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Ann Packer

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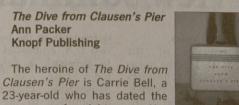
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ief nego telephone, Rodrigu the store but refus pon, so police hit h spray, Llevel Ted Holder said. calm but his ha

" Holder said.



same man for eight years. Her fiance, Mike, is an all-around good guy, but Carrie feels she has been missing something. She is on the verge of deciding to make a change and try something new. However, after Mike breaks his neck diving

off a pier, Carrie is forced to make a choice. She either can stay with Mike and help him through his struggles as a quadriplegic, or find herself - and a new 40-year-old lover - in New York City.

Feeling pressure from her friends and Mike's family, Carrie embarks on a road trip to New York and stays with a high school acquaintance, Simon, who is now gay.

This move, along with many others throughout the book, makes Carrie seem self-involved, however, after further reading, author Ann Packer is

makes readers place themselves in Carrie's shoes. Many will find they might have taken the same course of action.

Throughout the book, Carrie constantly battles between acting on her own feelings and what she knows is the right thing to do.

While holding Mike's hand in the hospital, she thinks to herself, "This is me doing the right thing. This is me being brave and strong for Mike."

Through Carrie's memories and in chapter two, readers learn of the intimacy between the old Mike and Carrie, which makes their situation more dramatic.

Carrie realizes how she and Mike came to know everything about each other, and Packer once again graces readers with her remarkable insights into human relationships when she writes, "We were caretakers of each other's habits and expressions, By the end of the book, readers will find them. selves empathizing with Carrie and turning the final pages with a smile on their face and a few tears in their eyes. Readers are sure to learn a few things from Packer about others and most importantly, themselves. (Grade: A) -Lizette Resendez

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Wednesday, April 17, 2002 Book Rev

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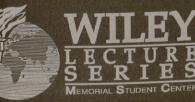
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