

# Author Anthony Avina's Blog

Good books don't give up all their secrets at once. –  
Stephen King

## Girls Like Us by Elizabeth Hazen Review

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I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. All opinions are my own.

A powerful book of poetry that dives into the complex nature of female identity and the roles they've been forced into playing in society throughout history comes to life in author and poet Elizabeth Hazen's book, "Girls Like Us".

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## The Synopsis



*Girls Like Us* is packed with fierce, eloquent, and deeply intelligent poetry focused on female identity and the contradictory personas women are expected to embody. The women in these poems sometimes fear and sometimes knowingly provoke the male gaze. At times, they try to reconcile themselves to the violence that such attentions may bring; at others, they actively defy it. Hazen's insights into the conflict between desire and wholeness, between self and self-

destruction, are harrowing and wise. The predicaments confronted in *Girls Like Us* are age-old and universal—but in our current era, Hazen's work has a particular weight, power, and value.

## The Review

What a moving work of poetry. The author does an incredible job of bringing the pain and emotion that many women in life have had to endure through society's expectations and the roles cast upon them through her work. As someone who considers himself a feminist and someone who has always wanted to live in a world where my mother and sister could live knowing they were viewed by everyone as equals and were respected, this poetry really spoke to me on a personal level while also feeling personal to the author at the same time.

What really captured my attention as a reader was the way the author writes, in which many of the poems were written with such precision and detail-oriented writing, and yet felt personal to the author and broad enough for others to connect to on their own personal levels. The complexity of the layers of this poetry speaks to the simple desire for equality so many seek throughout their lives, and the ongoing fight to bring that equality to life.

## The Verdict

A truly one of a kind read, the author and poet Elizabeth Hazen and her book "Girls Like Us" is a truly amazing work of poems. The raw emotions combined with the true and often sad realities the poems capture of life connect with readers on an intimate level, and the theme and heart of the book speak to so many that readers will not be able to put it down. Be sure to grab this quick yet powerful read today!

Rating: 10/10

## About the Author:





**Elizabeth Hazen** is a poet, essayist, and teacher. A Maryland native, she came of age in a suburb of Washington, D.C. in the pre-internet, grunge-tinted 1990s, when women were riding the third wave of feminism and fighting the accompanying backlash. She began writing poems when she was in middle school, after a kind-hearted librarian handed her Lawrence Ferlinghetti's *A Coney Island of the Mind*. She has been reading and writing poems ever since.

Hazen's work explores issues of addiction, mental health, and sexual trauma, as well as the restorative power of love and forgiveness. Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *American Literary Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Southwest Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Normal School*, and other journals. Alan Squire Publishing released her first book, *Chaos Theories*, in 2016. *Girls Like Us* is her second collection. She lives in Baltimore with her family.