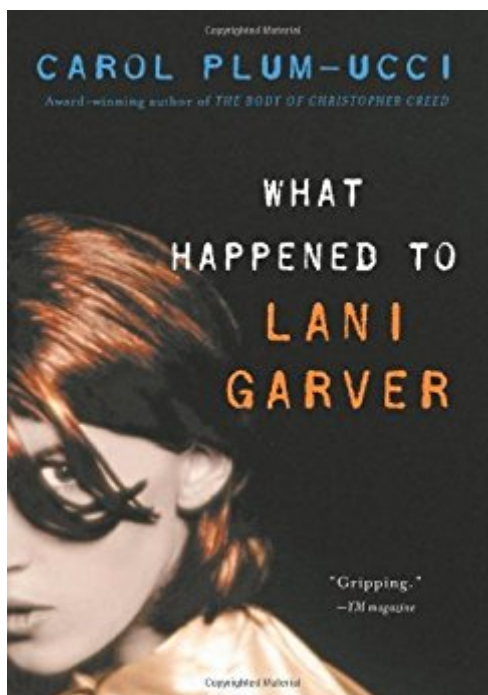


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What Happened To Lani Garver



Synopsis

The close-knit residents of Hackett Island have never seen anyone quite like Lani Garver. Everything about this new kid is a mystery: Where does Lani come from? How old is Lani? And most disturbing of all, is Lani a boy or a girl? Popular Claire McKenzie isn't up to tormenting Lani with the rest of the high school elite. Instead, she decides to befriend the intriguing outcast. But within days of Lani's arrival, tragedy strikes, and Claire is left questioning herself, her friendships, and, most interesting of all, the possibility that angels may exist on earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What happened to Lani Garver is a really good book about a cancer survivor and a really bad book about a gender variant individual. I will give this book the highest praise I possible can, I didn't write yesterday because I was so wrapped up in finishing this book. First the good part. The main character, Claire missed a year and half of junior high because she was battling Leukemia. She's in

remission and back on Hackett Island for high school. She hopes to put the past behind her and just be a normal kid. There's two small problems with this idea. First off she's got a huge pile of emotional issues she hasn't dealt with. Secondly the kids she is trying to fit in with are way too innocent and naive, and not in a good way. The crowd that Claire is running with aren't a cute cuddly sort of innocent. They are dangerously reckless and selfish sort of innocent. Her cheerleading friends are mean and selfish and attention seeking. They all want to get with the boys of the "fish frat". The fish frat are sons of the local fishermen. During the tourist seasons they work as lifeguards. They are all big hunky brutes who drink too much and play dangerous macho games of chicken. There is a legend on Hackett sound that if an Indian Summer falls in November it will mean a curse. Claire doesn't believe that but this particular Indian Summer she is getting dizzy and fears the cancer is back. Into this walks Lani Garver. Lani Garver is so ambiguous that at first no one at school is even sure if he's a boy or a girl. Lani won't help them out much either. He claims to hate boxes, including boxes like boy/girl gay/straight. Claire starts out trying to be nice to Lani. The tables are quickly turned and it is Lani who must be nice, and help Claire. He helps her sneak away to Philadelphia to be tested at a free clinic for cancer, so her parents don't find out. The more she learns about this mysterious run away, the more questions it raises. A strange conversation with a medic at the clinic about how angels have no gender leaves her wondering if Lani is even human. To the rest of Hackett Island, and to her old friends in fish frat, the question of Lani is easily answered. He is an effeminate gay boy. As a closet homophobe ramps up the gay bashing, Claire watches in horror as her 'friends' choose the convenient answer (that he brings it on himself) over the truth. It's a wonderfully written book that really sucks you in. It is powerful and moving. For Claire it is a story of hope and healing, for Lani it is a brutal reminder of just how hard it can be to be different in our society. Overall I would say it's a great book and should be read in every high school. Maybe the world would become a better place.

honestly i really wanted to like this book it had been recommended to me by a friend but just wanna say this book might be traumatizing to trans folks interested in reading it, i had to put it down and couldn't finish it, the narrator is cis and the character lani isn't necessarily trans but def gender non conforming and often described in really horrible ways by the cis characters even narrator who is supposed to be a friend, unless you're interested in another traumatizing story about a kid who feels like it could be you being murdered by a bunch of cis devils stay away, also the writing is fairly racist at multiple times specifically towards native folks that were just extra traumatizing.

This book uses issues like gay bashing, eating disorders and peer pressure to explore what is essentially a tale of sin and redemption. The teens in this book speak like they do in Hollywood movies, all self-consciously "hip" and snide. It seems like the author tries to shanghai an example of "teenspeak" such as "wild and happy parade of the teeth going" or "rule the cule" onto every page, and this makes it an awkward read. Most of the time, today's teens speak like everyone else, at least the ones I know, though of course they have their own catch-phrases. The characters also seem strangely young at times. I doubt kids who are partying hard every week night insult people by remarking on their imaginary "boogers." That insult belongs in elementary school, at least when I was young. Adolescent girls are a little more sophisticated in their barbs by high school. This was an original take on bullying, though, with several characters who were strikingly well-developed and did not fit into any "box" to quote one. I wish, however, the author hadn't tried to tie everything up in the final chapter. It reminded me of those movies where we get explanations of what happened to every character at the end, even the minor ones we could care less about (Like "Loser") I think a little come-uppance is great, but when cosmic justice is too neat (like this book) it erodes some of the believability that the author has worked so hard to create...

I was assigned to read What Happened to Lani Garver as part of my college course Adolescent/Young Adult Literature. Overall I thought the book was a spectacular read. The plot was captivating and of interest for multiple ages. I would and have suggested this book to others.

This book made me realize a lot of things. One of those things of how depressing bullying and life is. If you do not like depressing situations, you may not like this book. Though let me tell you, you are missing out if you do not read this BEAUTIFUL book.

This book emotionally touched me. Really made me think about life in a new way. Made me cry. AMAZINGLY WRITTEN. my life will never be the same. I love you, Lani Garver, RIP my angel

I read this book in 7th grade when it was a Young Reader's Choice book. It left quite an impression on me, and I've talked about it ever since. So, when I finally looked up the actual title (which I'd forgotten), I decided I had to buy it and re-read it. Haven't started it yet, but I'm looking forward to it! Good condition, arrived quickly, great price...very happy that I own it now and can't wait to start reading it again!

Read this book once already when I was in High School a few years ago :)A friend of mine had read it before me and barrowed it from our HS library and recommended I read it myself..Was glad I did..some parts are rough, and I'm sure I shed a few tears at some points..so fair warning XD

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