



The Wonder Bread Summer

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Jessica Anya Blau, author of *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties*, delivers another darkly hilarious, heartbreaking coming-of-age novel with *Wonder Bread Summer*.

In *The Wonder Bread Summer*, loosely based on *Alice in Wonderland*, 20-year-old Allie Dodgson has adventures that rival those Alice had down the rabbit hole. Or those of *Weeds*' Nancy Botwin.

Allison is working at a dress shop to help pay for college. The dress shop turns out to be a front for drug dealers. And Allison ends up on the run—with a Wonder Bread bag full of cocaine.

With a hit man after her, Allison wants the help of her parents. But there's a problem: Her mom took off when Allison was eight; her dad moves so often Allison that doesn't even have his phone number....

Set in 1980s California, *The Wonder Bread Summer* is a wickedly funny and fresh caper that's sure to please fans of Christopher Moore, Carl Hiaasen, and Marcy Dermansky.

The Wonder Bread Summer Details

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Author : Jessica Anya Blau

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From Reader Review The Wonder Bread Summer for online ebook

Lucie Paris says

I do not really know what to think of my reading.

The synopsis let me believe that I will read a story about a crazy, fun road trip with some suspense and a dangerous chase.

In my head, I imagined finding a mix between "The Hangover" and the strange "Las Vegas parano."

Well in reality, it's not so funny... A student who makes a bad decision, under the influence. She steals a bag of cocaine, then flees. In her footsteps, a hitman hired to retrieve the drugs for his boss. The reader also encounters more than surprising characters along her trip.

Allie does not seem aware of the crap in which she is... So, with the cocaine, she goes in search of her family whose situation is complex.

Her mother has some Asian blood in herself and has left the marital home to play the tambourine in a group. Her father is black and is reopening of a restaurant in a little shady conditions.

A strange story, full of stoned people, who did not moved or amused me. Anyway, I did not join but I have noted that the style is pleasant to read, I just have not been embedded in history.

Lucie

<http://newbooksonmyselves.blogspot.fr...>

Harvee says

I had fun reading this book and getting caught up in Allie's missteps and adventures that come about because of her extreme naivete in spite of being a twenty-year-old student at the U of California Berkeley. Allie reacts like a high school student to the problems and people she faces, and only in the end does she get some insight into her life and into what drives her.

But her naivete is what makes the book so much fun. Allie travels from Berkeley to Los Angeles in her friend's car, avoiding her pursuers who want the plastic Wonder Bread bag full of pure cocaine that Allie has in the car with her. In fact, she carries it around like a bag of bread and at one point loses it to a few of the people she trusts. Allie does her best to get the bag back to its owner, her former boss at the dress shop, so that he can call off her pursuers and leave her alone, finally. But things happen to get in the way of her simple plan...

Recommendation: A very enjoyable summer read. I like the author's sense of humor and hope to read her past and future books!

Ariel says

This book sucked. Recommended by an NPR summer reading it was short and breezy, so while I didn't enjoy it, at least it wasn't a slog.

For some reason, the sucky thing that made me the angriest was the reference to Sassy Magazine. The book takes place in 1983, and Sassy wasn't published until 1988. Mistakes happen, but when the author is making a point to include cultural references and totally fucks up an easy one like this? It's almost as unforgivable as the painfully contrived author's bio at the end.

Andrea Guy says

It isn't often that I read a book that I can instantly visualize as a movie, but this is one of them. Allie's story is one that is totally unbelievable but is such a wild ride that you simply won't be able to put the book down.

When her boss, Jonas won't pay her, after getting her high and flashing his privates at her, she grabs a Wonder Bread bag of cocaine and starts running.

From that point on the wild starts and Allie meets the most unusual cast of characters on her journey to keep breathing; there's her college friend, Beth, Roger the quadriplegic porn producer, her mom and the crazy rock band she's the tambourine girl for and then there is rocker Billy Idol. (Oh to see him in a film version of this crazy story).

I absolutely loved Allie for all her craziness, and it was near impossible not to hurt with her when she was with her mom Penny and Jet, and you could tell that there were no maternal feelings going on there. That was sad. But just the opposite was when Allie finally got in touch with her dad, Frank. Frank was totally bad ass, and he loved his daughter.

Allie was totally naive through the book, as you see how she ends up in the predicament she's in, you couldn't help but want to slap a little common sense into her.

The other thing that really stands out in this book are the many sayings she remembers her grandma Wai Po saying.

This book was totally fun and crazy. Oh and did I mention it was set in the 80s? Woo hoo!

I can totally see this as fun summer film, just as it was a fun summer read!

Sarah Perry says

The Wonder Bread Summer is the story of Allie, a college student faced with a few major problems in the early 80's. She needs to get her tuition money, and she needs it fast! She finds herself with a stolen bag full of cocaine, and a wild journey to go along with it. She encounters a few colourful characters along the way, turning to all of the people in her life for help, in what turns into a run-for-your-life type situation very quickly.

The first chapter in this book was like none I'd ever read before. It jumped right into the drug usage and sexual situations. You meet Allie and her boss Jonas, the definition of pervert. I didn't like this guy right from the start. He just screamed bad news to me and I found myself wishing I could have shook her and helped steer her in a better direction. But this story wound up being one of her journey towards finding herself, something necessary in every young woman's life and I think that's what really sold it for me. She starts out very unsure of herself, but at the end has grown a backbone, and is able to finally take control into

her own hands instead of thinking about who she can turn to for help, she turns to herself. I smiled with gratification for her.

Allie's escapades are quite bizarre. When I got to learn more about her mom I understood why that is. A free spirited mom, who seemed to care more about herself. She was a very self centered individual, having left Allie when she was a young girl to be a part of a band. Most likely a reaction to her mother's death.

I fell in love with Allie's grandmother, the ever wise Wai Po. Although she's not alive, she interjects her wisdom throughout the entire book. These were my favourite parts. Such strong words, that often made me laugh out loud.

There was one disconnect in this book. The cover. The girl on the front, who i am assuming to be Allie has straight hair, and throughout the book she says how curly her hair is. That threw me off a little, but was very minor and soon forgotten.

Jessica Anya Blau has done a fantastic job creating another summer story for many to enjoy. She is a new author for me, and I will definitely be reading her other books, The Summer of Naked Swim Parties, and Drinking Closer to Home. I've come to understand why she is a Bestseller. I love her dark humour, and how fast paced her writing is. I found myself flipping through the pages so fast, especially at the end, that I accidentally tore one.

I'm glad Allie had her dad by her side. No matter how bizarre a family, she still needed someone, and it was good to see a bit of normalcy in their relationship there. The only thing that could have made this book better for me was to have been sitting on the beach reading it sipping an iced tea. It just seems so fitting.

I would recommend this book to anyone who isn't uncomfortable with drug use and a few sexual situations/references. I think you'll love this book as much as I did! I give it 5/5

Becky says

Allie Dodgson needs to get paid. After loaning her boyfriend all of her savings and the money from her scholarship to fund his bar purchase (he promised a swift return plus interest for her investment and then dumped her), she's flat broke and tuition is due. She's been working in a dress shop but her boss has yet to actually pay her. Fed up and desperate (and under the influence), Allie steals a Wonder Bread bag filled with uncut cocaine. Allie's logic is that she can take just enough to sell for the cash she's due (and pay her tuition so she can continue school) and return the rest, but her boss is none too pleased with this idea. Soon Allie's got henchmen on her tail and her only hope is to get to LA and ask her folks for help.

Soooo where to begin? I kind of loved this book and I was surprised that it turned out that way. Really, on the first page you have the main character being accosted in a dressing room and tooting lines while customers wait outside the door. But Allie turned out to be a really relatable character and a kind of lovable one at that.

And seeing as how I grew up in the 80s, I really, really loved the setting (both time and place) of this book!

Throughout the story, Allie is faced with some pretty bizarre and ridiculously hilarious and awkward occurrences. (One of my favorites is her impromptu hostessing gig.) She dines with a paraplegic porn producer who turns out not to be so bad. She meets Billy Idol (another of my favorite parts) - and sleeps with him more than once. Her best friend is held hostage over the missing coke and... well, I don't want to give

too much away. As her situation worsens, though, the story becomes more and more funny. I was even able to catch some of the ALICE IN WONDERLAND nods as well!

Blau is a new-to-me writer but one I'm sorry to have missed until now. In WONDER BREAD SUMMER she's crafted a darkly funny and somewhat twisted story with a vibrant and believable cast of characters - some you wish you could punch, some you wish you could hug, and some you just want to hang out with. I really can't wait to read more of her work.

I started this book Friday afternoon and finished it within just a few hours, only breaking long enough to find some supper. Readers, if you're a fan of quirky fiction you've got to give this one a try! This is probably going down as one of my all time favorite summer reads!

Erika says

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads. I loved this book! I thought it was written very well, however I would put it at an over 18 book because of "sexual situations". I enjoyed all of it. The Wonder Bread Summer was funny and made you go hmmm all in the same page. I will totally look sideways at someone walking down the street with a Wonder Bread bag. I also laughed when I was at the grocery the other day buying bread and came across Wonder Bread :)

Michael Downs says

No one writes like Jessica Anya Blau. Funny, tender, and outrageous.

Beth Bauman says

Fast, funny, wild-ass ride. The Wonder Bread Summer will grip you from the first chapter, when hapless Allie finds herself in a compromising situation with her lech of a boss. Adventures abound that are both hilarious and poignant. You'll find yourself rooting for this unlikely heroine as she sets out to change the course of her life. There's even a roll in the hay with Billy Idol circa 1983 (oh, be still my heart!). And Billy is a sweetie! Delicious summer read that's super fun and really well written.

Jan says

This was a quick entertaining read. It did get a little far-fetched in a couple of spots, but it was still entertaining. Alice in wonderland sort of way.

Marcy Dermansky says

Funny -- and for a book that centers around a big bag full of cocaine -- surprisingly sweet. Loved reading this.

Leonel says

"The Wonder Bread Summer," held such promise. It starts out kind of raw, with a very frank (almost) sex scene, and I thought, well this isn't your usual love story, which I thought was a departure to the cutesy book cover. I was instantly hooked, and kept on reading. Unfortunately, that was the best part of the book. It just tried to be "quirky" too many times, and I did not believe anything else that happened afterwards. You are supposed to root for the heroine, Allie, but she keeps on making one bad decision after another, and the characters and situations around her get more bizarre, in the most unrealistic way. The conflict is resolved in such an unbelievable way that it is almost a disservice to the set up. I go back to my being anal-retentive, and that is the only reason why I finished this book. I couldn't wait for it to end, and then feeling like reading it was a waste of time.

<http://luhathoughts.blogspot.com/2013...>

Valerie says

I received this book for free through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

My feelings about this book are mixed. To start with, the book description led me to believe it was about a college girl who finds herself accidentally mixed up in some kind of drug deal and she has some kind of adventure as she gets herself out of that mess. Although that is *sort of* the case, it's less of an 'accident' and more of a 'willing participant.'

I was unprepared for the many instances of drug use, especially cocaine. I did not expect the graphic sexual situations.

If there were half-stars, I probably would have given this book a 2.5. I decided to go with a 3 because there were parts of the book that I did like. There were moments where I could identify with the main character's emotions. There is a lot of action and some parts that are downright exciting to read. There were also some scenes that were funny.

However, I felt like we didn't get to know the characters. I had a lot of questions about why people acted the way they did. Some of it felt extremely far-fetched.

I'm sure there is an audience for this book, but I don't think it's me.

Bookworm says

I practically read The Wonder Bread Summer in one sitting, it's that type of fun, fast paced book.

Twenty year old college student Allie Dodgson finds herself in a big mess when she winds up with a Wonder Bread bag full of cocaine. Yes, the coke is in a Wonder Bread bag. While high herself, she takes the drugs from her scumbag boss/drug dealer who owes her a paycheck. Allie figures she can sell the cocaine and get her money back. Her dad is nowhere to be found and her mom ran off with a rock band when Allie was young, so she is pretty much alone in the world and trying to make it though college. She's made a mess of things and is in bad debt and desperate for a way out.

Allie finds herself in one crazy situation after another, meeting an eccentric cast of characters, all while in search of her parents to see if they can help her. There may even be a hit man after her now that she's stolen the cocaine.

The book is set in 1980's summertime California and I just enjoyed everything about it. The setting, the humor, the storyline and Allie herself swept me away and as I said, I just about read this book in one sitting. This is the type of read that would make for a great chick flick, but with dark humor.

"Are you a hooker?"

"What? No. Why would you say that?" Allie looked down at herself, as if she were making sure she were fully dressed.

"Your license plate says CALL GIRL."

"It says CAL GIRL. Like California girl," Allie said. Was Mike illiterate? He was so good-looking that it could make up for a lot of deficiencies, although maybe not illiteracy.

-p.43, The Wonder Bread Summer

In the midst of all this madness, Allie is crying out to her parents, and this made her an endearing character. I wondered how she would find a way out of the mess she was in as there was never a dry moment in this quirky coming of age story. This one has some of the best dialogue I've read. I was satisfied with the ending and I would not hesitate to read Jessica Anya Blau again.

I'm a fan of the 80's and I loved the 80's references throughout. Billy Idol even makes an appearance.

If you enjoy quirky comedies and somewhat wild storylines, look for further than The Wonder Bread Summer. Lastly, I love the cover on this one. Too cute and matches the story well.

disclaimer:

This review is my honest opinion. I did not receive any type of compensation for reading and reviewing this book. While I receive free books from publishers and authors, such as this one, I am under no obligation to write a positive review.

I received a free copy of The Wonder Bread Summer in exchange for my honest opinion.

Anna says

Not my kind of book, at all. I didn't expect it to be that graphic sexually, that early into the book! I supposed I should have with a plot centering around drugs, but I didn't. And it disappoints me when authors feel the need for graphic, nasty and disrespectful usages for sex that early on in a novel. There is a reason that I mostly stick to the young adult genre, and books like this one are a big part of that reason. I can deal with drugs and other hardcore subject matter. I just don't want a book without any heart, that is focused on those things. Cause what's the point?

