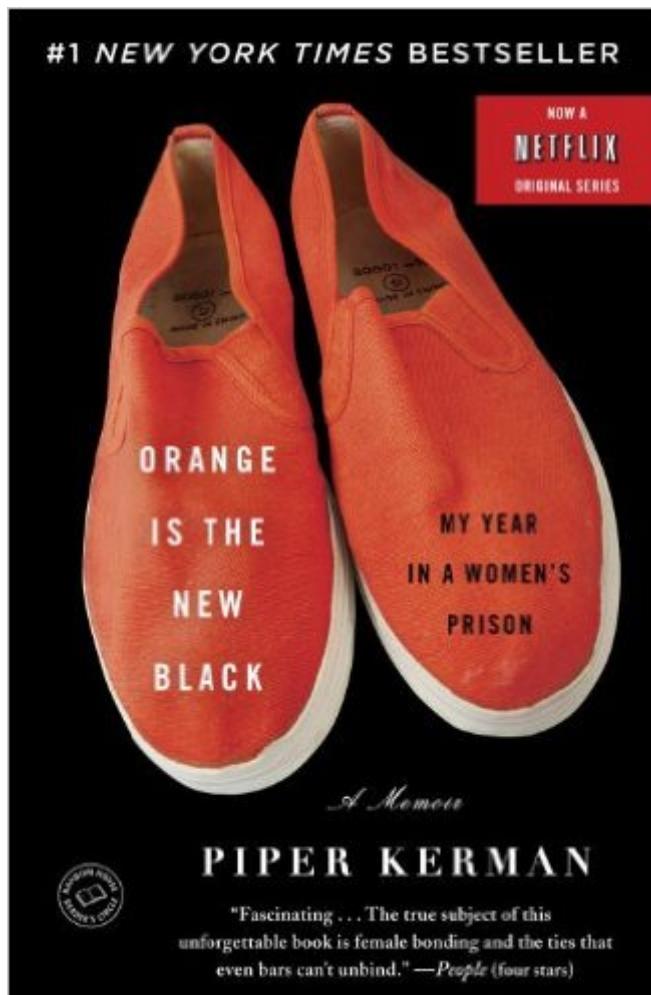


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Orange Is The New Black: My Year In A Women's Prison



Synopsis

NOW A NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES  #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  With a career, a boyfriend, and a loving family, Piper Kerman barely resembles the reckless young woman who delivered a suitcase of drug money ten years before. But that past has caught up with her. Convicted and sentenced to fifteen months at the infamous federal correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut, the well-heeled Smith College alumna is now inmate #11187-424 "one of the millions of people who disappear down the rabbit hole" of the American penal system. From her first strip search to her final release, Kerman learns to navigate this strange world with its strictly enforced codes of behavior and arbitrary rules. She meets women from all walks of life, who surprise her with small tokens of generosity, hard words of wisdom, and simple acts of acceptance. Heartbreaking, hilarious, and at times enraging, Kerman's story offers a rare look into the lives of women in prison "why it is we lock so many away and what happens to them when they're there." *Praise for Orange Is the New Black* "Fascinating . . . The true subject of this unforgettable book is female bonding and the ties that even bars can't unbind." "People (four stars) I loved this book. It's a story rich with humor, pathos, and redemption. What I did not expect from this memoir was the affection, compassion, and even reverence that Piper Kerman demonstrates for all the women she encountered while she was locked away in jail. I will never forget it." "Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love" "This book is impossible to put down because [Kerman] could be you. Or your best friend. Or your daughter." "Los Angeles Times" "Moving . . . transcends the memoir genre's usual self-centeredness to explore how human beings can always surprise you." "USA Today" "It's a compelling awakening, and a harrowing one" both for the reader and for Kerman. "Newsweek.com" Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

Book Information

Paperback: 327 pages

Publisher: Spiegel & Grau (March 8, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385523394

ISBN-13: 978-0385523394

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars  See all reviews  (4,856 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,732 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > New England #25 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Criminology #113 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > Women

Customer Reviews

I got interested in reading Orange is the New Black after reading an excerpt in the New York Times, and reading an article from Piper's fiance Larry in the Times as well. I just finished it, and I found it really interesting - the details she provides on life in prison, the rituals, the jobs, the treatment of prisoners, is really fascinating and a view on a minimum security prison I'd never seen before. But I was often frustrated with Kerman's lack of details - I had no sense of how it was that she was free to just go do yoga or run around the track whenever she wanted, or what kind of hours she worked at her electric and construction jobs. I was really moved by the descriptions of the other women in prison and of the friendships she formed, but I also had trouble keeping the women straight, especially when she'd bring up a name that she hadn't mentioned in several chapters, and I would try to remember who Delicious or Pom-Pom or Toni was. I did find her to be a bit smug, going out of her way to explain that while most prisoners kept to their ethnic "tribes," she was friends with everyone, other prisoners came to her for help with their homework or legal work, she lent out all of her books and gave away all of her possessions, etc. While I liked her voice, I felt she went overboard in trying to portray herself as non-racist, and as someone who didn't feel above everyone she was incarcerated with. Mostly though, I was disappointed in the ending. For the last 100 pages, I was looking forward to the end, to what happens when Piper gets home. She ruminates a lot on the balance between getting used to prison rituals but not getting so comfortable that you forget the outside world, so I wanted to know how she found the adjustment to home, whether there was any tension with Larry.

This is advertised as being about Piper's year in prison for drug smuggling. You buy this book expecting it to be about that. But to Piper, this is just an excuse for her to talk about herself, or whatever she thinks is interesting, and I guarantee you that you won't think it's interesting, whatever it is. She describes her first trip abroad, and glosses over the entire thing, except for giving us the entire list of every item of clothing she packs. Why is that the most important detail of an illegal trip to Indonesia? Who knows? She describes her drug dealer buddy daring her to jump into a pool, which she does, and then her buddy jumps in too. Then her friend says "I wouldn't have done that if you hadn't" and Piper uses this as "proof" that this person is untrustworthy. What? Piper describes a

group of waitresses with the gender neutral term "waitrons", which is weird but whatever i guess, and then takes the time to say in that same sentence that they're all female though. Do you know what you call an all female group of waitrons? Waitresses, that's what you call them. Why Piper can't grasp this is anyone's guess. She thinks the most important detail of a drive across the US with a friend is how pretty the sun is in Montana. She never names or describes the friend, or gives one detail of anything they talked about in what must have been days of driving. She seems to think the major important information that you need about her time at college is that all her professors loved her. She thinks the major fact you need about her family is that they're a family of lawyers with "the occasional poet thrown in".

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