



Beautiful Wreck: Sex, Lies & Suicide

By Stephanie Schroeder

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Twenty-five year old Stephanie Schroeder arrived in New York City in 1990 with edgy good looks, attitude to burn and undiagnosed bipolar disorder. Her unflinching memoir chronicles her trajectory through the worlds of queer political activism, corporate America, intimate partner violence, unwilling parenthood, erotic discovery, 9/11...and three attempted suicides. Repeatedly falling through the cracks of the U.S. healthcare system, Schroeder became her own advocate, found help and began a healthier life. Readers will find both entertainment and inspiration in the rollercoaster twists and turns of this “beautiful wreck” of a memoir.

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Beautiful Wreck: Sex, Lies & Suicide By Stephanie Schroeder Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"A deeply personal account of the difficulties faced by people suffering from mental illness...Schroeder's brutally honest memoir reveals the extraordinary effort required to take control of one's mental and emotional health." -Publishers Weekly

"I highly recommend this candid memoir, particularly for Schroeder's strong voice that successfully balances life's darkest moments with humor." -Persephone Magazine

From the Inside Flap

"...a raw, powerful exposure of one woman's life. Stephanie is incapable of dissimulation...her honesty is arresting, convincing and always winning. You truly care about her on the page and in her life. I was mesmerized, and you will be too."

- **JOSEPH AMIEL**, author of *A Question of Proof* and *Birthright*

"Written with humor, insight, perception, courage--a much needed work from a talented writer."

- **JOAN NESTLE**, activist, archivist & author of *A Restricted Country* and *A Fragile Union*

"The memoir is now de rigeur, a rite of passage for middle-aged writers. To make one's story stand out, it must stand up--to scrutiny, to deconstruction, to other people's revisionism. Beautiful Wreck stands up--it's the raw, honest, balls out (ovaries out?), in-your-face lesbian version of James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces* without the lying and posturing. Schroeder takes us, in real time and retrospectively, on the trip through "comfort suicide"--the belief that death can be an answer to depression. She explicates how normative emotional pain so severe it makes you want to die can become. Fortunately, three attempts with no success were the charm; that dark round-trip down the river Styx brings Schroeder back irrevocably to life at its deepest, fullest and most inspirational. This is what survival is, and Schroeder lays it bare."

-**VICTORIA A. BROWNORTH**, award-winning author, *Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life* and *Coming Out of Cancer*

From the Back Cover

"A riveting and painfully honest account, Beautiful Wreck not only demonstrates the importance of humor and perseverance in the face of mental illness, but also affirms the power of self-reinvention."

-**KAITLIN BELL BARNETT**, author of *Dosed: The Medication Generation Grows Up*

"Brave and relentless, a courage to do it all that astounds one. To write it all down. But that is what I have come to expect from Stephanie Schroeder. I have known her some 25 years and watched what she has done with her life: journalism, law; wonderful what she has been through; to hell and back again. A survivor. Always with a sense of humor, a jauntiness that says to hell with ordinary opinion."

-**KATE MILLETT**, author of *Sexual Politics*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Adam Rucks:

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Doris Blair:

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Stephanie Carter:

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