



# Anthropology of an American Girl: A Novel (Random House Reader's Circle)

By Hilary Thayer Hamann

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**Anthropology of an American Girl: A Novel (Random House Reader's Circle)** By Hilary Thayer Hamann

**This is what it's like to be a high-school-age girl.**

To forsake the boyfriend you once adored.  
To meet the love of your life, who just happens to be your teacher.  
To discover for the first time the power of your body and mind.

**This is what it's like to be a college-age woman.**

To live through heartbreak.  
To suffer the consequences of your choices.  
To depend on others for survival but to have no one to trust but yourself.

**This is *Anthropology of an American Girl*.**

A literary sensation, this extraordinarily candid novel about the experience of growing up female in America will strike a nerve in readers of all ages.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, June 2010:** Eveline Auerbach, the heroine of *Anthropology of an American Girl*, observes at one point that "pain becomes its own story." That may be the best way to begin talking about Hilary Thayer Hamann's arresting and provocative coming-of-age novel, set against the twilight years of Eveline's adolescence and the dawn of the 1980s--a decade made all the more infamous by books like *American Psycho* and *Bright Lights, Big City*. Hamann's 600-page epic is a worthy and welcome successor to those novels, as it charts the wistful and unsteady course of a girl experiencing the often brutal paradox of being a woman. Eveline is a curious soul. Much of her story unfolds in interior monologues that display how acutely--and how honestly--she observes herself and the men who lay claim to her, and no thought of hers is left unturned: she reflects with great tenderness both the guileless narcissism and the strange liberty of being young. *Anthropology of an American Girl* is an accomplished and absorbing work of fiction, resonant and romantic in the grandest sense, that will remind you what a great American novel really is. --Anne Bartholomew

#### From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. If publishers could figure out a way to turn crack into a book, it'd read a lot like this. Originally a self-published cult hit in 2003 (since reedited), Hamann's debut traces the sensual, passionate, and lonely interior of a young woman artist growing up in windswept East Hampton at the end of the 1970s. The book begins as a two-pronged tragedy befalls 17-year-old narrator Eveline: her best friend's mother (more maternal than her own) dies, and Eveline is raped by two high school students. Her brutalized interior, exquisitely rendered by Hamann, leads Eveline to a series of self-realizations that bears obvious comparison to that iconic nonconformist Holden Caulfield. The difference, though, is Eveline's femininity threatens to subsume her fragility. Over the course of the book, she falls deeply in love with a stormy figure who helps bring her to disturbing conclusions. Eveline—bent on self-destruction but capable of deep passion, stifled by circumstance but constantly blossoming—is a marvelously complex and tragic figure of disconnection, startlingly real and exposed at all times. (May)

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#### From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Angst, isolation, and blossoming sexuality are major themes in Hamann's sprawling debut. It comes as no great surprise, then, that the original printing became a cult favorite among younger readers and that several critics compared it favorably to J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. On the other hand, most acknowledged the book could have benefited from tighter editing, and one less-than-enthusiastic reviewer found the heroine too self-absorbed for her taste: another disliked the philosophizing. Overall, however, critics hailed *Anthropology of an American Girl* as an impressive first work and credited Hamann with an elegant writing style "that would make a good poet jealous" (*Dallas Morning News*).

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Gene Kistler:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for

us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim as well as goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Anthropology of an American Girl: A Novel (Random House Reader's Circle).

### **Denise Swann:**

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### **Gordon Miller:**

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### **Katrice Fredericksen:**

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