



The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town

By Jennifer Niven

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The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town By Jennifer Niven

For anyone who has ever endured the insufferable pain, the soaring excitement, and the relentless shame of adolescence, critically acclaimed author Jennifer Niven shares her own hilarious and touching tales of teenage life at a Midwestern high school in the 1980s.

If you had found Jennifer Niven in the looming halls of Richmond, Indiana's lone high school in 1985, she would have had enormous hair and been wearing her favorite yellow Esprit shirt. She would have been flirting with Tommy Wissel, and passing notes to her best friend Joey about whether Dean Waldemar was going to ask her to the dance. And her last name would have been McJunkin, because Niven is the pen name she planned to use whenever she *finally* graduated and became a famous writer/actress in some big city far, far away from farms, tractors, mullets, and food festivals.

In her entertaining and heartfelt memoir, Jennifer takes readers back to that thrilling, excruciating, amazing, unnerving, awkward, and unforgettable time -- high school -- when life's greatest problems revolved around saying and doing the right thing, wrestling with geometric theorems, fretting over a bad hair day, waiting for the weekend's parties, trying not to die of boredom, and dying to be noticed by the most popular boy in school. It was a time of feeling fearless and invincible, with miles of firsts still to come.

From meeting her best friend for life in Mr. Foos's first-period geometry class to partying one last time before college -- when not just the cool kids but the hoods, the geeks, and the normal kids gathered together to say good-bye -- Jennifer shares the funny, poignant, and silly stories of a simpler time and place. Irresistibly charming and utterly true, *The Aqua Net Diaries* is one girl's unique yet undeniably universal survival story of the best years of her life.

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Editorial Review

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High school is full of ups and downs, wins and losses, the highest highs and the lowest lows, and it's pretty much the same regardless of time or location. Niven is so sure of the timeliness and universality of high-school experiences, she retrieved old memories and dug up all her old memorabilia from her less than glamorous high-school years in the mid-1980s in a small farm town in southern Indiana. Nevertheless, as Niven tells tales of her life as Jennifer McJunkin, spraying her hair to enormous heights and dreaming of fame, she does manage to rediscover the fun, excitement, and drama of those crucial times. Whether she's organizing a speech team, arguing with classmates about Walter Mondale, or talking on the phone with Matthew Broderick, Niven relays it with humor, even if it was humiliating at the time. People who didn't have the best time in school might find this memoir too cloying, but everyone will recognize themselves or people they knew in Niven's chronicle. --Hilary Hatton

About the Author

JENNIFER NIVEN's first book, *The Ice Master*, was named one of the top ten nonfiction books of the year by *Entertainment Weekly*. Her second book, *Ada Blackjack*, was a *Book Sense Top Ten* Pick. Her memoir, *The Aqua Net Diaries*, was optioned by Warner Bros. Her bestselling debut novel, *Velva Jean Learns to Drive*, was followed by the sequel *Velva Jean Learns to Fly*. Her novel *Becoming Clementine* will be released in September. She lives in Los Angeles.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angel Huitt:

This *The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town* book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That *The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town* without we know teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't become worry *The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town* can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *The Aqua Net Diaries: Big Hair, Big Dreams, Small Town* having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Hazel Freese:

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of experience like rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that could be useful in your day pastime. So, let's have it appreciate reading.

Marilyn Chambers:

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Sharon Hite:

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