



# For You, for You I am Trilling These Songs

*Kathleen Rooney*

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## **For You, for You I am Trilling These Songs** Kathleen Rooney

In this collection on life as a twentysomething in the twenty-first century, Kathleen Rooney writes about love and longing, poetry and plagiarism, death and democracy, mountain floods and Midwestern cicadas. With refreshing honesty she brings the reader into the room as she gets a Brazilian wax, into the car as she chauffeurs a U.S. senator, and onto the sidewalk with her as she visits the New York apartments of a vanished poet. The perils of falling in love with an unattainable and of being the unattained love come together here with her farewell to a cousin who's joining a convent. Striking a perfect perch between reflection and humor, Rooney explores every facet of her life as she struggles to find her place in the world

## **For You, for You I am Trilling These Songs Details**

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# From Reader Review For You, for You I am Trilling These Songs for online ebook

## Kailah Peters says

Charming and funny!

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## Patrick says

I thought this book was rather dull except for the parts in her work as a senate staffer, her cousin who was going to be a nun, the fact that she cannot separate her private life from her professional life and she was attracted to the a student of hers. For this book, I give it a 2.5 stars.

Rooney's mother placed a premium on her daughter's brains instead of her looks so that it is only in her 20's that she started dressing femininely and get things done like a Brazilian wax. Kathleen belongs to the American feminist who make being a woman so unappealing that it is painful to behold. There push for equality makes women into men that does not take into account the difference between the two. She worked as a Senate staffer and according to her, they were all marked with nepotism without the necessary skill to be a staffer. Although she believes that people needed to learn in order to learn, she tried to teach the interns the necessary skill to write metaphors. Despite the interns not being enthused to working in the senators office, they became enthusiastic only when they sang patriotic songs on July 4 th. Kathleen says a person who is disappointed is still someone who believes the best can be had.

Despite the flirting that her boss has with her, her husband says that the flirtation is simply the boss wanting to flirt nothing more would come out of it and he was generally okay with that behavior. Her boss constantly hit on her and she got jealous when he mentioned other pretty woman besides her despite her married status. Her crush on her boss was one of unrequited love because despite wanting each other, they both did not cross the line. At her going away party, her boss talked to her of an ancient woman who died of a debilitating disease and that proved someone cared for her so much that they cared for her despite the danger to themselves.

She discusses plagiarism and says a sense of fear which unites behavior of people that do not know each other and unite them in a whole. She talks about sometimes being a bitch is the only way to go if u do not want men's unwanted attention though she prefers to be the girl who is a charmer and has manners. Kathleen is succeeding but at a slower pace than anticipated so she feels that she is success-less. She makes an excellent point on how artist are better when they are outsiders looking in. It is necessary for their art to remain a certain degree of separateness. When Kathleen visits the zoo, she is warmed by the animals simplicity but is saddened by the animals being trapped in a place against their will. Kathleen disliked the small college she taught in as something too small and homogeneous though she liked a student in her class and considered cheating against her husband with him. She liked the fact that she could but at the same time had the moral fortitude and responsibility to stop herself from cheating on her husband unlike the student whom she went to a party with.

Kathleen no longer believes that hard work and talent gets you where you want to go. Rooney feels that what was her long-term job is now just a waste of her time and she feels like a restless ghost who is searching for something but is never quite satisfied. Kathleen has issues with separating her personal life with her

professional life. She treats her students as adults so she goes out drinking with them. The senator whom she works for likes to get to know his staff so they all have driving duties one time/week. Kathleen is terrified of driving. I guess there are phobias for everything including driving. The senator assigns his staff community outreach which consists of meeting local leaders both on the state local government and local business leaders.

Her cousin who just finished a PhD is now thinking of becoming a nun. Kathleen has grudging respect for nuns because of the uniformity and dedication towards a common goal though Kathleen cannot see herself being someone who is not an individualistic. She herself can't fathom melting into a whole and askew individualistic pride in ones accomplishments. While she rebelled, Jennifer was docile in the face of authority. The problem with Kathleen is that she competes with her cousin for a faith she does not even believe in so that her family could be proud of her. Jennifer on the other hand goes towards her faith. Kathleen is jealous of the confidence, the surety, and the faith that a life in the nunnery brings. Kathleen does not agree with the saying the humble will inherit the earth because to her it means progress needs to stop since the people who r humble cannot move to make things better. While Jennifer proceeds with Grace and surrender, Kathy proceeds with dogged determination.

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### **Nicole says**

I both loved and loathed these autobiographical vignettes. Often, I experienced both emotions in a single essay. Rooney's voice would pull me in, make me a coconspirator. Then it would push me away, alienate me as I judged her (too?) harshly.

She's young (26) and she sounds it. I imagine her future works will, like wine, get better with age.

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### **Tyler Olmsted says**

You might know Kathleen Rooney as the witty author behind the legendary Lilian Boxfish Takes a Walk. At least, that's how I found out about her. After I gave Lilian Boxfish a shiny, five-star review, my boyfriend used that as fuel for Christmas shopping, and ordered me a copy of her autobiographical short story collection.

For You, For You I Am Trilling These Songs is a compilation of 11 essays that explore life in her 20s. The cleverness and fondness for linguistics that Rooney exhibited in Lilian Boxfish is pleasantly on display as well in her retellings of her own life. Rooney takes the mundane and makes it playful, intriguing, and thought-provoking. She examines art, integrity, gender, politics, and responsibility. Whether she narrates her experience with a bikini wax or her vendetta against plagiarizing college students, she makes every story an art form, connecting it to bigger and wider thoughts. The way Rooney narrates her life shows off the quirky ways in which we attribute our daily lives to grander visions. Her experiences as a 20-something professional carry her across the country and between ambitions; I think those of us just starting our careers will find much truth in her narration.

Also, I selfishly enjoyed the heck out of this book because I found a surprising amount of parallels into my own life. Rooney grew up in Downers Grove, Illinois, an hour away from where I grew up in Cary, Illinois. Rooney traveled to NYC and Boston to meet with East Coast friends; those are the primary two cities that

I've visited in my lifetime. She worked and lived in Tacoma, Washington, and near a town called Puyallup, 30 minutes away from the tiny town I called my home for a week last month when we visited Washington. She uses the phrase "a process of becoming" a few times, and I am just speculating, but if that phrase hails from Anaïs Nin's "life is a process of becoming," well, that's been my favorite quote since I was fourteen. She is a poet and an English teacher; I am an aspiring version of both. And here's what really throws me for a loop: she's currently an English professor at DePaul, where I coincidentally just applied to the graduate English program.

If For You, For You has taught me anything, it is that life is full of small, intersecting circles.

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## Paul Bryant says

### THE PROFESSOR WAS A BABE

Kathleen Rooney wrote one of my favourite ever books-about-books, called **Reading with Oprah** which is all about the famous book club and issues of snobbery and taste and all kinds of interesting stuff. When I reviewed that one I gushed about how she writes in a very captivating manner, stepping neatly from egg-head observations into excited girl-fan admissions and from academic rigour to chippy conversation – she had a brand new voice. I was smitten. So I wanted to read whatever other prose she wanted me to read and there are two other books – this one and **Live Nude Girl** which is about her occasional work as a live nude girl. (Also reviewed).

This present volume is a collection of essays of the witty and conversational and sentimental variety. As I read it became clear that by now Miss Rooney had advanced in her career and been appointed as an English professor. The swiftness of this advance was made unmistakeable by remarks along the lines of "students are always mistaking me for one of them, telling me I'm too young and slender to be a professor" – yes, that's right, Kathleen Rooney is a bold and saucy practitioner of what Jenna from 30 Rock calls **back door bragging** :

Jenna:

*Backdoor bragging is sneaking something wonderful about yourself in everyday conversation. Like when I tell people it's hard for me to watch American Idol cause I have perfect pitch or that people always underestimate my instincts because of my good looks.*

The other thing she likes to remind you of is how very married and loved-up she is and how tall and handsome the husband is. This pops up all over these eleven essays which were written while she was en route to a future which you know is going to be so bright she'll have to wear shades indoors.

### THE ESSAYS

1) getting a Brazilian wax with her sister (this was almost TMI for me, and I like a lot of information – on p 16 we read : "while I'm on the subject of Martin, I should mention that he likes me both ways. Waxed and

unwaxed, I mean. He never tries to push me into doing something I don't want. This, I think, is because he's basically perfect as a person, the closest thing I've seen to a perfect human being." There follows a list of her husband's perfections. **Which cannot be meant ironically**, as that would be cruel. But I was thinking Kathleen, you are making me gag. It is not pleasant reading about your bliss, please skip to the divorce. I know, I can be terrible.)

2) landing a temporary gig as an overseer of interns working for a Democratic politician and realising they were a bunch of privileged tossers . ("They were no fun. They sucked at metaphors.")

3) and also having to fend off the said politician who fancied her (cue more backdoor bragging as she explains why that might be so). The boss is creepy, and this essay is creepy too. **This essay, in fact, got KR fired from her senator aide job** - I quote from an online interview:

*everything was fine fine fine right up until I inadvertently embarrassed the Senator by affectionately revealing that the Chicago office was run like a pirate ship. So, the "authorities" from DC, no longer able to believe their own noble ideas about themselves, felt compelled to get rid of me as soon as possible.*

Or - the politicians were very supportive of her writing and publishing and book-touring this volume until they actually read it. Ha ha, serves them right.

4) a blistering rant about students who stupidly turn in plagiarised essays ("Please don't fuck with me. I'm not to be fucked with.") This was FUN!

5) getting hit on by a "frat-boy rapist" in McSorley's Old Ale House in New York

6) Visiting NYC sites pertaining to Weldon Kees, poet, painter, jazz musician, photographer, probable suicide (1955). I never heard of him.

7) Visiting the Olympic Game Farm in Washington state, a sweet and goofy essay

8) An account of a student party, quite sentimental. One of her students writes a note to her : "Well, I was kind of debating on this, but what the hell? You are a total babe as well, I mean really hot. " Her husband comments : "You *are* a total babe". So now we know.

9) Driving back from Washington state to Chicago.

*When we stop in Jamestown in the middle of the state for some gas and sandwiches, it seems that all the residents are either in late middle-age at least, or mentally handicapped, or both. As we drive out the other side we see how : the green and white sign for The Jamestown State Hospital. Martin laughs and cracks an inappropriate joke that involves the phrase "Tard Farm."*

Someone sees a photo of the author when she was 17 : "You look darling in that style... Cute!"

In this essay the senator she's now working for in Chicago turns out to be Obama. Why did this not at all surprise me?

10) Two pages later, Kathy's boss says to her "You look smashing...you should wear that all the time." This essay is about how Kathy dislikes driving. I could sympathise with her there, I hate it too. But no one told me I looked smashing in any style.

11) Probably the best one, all about her cousin who's just about to join a convent. In fact, this was a great piece.

By now you're probably thinking that Kathleen Rooney is a hot young sometime English professor & current indie publisher with a snappy writing style that will find itself in the same ballpark as Lorrie Moore if it's lucky, and you wouldn't be wrong neither. This was a five star mind writing a bunch of two point five star essays, some three point five.

I nearly entitled this review

### **BREAKING NEWS - PRINCESS WRITES ELEVEN ESSAYS ABOUT PEA**

But no, that's harsh, man, harsh. Better will come from Kathleen Rooney. A novel is in the works. I will be getting it.

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### **Steve says**

As I read this book on the beach, I began to wonder how many miles I would have to go up or down the Atlantic coast to find another person reading Kathleen Rooney on the beach. And yet, I also couldn't help but wonder if Rooney would be proud of the fact that her essays ascended (or descended?) to the status of "beach reading."

At any rate, after reading these essays, I both feel like I have KNOWN Kathleen Rooney my whole life and, at times, like I WAS Kathleen Rooney. I would think that the establishment of this deep kind of empathy is the hallmark of a great book of personal essays.

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### **Patrick says**

#### ***For me. For Me I Lucubrate These Words***

Well, no. Of course not. Hell, I didn't learn what lucubrate means until this week either. I purposefully sought out a \$0.50 word for my post title. Why? Keep reading, we'll get there.

Among the books I finished reading this weekend was a memoir of poet and author Kathleen Rooney.

For You, For You I am Trilling These Songs is a collection of articles and short stories of a bright, twenty-something wife/professor/senate aide exploring her life. Not exactly a genre most men in their 40's gravitate towards, however, I wanted to experience more of her writing so I picked it up.

You see, I loved her recently released novel **Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk**. I became an immediate fan of Rooney's and I needed to read more of her writing.

It is important to note, however, that For You, For You is markedly different from her novel.

For instance, Lillian is a story of an early-to-mid 20th century Advertising writer who reminisces on her past. For You, For You opens with the true story of our young and attractive twenty-something author, shortly before her wedding, splayed about to have the hair from between her legs hastily torn from the follicles of which they first made their appearance.

So, yeah, that's like, ya know ... different.

To be frank there were only a small handful of stories that I could connect with/empathize with, as a reader because – again – middle aged male here reading about a woman half his age. There were some I found completely entertaining and laughed out loud. But that wasn't what I got out of the book. In addition to the joy I get from learning about someone, and something, new, there was more than just that here.

I found reading her books thoughtfully, and with patience, yields unexpected rewards. Inspiration for one. A treasure trove of words, words, words for another.

First, the inspiration.

For more go to <https://horseshoesandwine.com/2017/04...>

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## **Ashley says**

I'm a twenty-five year old woman living out her quarter-life crisis in Chicago. Kathleen Rooney's essays are remarkable not only for their beautiful cadences and their stark honesty, but for the incredible amount of courage it must have taken Rooney to provide the public with such an intimate glance into her inner life. I'm glad she did; I've rarely read a work that made me feel better-understood or less alone.

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## **Tracy says**

Brilliant.

One of my favorite passages from the book "This summer, the cicadas leave husky shells of themselves behind, golden and molty, crispy little ghosts. Kind of beautiful, kind of gross. I like to think of all kinds of ghosts as pretty. Gauzy. Filigreed. Like they're always seen from behind a lace curtain, with a vague sense of motion, white and clean."

A delicate memoir Rooney has a way of putting me in a trance all while teaching me something new.

6 pages of notes refer to more authors and poets, a majority of them all new to me that I will now seek out in answers to my own destiny.

Simply amazing. It has been a delight to read her over these last 12 days of Christmas.

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## **Brandon Will says**

These essays may have been written in some other order, but the order they are arranged in is perfect - the forms build upon the last, new techniques she uses are introduced and then just placed in as part of her writing tool-kit later.

All the stories are great. "I Will Catch You" is damn good fun, an interesting teacher's perspective I've never seen voiced before.

"Did you ask for a happy ending?" is so saturated with a simple sadness I almost couldn't go on reading it even. Nothing huge happens - it perfectly captures the minutia of a revealing moment where the everyday doubts and confusions and sadnesses leak through the containers they are usually kept in. Especially when, say, putting on a "I'm happy" act for your parents.

The way she describes writers and poets I've never heard of makes me want to read them very much.

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## **Chris says**

note to other friends: please write books similar to this but about your life, as it is awesome.

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## **Kristin says**

In lieu of a long-winded review, I'll just say that I will willingly read everything this girl publishes.

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## **Tracy says**

This book is full of dark humor and insight. It is a snapshot of the mind and life of a young, driven, female writer that can muse about Brazilian waxes and crack-down on plagiarism. Self-aware and unapologetic, Rooney does not shy away from her faults or ambitions in these essays while considering the social constraints females still push against. It's a really fantastic read for a female determined to carve her own path.

"I want to be proud of myself and, maybe equally, I want others to be proud of themselves too. I want to intrigue people enough to get them to Google me, and when they do I want them to find further intriguing stuff."

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## **Mary says**

Just when I wondered if maybe, just maybe, this book was only for women in their twenties, my mother (56) whipped through it in two days' time. Granted, she was trying to get well-informed on the scandal revolving

said book, to get what she calls, “the angle nobody else had.” However, my mom gets from this book the same thing that I do. When I ask her what to write in the review, she said, “How many ways are there to write ‘it was really really really good?’” So there. In slight elaboration so that you get some substance out of this review, (sorry mom), I think that this collection of personal essays explore common themes for twenty-something in the post-Y2K world. Kathy/Kathleen is in the job market / marriage market / academic market journey with us (or perhaps, for us) without relying on any of the stereotypes, trite turns of action, or blasé “ho hum my life will get better in my thirties (shrug),” messages that others in this genre do. Rooney offers a fresh, yet humble voice in her calm telling of a regular woman’s tale. I detest the insertion of an actual stereotype by writing, “I wish I had written it,” but there you go. I do.

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## **Mark Brand says**

Kathleen Rooney accomplished one of the more difficult feats of book-craft here, and that's the creation of a book that reads as readily and intuitively as confessional storytelling while still avoiding the chronic "too-much-information" pitfall this implies. Admittedly I don't read much work like this in general, but its quality was obvious from the first page and didn't let up. Rooney lets the reader in on interesting slices of her life, providing tangential rather than head-on details, and weaves them into a very smooth, readable book. Despite its easy adaptability to the casual, beach-bag reader, there are moments of touching self-disclosure both subtle and explicit that showcase her understanding of nuanced pacing and storytelling. And there are moments of true brilliance as well, particularly the section titled "I Will Catch You", which is easily the most cogent thing I've ever read on the subject of collegiate plagiarism, and I immediately forwarded to a college-age niece of mine.

A very enjoyable read and highly recommended.

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