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She Loves You, She Loves You Not...



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Alyssa thought she knew who she was. She had her family and her best friends and, most important, she had Sarah. Sarah, her girlfriend, with whom she dreamed with about the day they could move far away and live out and proud and accepted for themselves, instead of having to hide their relationship. Alyssa never thought she would have to make that move by herself, but disowned by her father and cut off from everyone she loves, she is forced to move hundreds of miles away to live with Carly, the biological mother she barely knows, in a town where everyone immediately dismisses her as "Carly's girl." As Alyssa struggles to forget her past and come to terms with her future, will she be able to build a new life for herself and believe in love again? Or will she be forced to relive the mistakes that have cost her everything and everyone she cared about? National Book Award finalist Julie Anne Peters has written a compelling novel about coming out, finding love, and discovering your place in the world. Alyssa's story will speak to anyone who has known the joy and pain of first love and the struggle to start over again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Herein may lie spoilers. I don't think anything major, but you never know. I give it three stars because Julie Anne Peters is a good writer. Despite its faults I was glued to my screen reading it. But now the bad part. Seriously, the main character became so annoying I almost stopped reading it at Chapter 23. It's interesting because at one point you think the character, Alyssa, becomes a little self-aware when she makes an observation about Arlo. Something along the lines of, "I never knew anyone who was so self-pitying." "Well, except me." If this little bit of self-awareness had actually meant something, had actually contributed to the characters growth, that would have been awesome and really saved the book. Instead she just storms through the lives of the people around her, flailing her arms and being very Me-oriented. Alyssa gets caught with her girlfriend and her dad has an over-the-top reaction that seems to involve disowning her and sending her away. She winds up living with a mother that she never really knew, and she's super bitter about it. I get the bitterness, I do: her friends betrayed her, her dad turned his back. It sucks. But, you know, you show up on your mother's doorstep and she takes you in, no questions asked, and while you may have your abandonment issues you don't start insulting the woman and making assumptions and prying and really just making a nuisance of yourself. At one point Alyssa learns about something really awful that happened to her mother and after she gives the obligatory, "Oh, that sucks" response she continues making everything about her. "I wonder if she ever cried over me like she cried over Angelica?" she wonders. Seriously? I also started to wonder if Julie Anne Peters was pulling our chains and had ingeniously written a first-person novel where the protagonist is nuts but because we're seeing things from their perspective it takes us a while to figure that out because I think Alyssa may actually be nuts. Her weirdness with her mother, the way she handled Sarah (stalking girl is stalking), the way she fixated on Finn while supposedly being devastated by Sarah, her pushiness about Finn's sexuality "the girl is a pill!" She became so incredibly unlikable, y'all! Also, the ending was becoming so dramatic and climactic and then suddenly it dropped off and everything was tied up in a tight little bow. The author addressed everything, but too neatly.

I enjoyed the book. There was much about it that was deeply touching. The first person narrative was handled very well. Fairly early on the reader can tell that the narrator might not be completely reliable. I loved the character of Finn. I do have two quibbles which prevented me from giving it five stars. The small one is the character of Carly, the protagonist's mother. She is so enigmatic that I don't think we ever get to know her. If that was intentional it was a poor choice. The larger issue for me was the stereotypical, homophobic father who disowns his child. It is true not only of this novel

but of much romance fiction that there is a dearth of sympathetic, nuanced portrayals of adult male characters. One really nice exception is Kendall's dad in "The Gravity Between Us" As the proud father of a gay daughter, Alyssa's dad is someone I can't relate to at all. Ms. Peters should have made more of an effort.

Recommended lesbian book - very good. Arrived on time and as pictured/described

This book really touched me. It's the first book that I have read that brought tears to my eyes. The main character, Alyssa, is very relatable and I felt for her thru out the entire book. It's a must read! There isn't a dull moment in this book.

I haven't finished it but it's been so hard to put down. I had to buy more books from this same author.

I have not read this book yet but I know I enjoy the author. The only thing about the author I would change is the language that is used but obviously I overlook it as much as possible, just as in daily life, and enjoy the story. It would just be nice to read and not ignore though.

Finished it in less than 24 hours. I love it.

This book is so good. I really love all of Julie's books and this one is at the tip of the list.

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