



Hello, Agnieszka!

E. Journey

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A raw tale of early love, rivalry and betrayal.

A 70s love story:

“Can music save your mortal soul?”
—Don McLean, American Pie

Short Synopsis

A passion for music. Her oldest son's suicide attempt forces Agnieszka to reveal a past she has kept from her children. A young Agnieszka discovers a passion for music upon hearing her grand-aunt Jola, a concert pianist in Poland, give a recital. Jola hones her talent and feeds her dreams of becoming a concert pianist. **Shattered dreams.** But real-world problems, thorny relations with a mother tied to her roots and betrayal by lusty Aunt Jola a shatter her dreams.

A 70s love story. Young Agnieszka finds love that renews her hopes for happiness. Sadly, it ends, cut short by forces outside anyone's control. Sustained by music and memories of her first love, Agnieszka grows and gets a second chance at happiness.

Hello, Agnieszka! Details

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ISBN : 9780996247429

Author : E. Journey

Format : Paperback 275 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Drama

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From Reader Review Hello, Agnieszka! for online ebook

Tbird London says

I must admit I have not read the first book in this series so I went in not knowing the history of the characters. With that being said I want to stress that I still walked away emotionally touched and renewed by reading the story of the moment a daughter sees her mother as an individual with her own hopes and dreams, sorrows and heart breaks. That moment of clarity when the mother becomes a “friend” and equal not the caregiver who is above the rest.

Elise goes through life being a career woman, mother, wife, sister and daughter, focusing on her own world and the work she is doing as Public Defender. Losing herself to the job of being a protector and nurturer it took a tragic shocking event involving her brother Peter for her to shift her focus on the family and not the people she defended in the courts. What she wasn’t even aware of was in this new direction of focus she is going to see her mother as a woman for the first time and secrets are going to come out that will shake her world.

Agnieszka had a life of joy, love and heart break as a young woman. She made choices in life to not only provide for and protect herself but to give her children the life she thought they deserved. Now faced with the fact that one of her children is so depressed that he was willing to end his life, she takes a step back and begins talking to Elise. The curtains that she hid her early years behind was torn down and she spilled her heart to her daughter in raw emotions, describing the choices she was forced to make, mistakes she is accepting and fear at how this is affecting her current family.

I loved watching the moment that Elise was not only getting to know her mother and see the things that had to happen in the past for her to be here today, but she was also absorbing her role in the life of her children and the choices she is making now will one day affect her children later on. It was as if Elise became of aware of her role life. The author drew us a picture of how our parent’s history create our present and our present creates the future of our children, life is a circle and no woman is an island.

While I enjoyed this touching story and felt that I walked away a stronger mother and woman, I did have a hard time with the writing style. As a beta reader I am constantly telling my authors that I need them to paint me a picture of the scene they are seeing in their heads as they write. While I enjoy a conversation between characters I want to see body language because let’s be honest, in real life, body language speaks louder than words in most situations. I want to have that movie going in my head where I feel I am sitting in the room with the characters and I didn’t feel that here. This story felt more like a transcript of a story that I was reading and I missed the visual images that I value in a book. Beyond that I have no other dislikes regarding this book. It would be a book I would highly recommend to every mother and daughter out there for the understanding that no matter what role we have in life, we must never forget that everyone has dreams and heartaches that at some point fuel our actions and the choices we make in life.

Lu Ann says

The family is in a state of shock as Mrs. Halverson relates her never before revealed story to her family! Feeling forced by present circumstances to do so, she reaches out for understanding of her difficult childhood which led her to unwise choices... choices now others must suffer from.

This story is very interesting and - for many- understandable. The characters and situations continue to be very well-defined and realistic. The Book Cover and Title were very fitting. The one problem that distracted me, was the dialogue at time felt unrealistic for the age of the person giving it as well as a mother/wife going into that deep of unneeded detail.

There were unnecessary detailed sexual situations. This ruined the reality of the mother's/wife's story.

*This book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review, of which I have given.

Billy Buttons says

This book was enjoyed by a member of the judging panel at The Wishing Shelf Book Awards. This is what she thought:

Title

Hello Agnieszka! Between Two Worlds

Author

E Journey

FEEDBACK

Cover 8/10

In general, the cover is excellent. A strong image representing the content and genre, and easy-to-read fonts. I liked the look on the woman's face: thoughtful, a woman with the world on her shoulders. The blurb is also well put together. The author/publisher seem to understand who the intended reader is (probably middle-aged women) and produced a cover and blurb to match.

Editing 10/10

I detected no punctuation, spelling or grammatical problems in this text. The sentence structure is, on the whole, excellent and the story keeps a good pace right up until the very end.

I would particularly like to comment on the speech. This is a character-driven novel and, as such, there is a lot of speech. The author works very well with this and it is always easy to understand who is saying what. The speech reflects the characters well and there is a perfect balance between speech and character/setting description.

Theme 9/10

This book is predominantly about a woman and her relationship with her mother. As such, it looks very much at the up and downs of such a relationship and the extent a mother would go to to save her child from harm.

But there is much more to this novel than that. The author brings the reader on an emotional journey; a journey of loss and love, betrayal and sickness. It even looks at the power of music as a form of therapy. This book is very 'touchy-feely'; it is not for a macho bricklayer or a spotty teenager. It is for women, and perhaps a few men, who can appreciate the wonders and horrors of being a mother and, at the same time, trying to be a woman too. It is written with an emotionally-filled pen and packs an emotionally powerful punch.

Style 9/10

I thought this book was very hard to put down. Being 42 and a mother myself, I found it very easy to relate to the central character and what she was going through. The simple prose was never 'too simple' and, although a few of the lesser characters could possibly do with a little more fleshing out, I was very quickly absorbed by the twists and turns of this woman's life..

To Sum Up 36/40

I would very much recommend this novel to any person but, in particular, to mothers. It really is beautifully written and many mums will find it easy to relate to Agnieszka and what she went through in her life. Having personally had a ‘troubled’ relationship with my own mother, I see much of the heroine of this book in me: a woman who wants to be loved by her mum but has no idea how to go about it.

“A wonderfully written story spotlighting the ups and downs of a mother and daughter’s love. Sit back and enjoy.” The Wishing Shelf Awards

Laura says

Hello, Agnieszka! is the second book in the Between Two Worlds series by E Journey. I enjoyed the first book Hello, My Love! You can read my review here. And now I look forward to reading the third book.

First, I’d like to say that I like the book covers of this series. This one is perfect for this novel as it depicts Agnieszka well with her story revolving very much around her passion for playing the piano. Even the serious expression on the woman’s face is just right.

The story begins with the same main characters from Book One. When Elise’s brother attempts suicide, her mother Agnieszka decides to gather her family and reveal a secret from her past. The story then shifts to Agnieszka’s point of view and is told in the first-person. She begins her story when she was an eight-year old child.

From this moment on I was captivated. The author deftly transported me to the 70s into the life of a secluded child whose mother suffered hardships after she immigrated to the USA from Poland. When Aunt Jola enters the picture, a concert pianist from Poland, she recognizes passion in Agnieszka and becomes her piano teacher, her mentor and confidant. What follows is a coming-of-age story beautifully told from Agnieszka unique voice.

I liked this book even better than the first one because I liked Agnieszka’s story and I also like immigrant stories. Agnieszka is an unforgettable character, well-developed, strong yet vulnerable, beautiful but totally unaware of it, innocent yet curious, passionate yet subdued. The complex relationship she has with her mother propelled the plot forward, demonstrating how it shaped Agnieszka’s character and decisions.

E Journey has a talent for creating believable characters, strong women and the men who love them, and stories that resonate. I enjoyed this one very much.

Taylor Smith says

This book is amazing! It starts out with Peter’s suicide attempt, which leaves the entire family shocked. Everyone is shocked about what happened to Peter, but it is also shocking to learn about Agnieszka’s past. Agnieszka is hiding a dark and deep past that is full of betrayal. She is the mother in this story and everyone is shocked to find out about her hidden past. Agnieszka has suffered from a rough childhood in which her

mother and grandaunt were constantly fighting over her. Her grandaunt introduced her to the piano that awakened her deep passion for music and the piano. Her love for the piano saved her from a repressed childhood and brought her spirit up from the darkness. They learn about Lenny who was her first love in life. Getting over Lenny was so tough for Agnieszka and she thought that she would never be able to move on in her life ever again. Lenny was so hard for her to forget and she still has the memories of him. It's been so hard for her to move on as she keeps thinking of him. She then meets a new man in her life, named Charles. She has run into him at a concert hall and at the music store. They have a connection and she feels as though she does like Charles, but the love of Lenny may be standing in her way of true happiness.

I really enjoyed this book greatly. This is the 2nd book in the series and it was just as good if not better than the first! It was interesting that all of this information came out right after Peter's death. There was a lot hidden in the family and to see it all unravel was so amazing. The author E Journey has such a talent! The book is wonderfully written and put together in such a composed way. The author knows how to create a beautiful story while adding adventure, pain, love and romance into the mix. This book also deals a lot with family problems which I can appreciate. It is nice to see families who have problems, work them out. I'm glad that Agnieszka's story was uncovered and she opened up her story to her family. This book is so lovely and I love the usage of the piano. I am a piano player myself and I could easily connect to her love of it! This is a book that I would highly recommend! It's hard to set down!

Shree says

Note : This review is up in my blog - Book and Ink

Having read the first book in the series, I was a bit skeptic and hesitant to read this book, as I found the first to be a bit jumpy for my taste. Elise's story progressed way too fast for my taste. This book was one big surprise. Agnieszka's story was so heart wrenchingly beautiful and narrated with so much depth that Elise's story paled out in comparison. I don't regret one bit reading this book!

In the second book the writer, Evy narrates the story of Elise's mother – Agnieszka – a woman with enough courage to break through the societal stereotypes of the 70s. Lost dreams of being a pianist, heart break beyond control and parents who were too rigid – She handled it all and eventually lived through it. The choices that Agnes makes defines her life and leads to where she is now – a doting mother of three children who has managed to raise all of them with values and strength to handle even the toughest situation the life presents with.

Comparison between books in a series is inevitable. I really had a hard time believing that this very writer had written the previous book in the series. Agnes's characterization had so much depth and her choices were well justified, while Elise's (Agne's daughter) character lacked that in the first book. But thankfully for me, the writer exactly gave that much needed depth for Elise's character in the end of this book by comparing her mom with her. The writing was brilliant and perfect with all emotions being portrayed to dot. Being from a different era and a different geographical location, this story proved to be an interesting read as it was set in the 70s when USA apparently wasn't as liberal as it is today. These stereotypes remind me of the very society that I live in today. Though I couldn't exactly visualize the story I was able to associate with it.

MY SAY: A soulfully beautiful read. Worth reading totally!

RATING:

PLOT: 8/10

CHARACTERISATION: 8/10

NARRATION: 8/10

BOREDOM QUOTIENT: 1/10 (Lower the better)

OVERALL RATING: 8/10

Angela Thompson says

I received a complimentary copy of this book for use in a blog review. All opinions are my own.

Hello, Agnieszka Takes Readers Deeper into Elise's World. As Agnieszka's, Elise's mother's, life story unfolded in her words to her children--readers were taken further into Elise's family. Secrets, betrayals and hidden stories from the past surprise the family as their mother opens up and tells all. E Journey tells a wonderful story from Agnieszka's point of view--and keeps readers turning the pages through the emotions all the way to the end.

E Journey Creates Very Realistic, Human Centered Fiction. This is only the 2nd book that I've read from E Journey--but, her stories flow easily and completely--making her one of my new, favorite storytellers. This book tugs on the heart strings of mothers--and hits home as well for many daughters. E Journey keeps the emotions real and the scenes well focused, well grounded, and realistic enough for readers from so many walks (and stages) of life to relate. The characters are very human and very real.

Hello, Agnieszka! Offers Two Stories in One. Generally, I love books set in the present while allowing the characters to narrate the stories of the past. This probably comes from living with a storytelling grandfather! Sometimes; however, this format may be distracting. I think E Journey accomplishes the two stories very well--with no reader confusion or distraction. The scenes of the book flow smoothly and allow for a full "life" story by the end of the book.

Would I recommend Hello, Agnieszka! by E Journey? I think, as a mother, I enjoyed this book a little more than the first of the series. Again, I love stories where characters relive their pasts--and share the good, the bad, and the less than perfect of their struggles. Readers will gain some insights into the characters--and their flaws and personalities. While I think this book would really stand alone as a complete story--there is always a better sense of order when the entire series is read as a whole. If you enjoy life stories--with, again, the good, the bad, and the less than perfect--this book was a wonderful second book to E Journey's series.

Crystal Marie says

I must admit I have not read the first book in this series so I went in not knowing the history of the characters. With that being said I want to stress that I still walked away emotionally touched and renewed by

reading the story of the moment a daughter sees her mother as an individual with her own hopes and dreams, sorrows and heart breaks. That moment of clarity when the mother becomes a “friend” and equal not the caregiver who is above the rest.

Elise goes through life being a career woman, mother, wife, sister and daughter, focusing on her own world and the work she is doing as Public Defender. Losing herself to the job of being a protector and nurturer it took a tragic shocking event involving her brother Peter for her to shift her focus on the family and not the people she defended in the courts. What she wasn’t even aware of was in this new direction of focus she is going to see her mother as a woman for the first time and secrets are going to come out that will shake her world.

Agnieszka had a life of joy, love and heart break as a young woman. She made choices in life to not only provide for and protect herself but to give her children the life she thought they deserved. Now faced with the fact that one of her children is so depressed that he was willing to end his life, she takes a step back and begins talking to Elise. The curtains that she hid her early years behind was torn down and she spilled her heart to her daughter in raw emotions, describing the choices she was forced to make, mistakes she is accepting and fear at how this is affecting her current family.

I loved watching the moment that Elise was not only getting to know her mother and see the things that had to happen in the past for her to be here today, but she was also absorbing her role in the life of her children and the choices she is making now will one day affect her children later on. It was as if Elise became of aware of her role life. The author drew us a picture of how our parent’s history create our present and our present creates the future of our children, life is a circle and no woman is an island.

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Copy provided for review

Reviewed by Tbird for Crystal’s Many Reviewers

Amie's Book Reviews says

Title: Hello, Agnieszka!

Series: Between Two Worlds: Book Two

Author: E. Journey

Type of Book: Softcover

Genre: Drama, Romance

Length: 273 pages

Release Date: June 19, 2014

Publisher: Sojourner Books

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars ????????

~ I received a free softcover copy of "Hello, Agnieszka! - A 70s Love Story" free through the Goodreads Giveaway program. A review is not a requirement of receiving the free book, but the authors and publishers do appreciate receiving feedback (good or bad) from readers.

This is the second book in the "Between Two Worlds" series, however, it is not necessary to read the books in order since each one is its own stand-alone novel.

This book begins with the suicide attempt of a young adult named Peter. Fortunately the attempt was unsuccessful, but this single event triggers a tsunami of family revelations - all centred around Agnieszka.

The tale turns to the past and specifically to Agnieszka's life from age ten to twenty.

Agnieszka's Great Aunt Jola was a renowned beauty and pianist in her native Poland. However, she, along with Agnieszka's grandparents fled Poland and the Nazi invasion and emigrated to the United States. It was in the U.S. that Agnieszka was born.

At the age of ten Agnieszka heard Aunt Jola play the piano for the first time and she was captivated.

That love of music shaped her life for years to come. As a teenager in the early 1970s, you would think that Agnieszka would have been experiencing the "free love" era, but she was a very sheltered young woman and spent all of her time either at school, at home or practicing the piano. At the age of 17 she had never even had a boyfriend.

That all changes when she meets Lenny and falls deeply in love.

Betrayal and heartbreak, along with love, lust and a mother who is stuck in the past all conspire to change Agnieszka's life forever.

This is a tale of young love, first loves, heartbreaks and the power of music to soothe the soul.

If you are trying to decide whether or not to read this book, there are certain things that you need to take into consideration.

1. Are you looking for a steamy romance with detailed sex scenes? If so, this is NOT the book for you. Yes, there is sex in this book, but the act itself is secondary to the story and the author obviously decided that graphic sex scenes were unnecessary. In my opinion, this is a good thing. This book seeks to appeal to the reader's heart, much more so than their libido.
2. Are you looking for a modern day setting? Again, if that is the case, this is NOT the book for you. But, if you want to read a story that is set in the 1970s during an era of change and exploration, this is EXACTLY the book for you.
3. Do you enjoy superficial characters that are completely lacking in depth and that readers are unable to

relate to? That is the exact opposite of the characters in "Hello, Agnieszka." The author's character building is excellent. Readers learn more and more about each character as the story emerges and readers will find themselves beginning to be invested in the lives of Agnieszka, Lenny and Aunt Jola.

4. Are you looking for a book that contains only simple and straightforward emotions? If so, this is NOT the right choice for you. The emotions and actions of the characters in this book are complicated and often perplexing, but always realistic.

So, in conclusion, this book is more of a drama than a romance. Yes, the romance is central to the story, but it is about much more than that.

I enjoyed this book and will definitely read more books by author, E. Journey in the future.

Overall, I rate this book as 4 out of 5 stars. ????????

To purchase this book visit <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00L...>

Cheryl says

This book may be book two in this series but it can be read as a stand alone novel. Instantly, I connected with the characters and the story. The transfer from the present to the past and back to the present was nice.

At first, I was a little disappointed that the music was not featured more but as the story progressed, I realized the story really was so much more than about the music. It was about shattered dreams, first and second love.

Agnes' Aunt Jola treated her much better than her own mother. I felt bad for Agnes. Yet, I felt even worse when her aunt betrayed her with the ultimate betrayal. However, if it had not been for Aunt Jola; Agnes would not have fostered her love for music. When she played, I hungered for the music as well. Due to the lack of love that Agnes got from her family, I was happy to see her find someone like Leonard aka Lenny. He treasured her so much it hurt. After the story went back to the present, I felt satisfied that I got everything I wanted from this book. Author, Evy Journey has gained a new fan.

Wander Girl Life says

What happens when you have to disclose the past that you were trying to bury to protect your children? Hello, Agnieszka the second book in Between Two Worlds series is all about the buried past re-routing itself in the present. In the last book, Hello, My love we see the ups and downs in Elise & Gerg's relationship. The second book picks up from where we left, but the difference is that the protagonist of this book is Elise's mother, Agnieszka.

Agnieszka is forced to reveal her past to her children when her eldest son, Peter tries to commit suicide out of depression and is diagnosed with a genetic disease. The book takes us through Agnieszka's rough childhood, her tough relationship with her mother. She finds herself drawn to becoming a pianist when she hears her aunt Jola play and playing the piano becomes her only comfort through her rough days.

The story is poignant and churns a lot of emotions in the reader. Agnieszka comes across as a very strong character, making her an inspiration for turning around things in life. She is an epitome of strength and determination. The narration is evocative and I loved this book much more than the first one. This book is a tale about heartbreaks, rough childhood, loving and losing, hitting the rock bottom and learning to rise again.

Marisa says

Journey has done an amazing job building equally amazing characters and a storyline that makes you eager to turn the pages. Excited to read more from this author in the future!!

Aditi says

“Some things just couldn't be protectd from storms. Some things simply needed to be broken off...Once old thing were broken off, amazingly beautiful thing could grow in their place.”

---- Denise Hildreth Jones

Evy Journey has penned a heart touching love story, *Hello Agnieszka!* that is the second book in the *Between Two Worlds* series, that tells the story of a mother-daughter relationship where the past smoothly slips into the cracks and edges of the present to make it look worthwhile. This is a remarkable story of past and at times some moments can be quite heart-wrenching that tells us how a woman sacrifices for the sake of her own children.

Synopsis:

A raw tale of early love, rivalry and betrayal.

A 70s love story:

“Can music save your mortal soul?”

—Don McLean, American Pie

Short Synopsis

A passion for music. Her oldest son's suicide attempt forces Agnieszka to reveal a past she has kept from her children. A young Agnieszka discovers a passion for music upon hearing her grand-aunt Jola, a concert pianist in Poland, give a recital. Jola hones her talent and feeds her dreams of becoming a concert pianist. Shattered dreams. But real-world problems, thorny relations with a mother tied to her roots and betrayal by lusty Aunt Jola a shatter her dreams.

A 70s love story. Young Agnieszka finds love that renews her hopes for happiness. Sadly, it ends, cut short by

forces outside anyone's control. Sustained by music and memories of her first love, Agnieszka grows and gets a second chance at happiness.

Agnieszka's son, Peter, attempts to take his own life out of depression., who then starts talking after her son's suicide attempt to her daughter Elise about her past, when she was a little girl, when both her mother and her aunt ruled over her. Although she grasped the passion for piano from her aunt who was a musician. And Agnieszka's love and passion for piano was the only comforting thing in her rough childhood. Elise understands that it is necessary for a mother to secure the future of her children, no matter what.

The writing is layered with emotions and is very articulate with even more evocative narrative style that will keep the readers engaged till the very last page. This story is connected between two timelines and the two are perched very distinctly. The author has intricately described her plot that sways with a smooth pace and the story of Agnieszka is so heart-breaking that it will grip the hearts of the readers with questions till the very last page.

The characters are realistically developed by etching out their strong as well as flawed features. The protagonist is a strong woman and is an epitome to every mother in this land. The book is high on moral grounds since the story revolves between generations of family history that is both deep and rich in content.

Overall, this is an interesting story that is poignant yet enlightening in a way.

Verdict: *If you have followed the first book, then do grab a copy of the second book.*

Courtesy: *I received the book for a blog tour.*

Dhivya Balaji says

BOOK REVIEW:

A good blurb, a story about music (and its healing powers) and a poignant tale of young love (unsuccessful, but still) are part of a winning combo that would surely make any book a bestseller. Hello, Agnieszka! Is a tale of all this put together. Having already read book one,(Hello, my Love!) this one was satisfactory to all my expectations from the author.

The story starts with a tragic note and goes down the memory lane to bring back things that are hidden in the deepest, darkest corner of one's mind only to be perused in the twilight of poignant recollections. Not going much into the actual story, it is everything the summary promises it is.

A daughter's troubled relationship with her mother and the pain of scandal, betrayal and the true loss of one's first love are portrayed in the author's usual beautiful style. While the story itself is set in the 70s, the connection would be better to understand if the books of the series are read in the order they have been published. (Some might disagree and call this a prequel, and even others might call this a standalone, though both may be true, my personal opinion is that this book is best read second in the series).

The language is good (only a few typos and phrasing errors). But when a story is too emotional, and there are deep thoughts shared, the language breaks slink away unnoticed. Bittersweet tales are difficult to carry off. There can never be enough justification to satisfy the behaviour of every character (from the aunt to the mother to the main character) but basically, this story is a deep analysis on the strong bonds of human relations.

Maybe because I am still thinking about book 1, or maybe because I am still wondering about Elise and Greg, this story gets second place in my most favourite book of the series list.

Jeremy Michael Gallen says

may contain spoilers for first book

This sequel to author E. Journey's *Hello, My Love!*, opened with quotes by Hermann Hesse and Pablo Casals about holding on and music, begins with the newly-married Elise Halverson-Thorpe analyzing a client's testimony, with her father calling with the grim news that Peter has been hospitalized and had attempted suicide, supposedly being ill with a debilitating disease. Elise and Greg have a child named Gregory, nicknamed Goyo, a Spanish diminutive for his identity, and who participates with his father in various actions such as jogging and kite-flying.

In the third chapter, the story takes a sudden change in setting to the past, which this reviewer found out after perusing the book's Amazon page to be the 1970s, with little reference to contemporary events such as the Vietnam War, and where the chief protagonist, the daughter of Polish immigrants named Agnieszka, called Ania for short by her family or its English equivalent, Agnes, as an affectionate moniker, begins her narration of the bulk of the story's chapters. She dreads her daily doses of cod liver oil, and ultimately begins to take piano lessons with her Aunt Jola, excelling in this area.

Ania also forms a relationship with Lenny Weisz, introduced to him through his brother Robbie who also took piano lessons from Jola, with several twists coming in the latter portion of the novel. The writer ends her story by thanking the reader for spending time with the titular character, and notes that she claims to be a realist with little imagination, fitting for a piece of realistic fiction. Even so, this is an enjoyable sequel that those who enjoyed the first entry will enjoy, although this reviewer found the change in time to come out of nowhere, with a few headscratching moments throughout.
