

## The Name I Call Myself

**Beth Moran**

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*On the surface a love story, this relatable novel is also a journey of introspection and self-discovery.*

With *The Name I Call Myself*, Beth Moran tackles the classic themes of searching for true love—and one's true self. This clever take includes lighthearted, funny characters and a relatable plot, though beneath this surface are explorations of real-life issues, from socioeconomic status to the meaning of happiness itself.

Faith is engaged to Perry, a member of the economic elite. Perry is also a member at the Houghton Country Club, where Faith worked as a waitress before capturing his heart. Faith works to conceal her past from Perry's family, while also wrangling her troublesome brother. Her relationship with Perry becomes even more complicated when she discovers a passion for singing and joins a church choir, where she meets Dylan.

With Dylan, an instant friendship blossoms. This friendship, combined with the pressure from Perry's overbearing mother regarding the upcoming nuptials, pushes Faith on a journey of introspection and self discovery.

Moran cleverly utilizes elements familiar within love stories, resulting in a compelling and whimsical tale. Despite this, she avoids clichés, elevating familiar notes with serious themes. The story is replete with warm, heartfelt moments and characters, set against a backdrop of real-life difficulties. Faith's viewpoint is affecting, particularly as she works to better understand herself, and whether she and Perry are a true match.

The plot is excellently paced and builds to a near-perfect emotional climax. Faith navigates through a foreign world and comes out a better person on the other side. Compelling characters are brought to life with crisp, engaging dialogue. Faith herself has depth, but she also remains a character who can be identified with throughout the story. Her journey to discover and accept herself is enjoyable to follow, particularly as it helps her to find real romance.

*The Name I Call Myself* is a fun novel of self-discovery, romance, and the search for happiness.

RON WATSON (Fall 2016)

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