

The book was found

We Need To Talk About Kevin: A Novel



Synopsis

A stunning examination of how tragedy affects a town, a marriage, and a family, for readers of Rosellen Brown's *Before and After* and Jane Hamilton's *A Map of the World*. That neither nature nor nurture bears exclusive responsibility for a child's character is self-evident. But such generalizations provide cold comfort when it's your own son who's just opened fire on his fellow students and whose class photograph--with its unseemly grin--is blown up on the national news. The question of who's to blame for teenage atrocity tortures our narrator, Eva Khatchadourian. Two years ago, her son, Kevin, murdered seven of his fellow high-school students, a cafeteria worker, and a popular algebra teacher. Because he was only fifteen at the time of the killings, he received a lenient sentence and is now in a prison for young offenders in upstate New York. Telling the story of Kevin's upbringing, Eva addresses herself to her estranged husband through a series of letters. Fearing that her own shortcomings may have shaped what her son has become, she confesses to a deep, long-standing ambivalence about both motherhood in general and Kevin in particular. How much is her fault? *We Need to Talk About Kevin*

Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Counterpoint; export ed edition (April 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582432678

ISBN-13: 978-1582432670

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1,118 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #611,501 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Epistolary](#) #21374 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary](#) #34520 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary](#)

Customer Reviews

"We Need To Talk About Kevin" is a disquieting, provocative, and brilliantly written novel about a mother, desperately attempting to understand why her son, 15-year-old Kevin, brutally, with premeditation, murdered seven of his fellow classmates, a cafeteria worker and his English teacher in a Columbine-style school massacre. There have been nationwide discussions on the cause of events like these - especially during the 1990s when it seemed like school shootings ran rampant

throughout the US. In Pearl, Paducah, Springfield, Littleton, seemingly normal kids, kids who had almost everything a child could want, became terribly derailed. Some argue that the proliferation of and easy access to guns is the cause; others that the excess of violence in movies, TV programs and video games induce violent behavior in children and adolescents. The one question almost everyone seems to have in common is, "What were these murderous kids' parents like?" "Didn't they recognize symptoms of violence in their own children?" Eva Khatchadourian, Kevin's bereft mother, narrates this novel through a series of compelling letters to her estranged husband, Franklin. She examines her son's life, from conception to his terrible act of violence, trying to understand the why of it. What becomes clear early on is that Eva tortures herself with blame. She is guilt-ridden that her shortcomings as a parent might have caused Kevin's evil act, his violent behavior, his very nature. She must have failed, she must have been deficient as a mother, for her boy to commit such a chilling crime. She also considers that neither nature nor nurture are solely responsible for shaping a child's character.

Kevin is one of a recent series of "Columbine" books--those that try and plumb the characters of young boys who plan high school massacres. Some are just bad (Vernon God Little), others are great (Project X). Kevin falls in the middle. Its major strength is the compelling nature of the premise--just what is it that caused young Kevin (in prison at the time of the novel's present) to kill several of his classmates and some school staff? It's the sort of question we all know there is no real answer for, and yet we feel the need to ask it anyway. Both the question and the need to ask it are examined through the course of the narration--structured as a series of letters from Eva, Kevin's mother, to her estranged husband and Kevin's father, Franklin. While the structure allows for a lot of introspection and detail, it also feels a bit gimmicky in places. On the one hand, it seems self-evidently clumsy when she spends so much time telling Franklin things he already knows, having lived through those same scenes. On the other hand, that self-evident clumsiness eventually too obviously hints at what is supposed to be, as Publisher Weekly puts it, "a huge and crushing shock." Without giving much away, I'll say it didn't seem all that shocking by the time it happened and somewhat worsened the contrived feel of the structure. The other negative aspect of Shriver's choice of structure is that it locks us into a single voice, that of the mother, and over the book's 300+ pages, that voice starts to wear on the reader. Actually, it began to wear on this reader pretty early and Eva's voice was one of the major stumbling blocks to continuing the book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

We Need to Talk About Kevin: A Novel We Need to Talk About Kevin Conversation: The Gentle Art

Of Hearing & Being Heard - HowTo "Small Talk", How To Connect, How To Talk To Anyone (Conversation skills, Conversation starters, Small talk, Communication) CHATTER: Small Talk, Charisma, and How to Talk to Anyone (The People Skills, Communication Skills, and Social Skills You Need to Win Friends and Get Jobs) The right way to have the herpes talk: What you need to learn so that "the talk" can make your relationships even stronger than before. (Guides Book 3) Let's Talk about Epilepsy (Let's Talk Library) Let's Talk About Epilepsy (The Let's Talk Library) Let's Talk about Head Lice (Let's Talk Library) Let's Talk STDs: A Guide to Prepare Parents for "The Talk" HOW TO TALK DIRTY: The Original "How To Talk Dirty Guide" Includes 505 Examples of Sexting, Phone Sex, Hardcore & Kinky Sex Ideas Plus More Como Hablar Para Que los Ninos Escuchen y Como Escuchar Para Que los Ninos Hablen = How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk (Spanish Edition) Baby Signs: How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk, Third Edition How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk Let's Talk About Feeling Angry (Let's Talk About Book 1) 131 Dirty Talk Examples: Learn How To Talk Dirty with These Simple Phrases That Drive Your Lover Wild & Beg You For Sex Tonight What I Talk About When I Talk About Running (Vintage International) Kevin Zraly Windows on the World Complete Wine Course: Revised and Expanded Edition Kevin Zraly Windows on the World Complete Wine Course: 30th Anniversary Edition Windows on the World Complete Wine Course: 25th Anniversary Edition (Kevin Zraly's Complete Wine Course) Kevin Dundon's Modern Irish Food

[Dmca](#)