

## Book Reviews

This month we feature book reviews by *Better Reading*

<https://www.betterreading.com.au/>

### ***The Road Trip* by Beth O'Leary**

#### **One car. Five People. A Whole Lot of History.**

Addie and her sister are about to embark on an epic road trip to a friend's wedding in rural Scotland. The playlist is all planned and the snacks are packed. But, not long after setting off, a car slams into the back of theirs. The driver is none other than Addie's ex, Dylan, who she's avoided since their traumatic break-up two years earlier.

Dylan and his best mate are heading to the wedding too and they've totalled their car, so Addie has no choice but to offer them a ride. The car is soon jam-packed full of luggage and secrets, and with four hundred miles ahead of them, Dylan and Addie can't avoid confronting the very messy history of their relationship...

Will they make it to the wedding on time? And, more importantly, is this really the end of the road for Addie and Dylan?

The novel follows ex-partners Addie and Dylan, dipping back and forth between the past, when they first met and fell in love, and the present, when they're forced to embark on a road trip from Brighton to Scotland. Piece by piece, O'Leary slowly reveals what came between these two ex-lovebirds, charting their relationship from its starry-eyed beginning to its tumultuous end.

With this third book, it's clear that O'Leary has hit her stride as a writer. Her character-work shines here, and each of the characters are richly depicted and refreshingly flawed. She also digs into darker, more complex themes in *The Roadtrip* compared to her previous works, examining the topics of toxic relationships and mental illness.

Filled with crazy shenanigans and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, *The Road Trip* is a hilarious, witty and heartfelt romantic comedy about love found, love lost and second chances. Fans of O'Leary's previous novels will adore this. Do yourself a favour and pop *The Road Trip* on the top of your TBR list – you can thank us later.