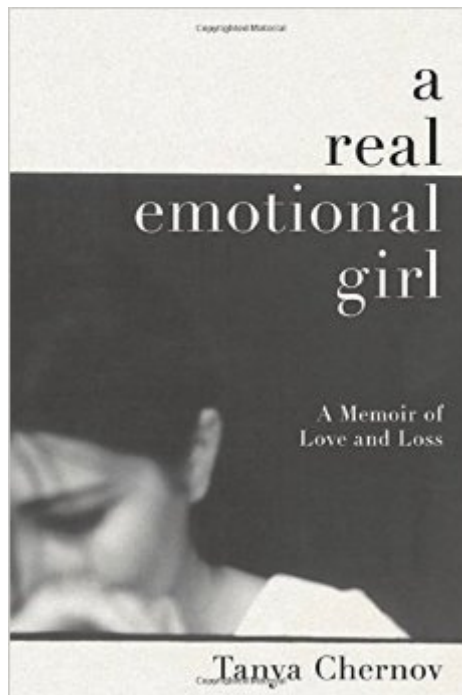


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# A Real Emotional Girl: A Memoir Of Love And Loss



## Synopsis

A Real Emotional Girl tells the true story of young Tanya, growing up in the wonderland of her family's summer camp. At sixteen, this idyllic life is interrupted when she must face her father's sudden illness. Tanya, her mother, and two brothers find themselves cramped in a tiny cabin in a tiny town in northern Wisconsin in the dead of winter. There they wait for her father to die of cancer. Separated from friends and civilization, Tanya has only her fears and uncertainty for company. At the age of twenty, Tanya loses a man who was not only her father but a surrogate father to thousands. Richard Chernov was a man who shared himself, humor and all, with just about everyone who would let him. And with this same unflinching commitment and passion, Tanya shares her struggles and the blessings she finds in them. Her memoir is a complex amalgam of human strength and fragility, which creates an inimitable coming-of-age story. This is a story of family and pain, of survival and growing up, and ultimately of love. For anyone who has ever experienced loss, A Real Emotional Girl offers a glimpse, provocative in its raw honesty, into the nature of grief and the positive transformation that can follow.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When my package arrived, I couldn't wait to tear it open and begin reading. I read this book in less than 72 hours. It grips you from the moment you open it, making it extremely difficult to put down. I have never laughed and cried so much in one sitting. Tanya brings you on this incredible journey that often feels like a roller coaster, as she opens up her heart to the world and tells the story of one of the most incredible men, her father. If you weren't as lucky as I to have met this man at some

point, you will definitely be able to feel his large heart and hilarious sense of humor through Tanya's writing. Thank you Tanya for sharing even the rawest of details with us and letting us in on what was such a terrible turn of events in your family lives. Buy this book...it won't disappoint!

I admit, I was skeptical at the title, but this book grabbed me from the first sentence and didn't let go. I went to camp as a kid, and the little details she uses, like the handmade bracelets dangling from tie-died hands, brought back all those wonderful memories. When I finished reading, I felt compelled to share this book with my dad, who works with grieving families, and my mom, who lost her father as a teenager. The only regret that I have about reading this is that it made me want to hug a man I will never have the opportunity to meet. As a literary agent, this is exactly the kind of book I want. I want something that will make me feel, and this provided that in spades.

I'll admit it, I actually got a little misty-eyed while reading this. While I can chalk some of it up to my own experiences in grieving for a parent who was lost to cancer, most of it would be from the emotionally raw events told in introspective and eloquent detail -- from the humorous highs to the low, cavernous pits grief takes us. But don't get me wrong; it's not all doom, gloom and Kleenex. Because at the core of this coming-of-age novel is an uplifting, heartfelt love letter to a father who meant the world not only to his daughter, but to everyone he met. Excuse me, I've got to go call my Dad.

A love letter to her father, and her life. Raw unquenchable pain and joy in her memoir. No subject too deep for Tanya or taboo. My beloved husband died of cancer and this helped me to hear how it is for young adults. Having two sons, the youngest twenty, it helped me to understand more. Their father also was so well loved and a huge force in life and dying. I have read a ton of memoirs and this is one of the best out there from a young woman. I like how she talked about her mother's grief, and all the books she read as a widow. I understood that, and Tanya showed the reality of grief. Not what society tells us, the many well-meaning people that say, "ya mean you aren't over 'it' yet?" Thank you, Tanya for being so honest. I look forward to more writings from you! And as a Mom I just wanted to hold you so many times in the book! I am glad you have such a wonderful family, too. Your Dad would be proud! Wishing you lots of success. Make a wonderful movie!

Monday night I started Tanya Chernov's "A Real Emotional Girl, A Memoir of Love and Loss." Tuesday I spent most of the day reading it through to the end. It is the very personal and very

honest recounting of Tanya's ten-year attempt to come to terms with the loss of her wonderful father Richard Chernov and her painful attempts to find a place in the world without him. Whether others will find this memoir as emotional wrenching, as insightful, and as wonderful as I did, I honestly don't know. I hope so. I think it's outstanding. Know that I know the characters in Tanya's just published book. Richard Chernov, her father, is one of the most wonderful persons I have ever known. He is a former lawyer who became a summer camp director and created Birch Trail Camp for Girls, where my daughters and many, many young girls have spent some of the most memorable and important summers of their lives. Tanya will tell you why he was so wonderful. She sees him clearly, and the man she describes is the man I knew. Barbara Chernov, her mother, is Richard's long time partner in everything he did. While she plays a smaller role in this memoir, the person Tanya describes is the person I also know. Dylan and Gabe are her two older brothers. I don't know either of them very well, but from what I do know of them and from what Tanya writes, Richard and Barbara did a terrific job parenting them. Tanya herself is the youngest of the three Chernov children and the only girl. She is about 16 when Richard is first diagnosed with cancer and the book covers approximately the next 10+ years of her life (and that of her family too). Many of the current and not so current memoirs written by women about loss have been about the loss of their fathers, mothers, or husbands. I have not read much where a child, an adolescent, a young woman has written about this kind of loss. And for me, that is the wonderful thing about "A Real Emotional Girl." Tanya has taken us (and I hope others who do not know the Chernovs or Birch Trail) on her painful and loving odyssey following the loss of her father and on the search for herself.

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