

A novel which tackles head on the experience of Bipolar Affective Disorder (Manic Depression)

THE FIRE IN YOUR EYES



By Martine Daniel

'There is fire in your eyes, and it frightens me.'

At the age of twelve, Luci cannot possibly comprehend what her mother means by those words – and her mother's suicide just hours later means she cannot ask. But the words will come to haunt Luci in the years to come as she battles with the highs and lows of undiagnosed manic-depression.

The tragic death of her twin brother at the age of seventeen marks the beginning of a rollercoaster ride of intense emotion that pushes Luci to the very limits of her endurance. Her manic recklessness has far-reaching consequences, for both Luci and her extended family, and the accompanying episodes of depression leave Luci teetering on the thin line between life and death.

When Luci meets Ben, she actually dares to hope that he might be the one person who can keep her on an almost even keel. But when tragedy steals Ben from her just weeks before their wedding day, Luci is left despairing of ever being happy as her tempestuous moods spiral once again out of control.

Luci's hopes of happiness are rekindled when she finds love in an unexpected quarter, but as the rollercoaster ride becomes ever more extreme, an episode of psychotic mania threatens everything Luci holds dear, culminating in her hospitalisation and diagnosis with bipolar affective disorder (manic depression).

By turns funny and tragic, *The Fire in Your Eyes* thrusts the reader deep into the tumult that is untreated manic-depression, a real rollercoaster of a ride.

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