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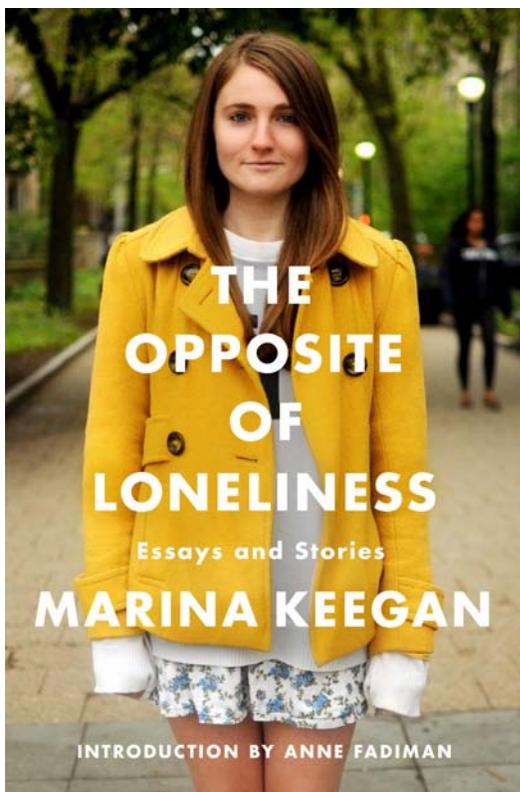
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An affecting and hope-filled posthumous collection of essays and stories from the talented young Yale graduate whose title essay captured the world's attention in 2012 and turned her into an icon for her generation

# THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS

Essays and Stories  
by Marina Keegan

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**Praise for *The Opposite of Loneliness*:**

“[Keegan’s short stories] are always thoughtful, intelligent, and surprising and reveal a writer eager to find her literary voice by taking risks with both form and content. At their best, they are ferociously insightful. . . . As humane as it is sympathetic, Keegan’s work is a poignantly inspiring reminder of what is possible in the pursuit of dreams.” –*Kirkus*

“Keegan brings self-awareness to the collective insecurity of her peers, even as she captures it with a precision that only comes from someone who feels it too. How unfortunate that she will never know the value readers will find in her work.” –*Publishers Weekly*

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In May 2012 Marina Keegan graduated from Yale *magna cum laude*, and prepared to move to New York, where she had a job waiting at *The New Yorker* and an apartment in Brooklyn. A star of the English department, Marina had racked up awards for her fiction and nonfiction and written a musical that had been accepted by the New York International Fringe Festival. Tragically, she lost her life in a car accident on Cape Cod, five days after graduation, on the way to her father’s birthday party.

“The Opposite of Loneliness” was the last essay Marina wrote for the *Yale Daily News*, where she was published regularly. In it she muses on the spark of youth and inspiration she felt at Yale, feelings she urges

her classmates not to let go of: “*What we have to remember is that we can still do anything. We can change our minds. We can start over. . . . The notion that it’s too late to do anything is comical. It’s hilarious. . . . We can’t, we MUST not lose this sense of possibility because in the end, it’s all we have.*” In the devastating days that followed Marina’s fatal accident, as her stunned loved ones planned her memorial service, “The Opposite of Loneliness” became an international sensation, garnering more than 1.4 million hits and inspiring photos, videos, music, and other expressions of the deep resonance so many felt with Marina’s words. The media quickly latched on, and Diane Sawyer made Marina her “Person of the Week” on ABC News in early June. Scribner is proud to publish Marina Keegan’s **THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS: Essays and Stories** on **April 8, 2014**.

Marina’s voice captures the hope, possibility, occasional confusion, and passion of her generation. In addition to her multi-layered, frequently poignant essays, she left behind a wonderful collection of short stories, including “Cold Pastoral,” which was published posthumously on NewYorker.com. Her keen humanity is on display as richly in her short stories as in her essays—there is a reason people felt close to her, in life and after her death. Described as “a *Last Lecture* for the Millennial Generation,” **THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS** beautifully articulates the common human struggle for direction, happiness, a sense of belonging and fulfillment. In her short life Marina Keegan used her own considerable talent to make a significant impact on the world around her, an impact that the publication of **THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS** will only enlarge. Tracy and Kevin Keegan, Marina’s parents, are available for interview, as are her beloved Yale writing professor Anne Fadiman, some of her close friends, as well as individuals who, after reading “The Opposite of Loneliness,” were inspired to change their own lives.

**MARINA KEEGAN** (1989-2012) was an award-winning author, journalist, playwright, actress and activist. Her final essay for *The Yale Daily News*, “The Opposite of Loneliness,” became an instant global sensation, viewed by more than 1.4 million people from 98 countries. Her play *Utility Monster* opened the Wellfleet Harbor Actor’s Theater 2013 season; her musical, *Independents*, was a *New York Times* Critics’ Pick and won one of four Best Overall awards among the nearly 200 shows in the 2012 New York International Fringe Festival.

EVENT SCHEDULE		
New Haven, CT	Yale Bookstore	Wednesday, April 9 / 6pm
New York, NY	Yale Club	Wednesday, April 16/ 6:30pm
Brooklyn, NY	BookCourt	Monday, April 28 / 7pm
Wellesley, MA	Wellesley Bookstore	Wednesday, April 30 / 7pm
Brookline, MA	Brookline Booksmith	Thursday, May 1 / 7pm
Cambridge, MA	Harvard Bookstore	Friday, May 2 / 7pm

**For additional information:**

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**THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS / Marina Keegan**

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[www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com)

[www.theoppositeofloneliness.com](http://www.theoppositeofloneliness.com)

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## PRAISE FOR MARINA KEEGAN AND THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS

"[Keegan's short stories] are always thoughtful, intelligent, and surprising and reveal a writer eager to find her literary voice by taking risks with both form and content. At their best, they are ferociously insightful. . . . As humane as it is sympathetic, Keegan's work is a poignantly inspiring reminder of what is possible in the pursuit of dreams." —*Kirkus*

"Keegan brings self-awareness to the collective insecurity of her peers, even as she captures it with a precision that only comes from someone who feels it too. How unfortunate that she will never know the value readers will find in her work." —*Publishers Weekly*

"In her brief life Marina Keegan managed to achieve a precocious literary mastery. Her wry, wise, lyrical voice is unforgettable, and her vital, exuberant spirit reminds us powerfully to seize the day. Though every sentence throbs with what might have been, this remarkable collection is ultimately joyful and inspiring, because it represents the wonder that she was."  
—**J.R. Moehringer, Pulitzer Prize winner and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Tender Bar* and *Sutton***

"I will never cease mourning the loss of my beloved former student Marina Keegan. This book gives partial evidence of the extraordinary promise that departed with her. Throughout she manifests authentic dramatic invention and narrative skill. Beyond all those, she makes a vital appeal to everyone in her generation not to waste their gifts in mere professionalism but instead to invest their youthful pride and exuberance both in self-development and in the improvement of our tormented society."  
—**Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of the Humanities, Yale University**

"The writing Marina Keegan leaves behind offers a tantalizing taste of a literary voice still in development yet already imbued with unusual insight, nuance, humor, and sensitivity."  
—**Deborah Treisman, fiction editor, *The New Yorker***

"Funny, poignant, tender, and fiercely alive, *The Opposite of Loneliness* contains the keen observations of a short lifetime—and the wisdom of a much longer one."  
—**Jennifer DuBois, author of *Cartwheel* and *A Partial History of Lost Causes***

"When she read her work aloud around our seminar table, it would make us snort with laughter, and then it would turn on a dime and break our hearts."  
—**from the introduction by Anne Fadiman, Francis Writer-in-Residence at Yale and author of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* and *Ex Libris***