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Beautiful Girl



Synopsis

Sophomore year at Dutchess College has just begun, and Nicole is still haunted by memories of her first love. She takes solace in running—pushing herself to go harder, faster, to be the best. So when Nico runs into the maddeningly elusive Justin, she's convinced she's found the guy to make her forget her ex—despite the warnings of her friends and her straight-edged running partner, Henry. But when Nico is attacked in the woods after a wild night of partying, everything changes. Suddenly, Nico begins receiving anonymous threats, and she no longer knows where to turn for help—or whether even her close friends can be trusted. All she wants is to be one of the beautiful girls—the ones who never have to chase perfection. But in order to uncover the truth, she'll have to face a past she had hoped to leave behind forever. She thought she could outrun the darkness, but darkness has a way of catching up. With the psychological echoes of Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan* and Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, *BEAUTIFUL GIRL* is a romantic and thought-provoking mystery perfect for readers of Laurie Halse Anderson's *Wintergirls* and J. Lynn's *Wait for You*. This book contains mature topics including sex, drug use, and strong language. Recommended for ages 17+

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beautiful Girl is a book that explores the darker corners of young adults in their earliest years of independent living - set at a very competitive private school on the east coast. A note to future readers - some people come into their college experience full of confidence and never have an issue joining into the frat party and mainstream crowd so many of us remember as the "fun college days". Some of those readers, with their effortless entry into the social soup of college and only good memories, may not entirely understand the characters within Beautiful Girl and the very personal battles they face (internal and external) in this book. However, for the rest of us, this is an all-to-real roller coaster for people who have lived through the experience of overcoming the hurdles of eating disorders, mental disorders, rape, and drug use/abuse - all to finally face the demons and stand victorious with self-esteem intact. Anyone who has faced similar demons, or has been the trusted friend of someone who has faced these challenges, will cheer for Nicole as she navigates so many tricky situations and assaults coming from roommates, boyfriends, and herself.

The book "Beautiful Girl" was a great story what i liked the most about this book was the ending when i found out who has been threatening Nicole. It was a bit confusing in the beginning of the story, when the narrator "Nicole" was describing her campus. The only character i really liked from the story is Henry, because he is a very generous, sweet, and loving guy. Especially, to Nicole because whenever she goes to Henry for some help he would always help and support her no matter what, and hes not such a douche like the other guys in the story. I don't like Monica, that girl is selfish and got complete issues, like would she still consider Nicole as her best friend after all the things she did to Nicole. There are all kinds of relationships in this story, like true friendships, healthy romantic relationships, abusive relationships, and fake friendships. Too many things were happening in the story that i was confused what was the main purpose of the story. Overall, the book is pretty good, suspenseful, and intriguing.

Beautiful Girl is the entertaining yet harrowing tale of a young woman's struggle to make it through her unusually dramatic sophomore year in college. Negotiating her way through a mine field of disasters -- bulimia, crazy friends, date rape, drinking, drugs, team sports and a murder attempt -- the narrator learns to love herself and those around her. Part mystery, part coming of age story,

Beautiful Girl has real life grit and a dark sense of humor that gets its heroine -- and the reader -- through an incredible, though believable series of trials and tribulations. It's a triumphant, uplifting story. And a beautiful story. Told by a wise and truly beautiful narrator. Highly recommended for teens and their moms (who need to be reminded sometimes how hard it all was back then, before you knew exactly who you were.)

Twists and turns and suspense in the action, but also exploration of the mental stress of an intense college experience. The main character, Nicole, tries to deal with and recover from her own problems while living in a world of kids also brought with struggles and challenges: men, body image issues, drugs... exes, grades/course work. She uses running, among other things, as an escape, but is eventually forced to face the dark memories in her past that keep pushing her to extremes and self destruction.

I finished reading this two days ago and I went to write this review and I could not remember the book. That is how unimpressed I am. I felt like I had walked into a movie that had started 30 minutes earlier. So many of the relationships between characters were not explained or clarified. Readers are expected to be able to know them, their motivations and have compassion for them. Sorry, no compassion here. I didn't care what happened to each character. The characters in this story were weird and 1 dimensional. I don't like to trash any book, I really admire people who write, but this one was tough.

I really had a hard time connecting with this one. I wasn't a fan of any of the characters and I really didn't get it. The book was about a lot of different things, but none of it pulled together for me. There was bulimia, rape, attacks, drug use, and a main character that is so confused about life, that it all just didn't translate well for me. The writing was good, well edited and this wouldn't stop me from reading one of her other books, I just didn't love it.

I LOVED the main character in Beautiful Girl, her dark thoughts and outlook, and strong sense of self. The sense of place in this novel is very clear and compelling. Lida James paints such clear pictures of the varied emotional connections Nicole has with the other characters so you're drawn to either love them or hate them -- no in between. Highly recommend!

Wow. This book is dark and engrossing. The main character has a strong and captivating voice, as

well as a lot of problems that young women face. It was very interesting be inside her head as she struggles with boyfriends, roommates and the demands of a challenging east coast college, all while trying to figure who is out to get her! Fun read!

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