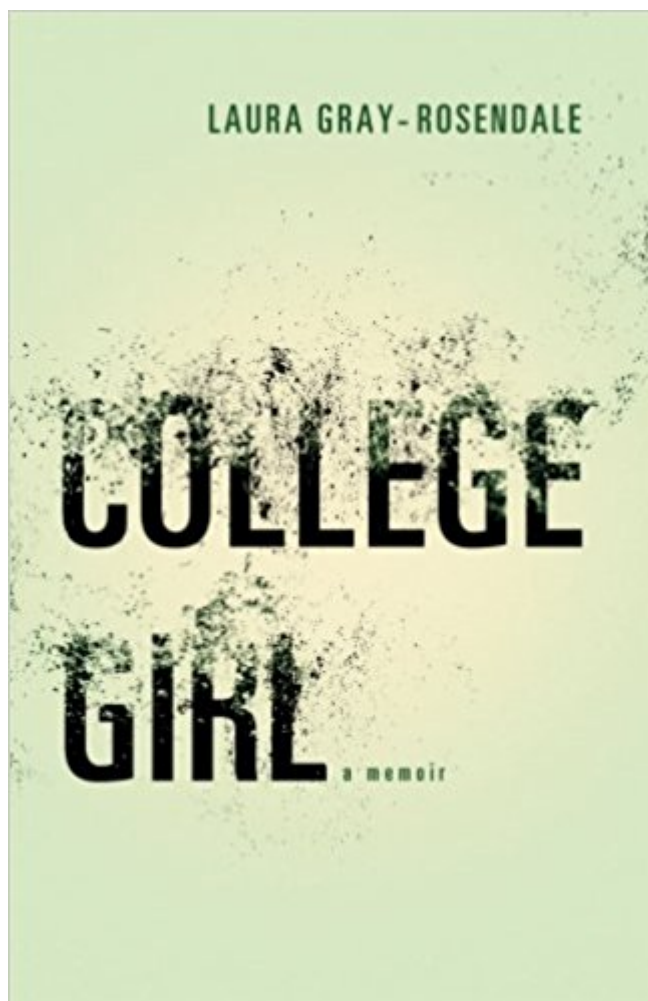


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# College Girl: A Memoir



## Synopsis

The inspirational memoir of a woman who survived a brutal sexual assault and went on to become a university professor. In *College Girl*, a university professor revisits the memory of a brutal sexual assault and recounts her long, circuitous route from trauma to recovery. Offering present-day reflections alongside the fresh, hopeful voice of the twenty-year-old student she once was, Laura Gray-Rosendale tells the story of her near destruction and her family's disintegration, but also one of abiding friendships and shining hope. In the end, *College Girl* is also a story about stories, and a meditation on memoir itself. Gray-Rosendale writes in a tone that is simply unforgettable – gritty, humorous, and raw. Artfully written and devoid of self-pity, *College Girl* is a rich story of triumph, hope, and survival. “From the college girl she was before the incident, all the way through the lengthy process of recovery, Laura’s story is a beautifully written exploration of trauma and the way it is remembered. | *College Girl* is an unforgettably sharp glimpse into not just one woman’s struggle with the emotional consequences of rape, but the role it plays in the life of anyone associated with the incident. • Portland Book Review “*College Girl* can feel unrelentingly bleak, at times almost difficult to read: Gray-Rosendale pulls no punches in her depiction of her rape and its aftermath. But the book is far more than just an inventory of traumas; while Gray-Rosendale suffers setbacks and relapses, her overall trajectory is ever upward. And even as she tells her own story, she engages directly with memoir as a genre – its uses and limitations, particularly for survivors of trauma – establishing her own narrative while simultaneously laying bare the elements and methods of its construction. • Inside Higher Ed “*College Girl* is an exceptionally well-written, gripping rarity. Though the book tells the story of a horrific rape, it is, in fact, about the attack’s aftermath – for its perpetrator, its victim, each of their families, and beyond. It is about the dividing line between bravery and cowardice. It is about human beings behaving extraordinarily, under almost unthinkable circumstances. By relentlessly continuing to expand her examination beyond herself, Laura Gray-Rosendale has created something of great importance not only to individuals, but to society. • Evan Handler, actor and author of *Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors* “*College Girl* is a monumental achievement that ranges from memoir to cultural critique to documentary nonfiction, but it’s also a stunning study in prose stylings that reaches from the sublime to the grotesque. Lyrical, repulsive, elegant, and hideous, *College Girl* is expressed in language so thought-provoking, so astute, that we cannot help but be right there with her. I urge all of us to engage with and learn from this deeply important book – and never, ever forget. • Kass Fleisher, author of *Dead*

Woman Hollow. Words like brave or honest usually used to describe a memoir of trauma and recovery don't even come close to capturing this searingly painful, unflinchingly self-reflective, and painstakingly subtle memoir. With not a hint of self-congratulation, and in language as jagged-edged as the events themselves, coupled with long languid reflective passages, *College Girl* achieves something truly rare and unsettling—a story of such brutality that is also, oddly, almost beautiful in its telling. • Michael Kimmel, author of *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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This memoir recounts the author's rape, PTSD and journey back to recovery. The author also takes on the genre of memoir itself as she deals with memories, and truth v.s. facts. Laura Gray-Rosendale's writing is immediate, stark and can cut you to the bone. At times you will be crying and then turn the page and start laughing out loud. A story of strength and resilience and one woman's smart path from the pit of despair to feeling whole again. This book is for anyone who is interested in the genre of memoir, who is a survivor of a traumatic event or for anyone who has

helped a loved one through.

College girl takes you through the trauma and the effects of being raped. I gained so much more respect for victims of sexual assault after reading this, they are strong as hell and they have no choice but to be. I assumed oh that maybe after a few months or maybe a few years everything is fine and they get over it eventually, like a bad break up . College girl tells you how a rape victim is changed and affected by their assault and it's 1000 times worse than I could have imagined. I would recommend it.

I thought this was a wonderfully written account of an horrific experience ... the author's ability to capture the trauma, her need to dissociate was flawless in her descriptive use of language. This book should be required reading for high school seniors and college freshmen. It is an important document about sexual violence against women.

This is one of the most powerful memoirs on rape I have ever read. It shows the impact rape has not only on the victim, but everyone connected to that victim. It also tackles rape from many different angles, as a victim, as a product of patriarchy and as an academic. I am assigning it to my students to read.

A profound and personal book that is important for all young women and their men. We are all so blessed to have Laura-Gray Rosendale in all of our lives.

Stunning book. Heartbreakingly raw.

Very eye-opening to the experiences of this type of situation. Really good book would recommend to any girl over the age of 15.

SUCH a great book! I couldn't put it down!

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