

**Dear Evan Hansen**

**Val Emmich with Steven Levenson, Benj Pasek, & Justin Paul**

**Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

**[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)**

The novelization of the musical of the same name, Dear Evan Hansen follows Evan Hansen as he begins his senior year in high school with anxiety. The readers learn that he has to complete letters to himself per his therapist that begin with “Dear Evan Hansen...”. When Evan writes one about his crush and her brother, Connor, finds it, he thinks that his life is over, until two days later when he is told that Connor has killed himself. The family believes that Evan was best friends with Connor based on the letter, which they think was a suicide note, and Evan’s life gets more complicated when he doesn’t tell them the truth, the lies and anxiety getting deeper and deeper.

Being a fan of the musical before reading this book, but never seeing the show, I was excited to read this and to know the events of the musical. However, it’s not just the musical we get to see, but also more details and backstory that we never got on Connor during the musical. Both the book and the musical focus on anxiety, depression, family and friend connections, and other important topics as Evan’s lie gets bigger, and it is a book I got very emotional reading because of how much I could see myself in these characters. I would recommend this book for teenagers and older due to language, drug usage, mental health, and constant mentions of suicide.

**Recommended Titles:**

Be More Chill by Ned Vizzini

Eliza and Her Monsters by Francesca Zappia