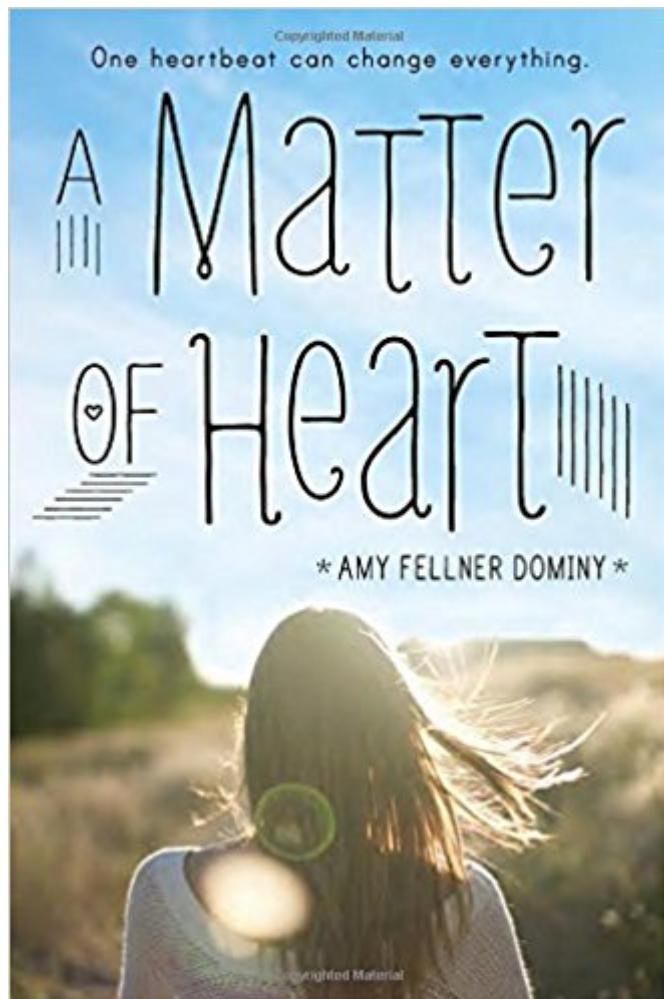


The book was found

## A Matter Of Heart



## **Synopsis**

"Will make your heart pound--anxiously, joyfully, triumphantly." --New York Times bestselling author Lauren Myracle    Readers will happily dive into this emotionally grounded, contemporary young adult novel about the sudden end of one girl's Olympic swimming dreams and the struggles she endures before realizing there are many things that express who we are.   Sixteen-year-old Abby Lipman is on track to win the state swim championships and qualify for the Olympic trials when a fainting incident at a swim meet leads to the diagnosis of a deadly heart condition. If she swims, she could die. Will she give up her dream or will she risk everything--including her life? From the Trade Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: HL580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385744439

ISBN-13: 978-0385744430

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars    33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,210,832 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #43 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Water Sports   #259 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports   #969 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 9 Up   • Abby knows what she wants, and she is seconds away from achieving it: making the Olympic Trials in her premier event—the 100-meter freestyle. Weeks away from reaching her dream, she gets dizzy after a swim meet. Concerned, her coach wants her to get cleared by her doctor before he will let her swim again. Abby and her parents are shocked to learn that she has Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, a medical condition that has been responsible for the loss of top high school athletes across the country. Abby and her parents each react differently after the doctor's

diagnosis. Her mother incorrectly believes that her daughter's condition is fatal, her father is in denial, and Abby, knowing that she actually has a mild form that likely isn't terminal, decides not to give up on her goals. The teen continues to struggle with her decision to risk her life in order to achieve her dream. Even non-athletes will relate to Abby and her fight to attain a seemingly impossible aspiration. More than a sports novel, this book delves deep into issues of identity—how we identify ourselves separately from what we do well—and the importance of support systems while making life-altering decisions. VERDICT Give this to fans of Catherine Gilbert Murdock's "Dairy Queen" series (Houghton Harcourt, 2006). —Stephanie Charlefour, Wixom Public Library, MI

More than a sports novel, this book delves deep into issues of identity--how we identify ourselves separately from what we do well--and the importance of support systems while making life-altering decisions. --School Library Journal A powerful book about finding yourself when everything around you is crumbling. This one is a must read - add it to your list. - YA Book Nerd An enjoyable read even for couch potatoes -- Kirkus"This is engaging and fast-paced to read and expertly paints the world of high-school sports and the single-minded focus and commitment that some high-school athletes can have." --Booklist Dominy's excellent use of dialogue firmly grounds the novel in contemporary times. The setting thrives on details, showcasing excellent research. . . . This is recommended for Chris Lynch fans, swimming fans, and anyone interested in warning teens about the dangers of HCM.--VOYAFFrom the Trade Paperback edition.

Abby is one swim meet away from making the Olympic Trials. Swimming is everything, that and her perfect boyfriend. When a newly diagnosed heart condition ends her competitive career, Abby will risk everything to make her dreams come true.A MATTER OF HEART is a compulsively readable tale of a girl and her dreams, her values and resilience. Abby is a great character, because of her imperfections, she's at times selfish, dishonest, shallow and unkind, yet I never stopped rooting for her to be okay emotionally and physically.Amy Dominy's writing engaged me from start to finish. I loved the subplot of the kids Abby coached. I wished the story had focused a bit less on her insta-love with Alec, though I loved his character. Plot wise, I wish Dominy hadn't left Conner's possible doping unaddressed and unresolved and I felt like the ending was a bit clichéd and predictable.A MATTER OF HEART is an engaging story of sports, dreams, friendship and love.

I read this book in two nights because I couldn't put it down. Amy Dominy is the master of writing

characters that I care about. And I cared about every character in this book, starting with Abby who is on her way to qualify for the Olympics in swimming when everything changes. I cared about Abby's relationship with her parents (so nice to see a realistic portrayal of that relationship in a book for teens). I cared about Abby's relationship with her best friend, Jen, and was touched by her support of Abby. And lastly I was very invested in the complicated love triangle. The dilemma, the characters, the emotions, the love story, all of these things kept me up late wanting to know how Abby would grow and change from her experience and I was not disappointed. The theme is strong and will resonate with anyone who has to give up a dream. What do we do when the thing that defines us is taken away? Another great novel by Amy Dominy.

I thought this might be a good read for my young swimmer daughter who also has a slight heart issue but I have yet to let her read it as this story is for a more mature teenager. There are some references to sex, drugs and alcohol. I was a little disappointed in how the main character acted until the very end of the book. Especially towards her swim team. I doubt I will ever suggest for my daughter to read this but if she found it on her own, I would talk to her about. I was hoping there might be a life lesson or at least some character building but I didn't really see that.

I brought A Matter of Heart along with me on a recent mini-vacation, intending for it to last me the weekend. Big mistake! I opened the book and couldn't put it down. I read it in one day! The book has strong characters that suck you right into their world of high school competitive swimming. The main character is faced with a huge decision, and I couldn't wait to turn the pages to find out how it was all going to work out. Great romance scenes and unpredictable outcomes. Thanks, Ms. Dominy, for another great novel.

Strong characters, strong themes, strong plot, strong emotions - this book has it all. Abby has a whole world of well-developed characters - the best friend, her parents, her coach, her maybe boyfriends, even the kids she coaches is so well-developed I want to hug her. Abby's identity is tied to her swimming, but anyone whose identity is tied to what they have been known for can empathize with Abby when she has to re-think who she is and make a life-or-death decision about her future.

If you have kids that play sports, this book is a must read. Although it's a fictional story, the message is powerful and the story line is amazing! I really enjoyed reading this book.

Loved this story! What a heart wrenching problem for an athlete to face. I loved how realistic the characters reactions were. I loved all the swimming details - the fact this was a great sports book about a girl athlete. Great banter between the characters, and the girl friendship was wonderful. And I especially loved all the kissing. Those scenes sizzled! Five hearts!

We haven't completed the entire book yet, but through 20 quick chapters we've enjoyed it. The chapters are only a few pages and are entertaining. We love the swimming references. A few topics are not completely appropriate for a sixth grade girl, but gives us good discussions.

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