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The Summer I Turned Pretty (Summer Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Belly has never been the kind of girl that things happen to. Year after year, she spends her summers at the beach house with Conrad and Jeremiah. The boys never noticed Belly noticing them. And every summer she hoped it would be different. This time, it was. But the summer Belly turned pretty was the summer that changed everything. For better, and for worse.

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Customer Reviews

I knew there's a reason why I don't really enjoy YA contemporary books as much as the dystopians, fantasy, and sci-fi books. I know these are teenagers and I am not. But I really wished the voice of our main character was a little bit more mature than just a whiney little teenager. In this book, we follow Belly (short for Isabel) and sometimes she's called Bells or Jelly Belly or Belly Button. There you go....a character with multiple pet names makes for an immature girl. Anyway, like I said, Belly spends her summers in Cousins, a kind of fake Hamptons I'm guessing with her two friends she's grown up with every summer. Both of the boys, Conrad and Jeremiah, who are also brothers, are as

different as they can be. Jeremiah is younger and more naive...cheery...always happy. Conrad, the brooding, darker, mysterious older brother and also is the one Belly's been in love with for years. And this summer...the summer Belly turns 16...is also the summer she turns pretty and this is where our series takes off. This book didn't really blow me away because nothing really happens. The story is told through Belly's POV so you see the world through her eyes...as an immature, selfish teenager. It was a story about a little girl who complained constantly about being included, or about crushing over boys, or getting jealous of her best friend getting more noticed by guys while other more important things were crashing down around her. And I really do think Jenny Han did this on purpose. I do think Jenny Han wrote it in a way that other teenagers can relate to. In fact, if I really thought back to my teenage years and put myself in Belly's shoes (and I had to try really hard to do this) I somewhat did relate to her. But this didn't happen often. I wanted a little bit more from all the characters. Belly's obsession with Conrad didn't make sense to me and when things came to a head, when Belly confronted Conrad about his feelings, she mentioned how he was always there for her. But I just didn't get or feel that was the case. The ending was a little bit confusing and abrupt. It seemed like it only served the purpose to connect this book to the sequel. With that said, I am curious to see how this series plays out so I will continue reading. It is a very quick and easy read.

Woah! Let me first say that this was the perfect book for me to get over my reading slump! I'm worried that I'm getting these slumps more often now. Secondly, I did not read reviews of this book/trilogy because I know it received mixed reviews. I didn't want any preconceived notions about this book because I love Jenny Han's writing. Suffice to say, it went beyond my expectations. Well, I didn't really let myself form any. I just dove right in and I loved it! Before getting into the deeper topics of this books, I want to praise Jenny Han's writing. I loved it in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* and I loved it here. I don't know how she did it but she made it so much easier for me to step into the lives of Belly, Conrad, and Jeremiah. I loved that she went back and forth between the past and the present. It was as if I was growing up with these boys and living my summers in that beach house in Cousins. I went through a lot of emotions because of her writing. I was happy, sad, frustrated, confused, and sad. I cried a lot or in my case the normal amount. Now let's get to the heart of the story. In its simplest form, this is a love triangle, possible square, and I know many frown upon and sometimes I do, too. But hey, sometimes you just need that drama and this was the dose I needed today. It can get juvenile but we're dealing with ages between 8 to

15, so I expected immaturity. The reason why I liked this book so much was because I totally related to Belly. Not in all aspects, I wouldn't make the same choices she made if I was put in the similar situation, but definitely when it involved Conrad. She grew up with Conrad and has loved him for so many years. Her first love. Her first unrequited love. I know what that felt like, I still do. I've been in love with the same person for such a long time • like they say, the first love sticks with you. So I understood her every time she defended him, every time she forgave him, and when she said that no matter what happened in her life, she'd somehow still love him, I knew what she meant. Don't misunderstand, though, this isn't solely a love triangle story. It's coming of age. There's intense heartbreak that doesn't necessarily involved the love interests. These parts are what actually what I cried over the most because again, I could relate having experienced it firsthand. There's betrayal, loneliness, and so much more than a love triangle. There's not just love between Belly, Conrad, Jeremiah, and Cam Cameron (haha). There's love between the two families and that warmed my heart the most. The family brought together not by blood but pure love for one another.

This book was a pleasant surprise to me. I was recommended to read this back in college, and I just kept putting it off. I am not sure why, but I did not know what this was truly about and wished I picked it up sooner. I really enjoyed the characters and the plot. I am not a huge fan when stories jump from past to present, but it did not bother me too much in this one. It might have helped that I listened to the audiobook. I figured out the heartbreaking scenes from the beginning, but I still ended up tearing up during the big reveal. Overall, I really enjoyed this and will definitely pick up the next book especially with that ending.

This book touched my heart . I've read the whole series twelve times already. The pages are filled with passion, sadness, confusion, and loss. The words are written in the perfect way to have your heart pumping and aching for the same kind of love story. You won't find any other book with the same heartwarming kind of writing. This will make your heart melt away making you hold your breath until the end , then leaves you with more emotions. I highly recommend this compassionate book to anyone with a pink heart. I love this book and will always will.

It started out good, a lot of promise. Then...it just didn't quite deliver. The summer stumbled along

and culminated in a rushed ending. The main character didn't ring true. I feel like the author intended her to be an innocent 15-year-old, but with all of the references to drinking Kool-aid accompanied by the constant sticking her tongue out when she didn't like what she heard...it really felt like she was supposed to be a young 12-year-old. Which really didn't work with the rest of the story. In the end I felt like I really didn't understand the story. What was the purpose, the meaning?

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