empty or pathetic. I had to keep reminding myself that there are really people like this out there. This novel will make you shudder and feel like you need a shower afterwards, but all in a good way.

What the current and not-so-current crop of books and movies tells us is that the world is unpredictable, unreliable, and downright scary. Girls cannot travel in Europe without fear of being abducted as sex slaves. They cannot live down the road from a house where parents were murdered. Boys are born sociopaths and trick their silly, gullible fathers into buying them bows and arrows. That's the fiction. The truth is worse: multiple firing guns and anesthesia and abuse. Eric Poole, the 15-year-old killer of his parents, also claims abuse as his excuse--which no one believes. However, one little flashback near novel's end tells the reader that Eric, indeed, was abused and in the worst way. "Tenderness" by Richard Cormier, always a controversial and very edgy writer,

shows the result of this particular abuse in this particular case. Teen sociopaths? Teen killers? We don't even blink an eye at such a story because we know it is true. What is so remarkable about this particular story (even though fiction) is that Cormier is so subtle with his clue. I missed it at first reading. Several pages later, I halted. Wait a minute, I thought, and flipped back to that paragraph. Sure enough, there was the truth, plain and simple or complicated in this case, and suddenly, things made sense. That's what is great about fiction: we get truths. In this case, truth explains why Eric is so emotionally warped and psychologically damaged. Why did Cormier write such chilling, provocative stories if not to cause discussion and, in a perfect world, initiate change. The other major character is Lori Cranston, who is abused through neglect, and therefore emotionally needy. She forms obsessions for certain people. With Eric her obsession is formed after a brief meeting (just after he kills one of his female victims during a "tender" moment). Lori seeks tenderness, too, to counteract the pain and void of neglect. Eric defends her when a gang threatens her, thus creating a need for tenderness from this boy. He kills his parents (the book cover tells the reader that) and spends three years in juvie detention, then is let go when he turns eighteen. The detective who arrested Eric watches him closely, knowing full well that Eric will kill again. Through odd circumstances the Eric and Lori run away together. The information she reveals about that long ago meeting makes Eric decide that he must kill her, yet he forms an surprising attachment to her.

Threads of the story are woven together for an expected and totally unexpected ending. "Tenderness" is a book to (oddly enough) savor for its fine writing and to be repelled by the horror. Like scotch or raw oysters, Cormier's talent is an acquired taste. His books definitely will never bore and are great to put into hands of reluctant teens who can handle mature themes. Cormier writes for Grade 6 (mature readers) and above. Other Cormier books, which I highly recommend, are "The Chocolate War" (his most famous), "We All Fall Down," and "I Am the Cheese."

One of my favorites when I was younger, a bit twisted.

I did not like this book, but I stuck with it.

I read this book every few years, and it's amazing every time. My favorite out of all of Robert Cormier's books. He will always be one of my favorite authors. This book is an amazing read. Has some great twists and turns, and is beautifully written. The movie sucked. Don't watch it. Just read the book :)

the product did take a while to get to me, but that is to be expected seeing as i live in hawaii. it was in a good condition and i was satisfied with the product that i received.

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The Way of Tenderness: Awakening through Race, Sexuality, and Gender Tenderness

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