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Purple Moon



Synopsis

Selena's life isn't turning out to be the fairy tale she imagined as a kid. That hope seemed to vanish long ago when her dad kicked her and her mom out of the house. This summer might finally hold the chance of a new beginning for Selena ... but having to live with her snobby cousin in Lake Lure, NC while waiting for her mom to get out of rehab wasn't how Selena was planning on spending her summer. She soon begins to wonder why she committed to give up her "bad habits" for this. Things don't seem too bad, though. Especially when Selena gains the attention of the cute neighbor next door. But when her best friend back home in Brooklyn desperately needs her, a secret that's been hidden from Selena for years is revealed, and when she becomes a target for one of her cousin's nasty pranks, she finds herself having to face the scars from her past and the memories that come along with them. Will she follow her mom's example in running away, or trust that God still has a fairy tale life written just for her?

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Customer Reviews

"Purple Moon is a story of redemption as powerful as any I've read. Selena's story is one of deep brokenness and healing redemption--the same story that can be found in so many teen hearts today. Tessa Emily Hall, a talented debut author, is one to watch. Writing for her contemporaries, Hall understands the delicate social lives of teens and the need to strike the right balance between role model and reality."~Laura Anderson Kurk, YA author of Glass Girl and Perfect Glass
Purple Moon radiates with a light of its own, offering YA readers relatable characters and an inspiring

message to encourage teens everywhere to shoot for the moon--and never stop reaching."~Betsy St. Amant, YA author of Addison Blakely: Confessions of a PK"Purple Moon" is a story of ache and courage, of hunger and hope. Selena's unflinchingly honest voice will keep teens flipping pages well into the night."~Stephanie Morrill, YA author of "The Revised Life of Ellie Sweet" and "The Reinvention of Skylar Hoyt" series"Tessa offers a glance at the complex and all-too-commonly dysfunctional nature of relationships--to self, to family and peers--especially as we're learning to navigate the world on our own. Nimble, she also interweaves hope amidst suffering; promise amidst frustration; restoration and wholeness among chaos and confusion; and endurance and vibrance among the throes of life. Purple Moon feels like the perfect side-hug to my teenage self, which reassures me I'm not alone, but knows I'm highly hormonal and not in the mood to romanticize life's messes."~Alyson Stoner, actress, Cheaper by the Dozen, Camp Rock, Step UpPurple Moon radiates with a light of its own, offering YA readers relatable characters and an inspiring message to encourage teens everywhere to shoot for the moon --

Tessa Emily Hall is a 19-year-old who has been penning stories since before she could read. She is an editor for Temperance Magazine and writes her own column, Teen Talk With Tessa, for Whole Magazine. Tessa resides in South Carolina and is currently working toward her degree in English. She is also a coffee-addict, music-lover, book-worm, and has a passion for youth ministry, especially in the area of the written word. Tessa owns a blog, ChristIsWrite(dot)blogspot(dot)com, where she posts weekly with devotions for teens, book reviews, writing tips, and more.

Purple Moon is the story of Selena, a high school aged girl who goes to stay with her cousin while her mom spends the summer in rehab to kick her drinking problem. Life hasn't been easy for Selena, she hasn't seen her father in years, after her parents split, she and her mother moved states away and she has never heard from him. Following in her mother's footsteps Selena is exploring life by smoking and drinking and though she isn't really happy, it helps life seem tolerable. Will her summer away give her a fresh start? Or will time with her stuck up cousin keep her in her self destructive cycle? When she gets to know her cousin's neighbor better, he invites her to a Christian camp. Selena decides to go just to get away from her bratty mean cousin. While at the camp she struggles between the life she knows and the life her friends at camp have. She must make a choice about which life she wants to live. This book is really well done and is a lot of fun to read. I quickly found myself invested in Selena and was concerned about her and wanted to know what would happen. Very well done and a great read. 5 Stars!

To be truthful, I did have some mixed feelings while reading this one. I don't generally enjoy Young Adult fiction, as it usually branches too far into mature topics. Purple Moon does touch and explore such topics as underage drinking, smoking, and other adult situations -- but I didn't feel like this author pushed it too far. I felt like these kind of situations in Purple Moon were presented with great tact. And you know what else? Sometimes Young Adult fiction can feel so "fake". Not so in this novel. The emotions are raw. As characters change -- it's real. Selena Taylor, our main character, goes through a lot of ups and downs as the story progresses. And it becomes bittersweet to watch it all happen -- I really felt for her. Since she doesn't see her dad anymore, and with her mom staying at a Christian addiction treatment center, she's feeling alone. To top it off, she's staying with family, and they don't even act like they truly want Selena there or appreciate her. So, she's feeling like it's going to be a tough summer, regardless of what happens. "If there is a God, and if He really loves me, then why did all that stuff have to happen? None of it makes sense." The BIG reason why I can really approve of the book overall is because it has an amazing Christian theme in it. Or rather, I feel like there were a few good messages that the story brings out. For starters, Selena is lost and adrift in life. She needs an anchor, and I think she's trying to latch on to some "real" over the summer months. She tries a new thing or two, and most importantly she's even open to hearing about God. But I think the true question is: When will she be open to listen to God herself? His grace is sufficient, if your heart will listen. "Are you ready to experience the fairy tale that God has written just for you?" The book is pretty trendy. I think that the author really hit the nail on the head in crafting a convincing story about teens today. I mean, this is quality Young Adult fiction. I would recommend it for mature teens and young adults. (I can't say this book is "clean", but I wouldn't have it any other way because this story needed some "rough stuff" in order for Selena's light to shine through!)

Somehow Tessa Emily Hall writes a character who maintains her sweetness even while dealing with the provocative difficulties of today's teenager. This story doesn't shy away from life's realities like rape, abuse, teenage pregnancy, pornography, or God's grace, love, and redemption. If you've gone through high school or are in high school, this book ruins true. On a scale of cotton candy to Brussels sprouts, Purple Moon by Tessa Emily Hall is a chocolate covered espresso bean. Caffeine's not bad for you, right? Some bitter truth handled sweetly.

Selena's home and heart are broken. She must deal with issues at school like most young teens. The writing is great with an authentic voice. Description is vivid. Some young girls lose their fathers

to death at an early age like I did when I lost mine at four on Christmas Day. Others lose them through divorce. She is so close to her father in the beginning, his little princess. She seeks a promise that he breaks two short years later. Beautiful description of mountain peaks and landscape. A Christian book that doesn't preach or knock you over the head with religion, this novel should be gifted to any young girl who has to face a broken home or parents with an addiction. It's written in the young girl, Selena's point of view, and she describes how she feels and what it's like going through the brokenness of her family, her mother's addiction to alcohol, and other pressures. A five-star story all the way.

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