



Like Falling

Jaden Wilkes

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*****Currently unpublished. Will re-publish once the series is complete.*****

Sarah Miller is known as a dreamer in her stifling Mennonite community, but she's hiding something from them all. A simple wish to avoid the strictly enforced life path expected of her...early marriage, babies, and work on the farm.

She wants more, so much more. Education, travel, love...sex...

A chance at university hundreds of miles away is too much to pass up, so she follows her best friend Naomi and decides to take her future into her own hands.

She had no idea this decision would change her in ways she never imagined, will the one person she falls in love with hold her back from everything she ever wanted?

***As with all my work, this novel is intended for those 18+. It is New Adult, but contains depictions of graphic sex, drug use and underage drinking.

****This is not a stand alone, it is a cliffhanger, the first of three books.

Feel free to stalk me for updates on book release dates, and of course to follow along on the serial soap opera Slutburbia.

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorJadenWilkes>

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Like Falling Details

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Author : Jaden Wilkes

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From Reader Review Like Falling for online ebook

Alison Bliss says

After reading LIKE FALLING, I am completely hooked!

I liked Sarah a lot and found myself completely sympathizing with her situation. She is an extremely likeable character and made me laugh out loud so many times at the way she sees herself, as well as the funny thoughts that ran through her head. I can see why Tyr is so taken by her.

Speaking of Tyr...oh my! The man is a sexy tattooed God and I have fallen in love with him myself! Let's just say that the sex scenes are AMAZINGLY good, some of the best I've read.

I liked that their relationship had a nice progression and didn't feel forced. In fact, all the characters had depth and subplots that were woven nicely into the main plot. This was definitely a well-thought out love story! The writing was superb and I loved the ending, which left you dying to read the next installment. I can't wait to find out what happens in the next two books!

Patrycja says

Like Falling is story that easily can be hated and loathed. Unfortunately I am all the way in Team Haters. Usually when a book catches my eye and makes me anticipate reading it my expectations are pretty high. So imagine my deep frustration and disappointment when I started getting pissed off at heroine, plot, romance interest and generally at almost every aspect of this book.

I feel like a jerk writing this, but it is the truth. Like Falling is total mind fuck for readers who despise naive, not likeable characters. Even thinking about some of Sarah's actions make me want to hurl. Ygh. How is that possible you can love idea of book but reading it is like pure torture?

In few words Like Falling is about a girl who lives in Mennonite Community. She's supposed to be good Innocent girl and in the future perfect catholic, wife and mother. And then she goes to college, everything is like this: **GOOD GIRL GONE BAD** in a matter of seconds.

Our sweet, naive girl starts to think only about GETTING LAID. It is like she finally woke up and thought: „Hey I have a vagina I need to get rid of my hymen, because it's so boring to be virgin! Who's a volunteer?" and „I can say pussy, fuck and cock! It so fucking cool"
I mean really?

Ugh. Sarah wants only to have sex. That's all. All freakin' plot!!! Her relationship with Tyr is only about sex and I really didn't feel any good emotions toward him. Author tried really hard to create hot romance interest but I was so disgusted by Sarah I couldn't connect with him at all.

Usually I love sexy parts, as you can see in my previous reviews I can die happy girl after some hot book action, but after reading about Sarah's sexscapades and her totally silly comments I couldn't handle them. There were parts I totally didn't understand, like situation with Adam.

„Sarah was shocked and a little upset, but intrigued. She hadn't thought about daytime sex. What about seeing each other totally naked in the broad daylight? She imagined herself stripping naked in front of a man, and Tyr's face popped into her mind. No no no, Adam, it's got to be Adam, she forced herself to think about removing her bra and panties and crawling along the bed towards Adam.”

„She didn't even want to think about their physical relationship, she might become bitter thinking of her own lack of sex. I just want to know what it feels like, is that too much to ask?”

She was completely clueless at this point, she had seen videos and read as much as possible, but nothing would prepare her for the actual act of sex. Even her vocabulary was limited, she felt foolish even talking to him about it. What should she call their body parts?

Overall, Like Falling is bitter disappointment. I was expecting wonderful and deep coming-of-age story about finding yourself in true, big, bad world. Instead I got novel about heroine that was plain silly. It's lack of depth, true feeling and love that didn't really exist. It was sad to read a book about someone who can't find love because it's mixed with lust.

Peggy says

OMG loved it !!!

Sarah Miller is a young girl who lives in the Mennonite Community and lives in her own little world. Her life changes when she and her best friend Naomi go to University 100 miles away.

Sarah who is always been a little grey mouse loves her newborn freedom, will she enjoy her freedom or will she return to the community like her parents expect her to do to get married and have children?

The first day of university changes her life immediately she meets her hot professor Adam who she admired from reading his books and the HOT tattooed guy Tyr. What starts as innocent helping out her professor turns into an affair. But then there is Tyr the mysterious HOT guy who turns her whole life upside down but he has some deep dark secret. If these two are not enough there is the third hot guy Eric a Mennonite Community guy that her parents have chosen for her.

As you can see this book has a lot of HOT guys for you in stall, I loved it from the first moment I started, it was easy to read, has a lot of hot scenes in it. The characters have all their own depth and blend well together. Sarah has her own inner monologues that keeps you laughing, this is one of the best books that I have read in a long time and also the plot keeps you hanging.

Thank you Jaden for given me a chance to read/review this book, can't wait for the next two books.

Miranda Lynn says

I feel extremely confident in saying that this is probably **the worst book I've ever read**. I'm really going to try to keep this review constructive, because I don't believe in bashing authors or books...but I'm warning you that it's not going to be pretty. I actually hope that the author of this book does read this review, because I think that I have some really good points that would help her with her future writing endeavors.

I'm also going to warn you that, while I will keep this review spoiler-free, there will be some talk about minor parts of the storyline, so if you don't want to know anything about the plot, don't read on.

There are *so* many problems with this book, and the ones I'm going to talk about are only within the first 100 pages. I pride myself on always giving a book 100 pages before I decide to mark it as "did not finish" and write my review. But I had to literally force myself to get to that point, because I honestly wanted to stop reading within the first 20 pages.

I consider *Like Falling* to be the equivalent of what I would come up with if I tried to be an author. I have tried writing before, and I'm not very good at it. It always comes out kind of immature, and I have a big problem with telling-not-showing — which are easily the two biggest problems with this book. The author just needs some serious practice. This is definitely the rough draft version of what totally could've been an awesome story if properly developed and edited (i.e. please learn the difference between a coma and a semi-colon).

Something that would've made this book SO MUCH better would've been a longer introduction to the story. *Like Falling* is about a Mennonite girl named Sarah who goes off to college with her best friend, Naomi. The major themes should've been self-discovery, overcoming the obstacles of an unfamiliar modern world, and dealing with family vs. personal values. But, while these themes were probably buried in their somewhere, they didn't shine through. I believe that a deeper introduction into her Mennonite lifestyle and family at the beginning of the book would've been very helpful. There were only a couple pages of story before she was off to college; we really needed more time to get to know Sarah and her unique challenges. It was almost as if the author didn't really know that much about the Mennonite lifestyle, so she didn't feel comfortable going into too much detail. I don't know that much about it either, so this could've been a really cool chance for some education.

Another huge, *huge* problem with this book is the unrealistic quality of the whole thing. While the plot itself is definitely a little unrealistic, the part that bothered me the most was that even the small and insignificant things in the story were randomly completely crazy and didn't make any sense. I'm going to rant a little bit (sorry), and list some of the unrealistic parts of this book that really bothered me:

— **Her romantic situation with her professor.** No professor would *ever* act like Adam did in the beginning of this book. Inviting a student for tea in their office? It's a little weird and could easily be misconstrued by other students and faculty. And then he sits with her in the cafeteria? Double weird.

— Sarah begins to sexually fantasize about Adam about .2 seconds after they meet. She's supposed to be super shy and socially awkward, yet we are supposed to believe that she **randomly has romantic feelings for an authority figure that she literally just met?**

— Unless she is literally the most beautiful person on the planet, how the fuck does she have **TWO guys interested in her after only two days** at college? This character is becoming so unbelievable that readers

will start to feel alienated because they can't relate to her.

— Her professor, Adam, actually says to Sarah: "**I hope I can become instrumental in developing [your] wild side.**" Um...WTF?! No comment needed on this one.

— Sarah and her best friend have a party, and kids brought "**six packs of imported beer**"? YEAH RIGHT. I don't think this author has ever been to a college party. Don't you mean "cases of Miller Light"?

— Sarah's best friend Naomi is suddenly in (view spoiler) and tells Sarah at their party. The whole situation is hard to believe, considering that Naomi (a Mennonite) only (view spoiler) a couple of days before. **Sarah barely even reacts to this news.** While I would hope that Sarah wouldn't be too judgmental, it was a strange reaction. You would think that she would have *something* to say about it besides basically "Okay, cool." I actually kind of wish that she would've had a strong reaction to this, because it would've been a perfect way to show that she is a well-rounded character who has flaws, making her relatable, and also to show how she was affected by her strong Mennonite upbringing.

— Sarah claims that she didn't previously know what the slang word "ink" for tattoo was, then (only a couple of pages later) **uses the phrase "Facebook stalk"** and starts complaining about somebody calling her vs. texting her. Are strict Mennonites even allowed to have cellphones? Facebook profiles? Texting? Maybe I would actually know the answer to this if there was a background to the story.

— The whole plot behind *Like Falling* is that Sarah is stuck between two guys. For a large chunk of the novel, **she keeps forcing herself to think about one instead of the other.** One of them is her professor Adam, while the other is a super sexy guy she meets in one of her classes. Yet...the one she wants to, and thinks she somehow *should*, be thinking about is the highly inappropriate professor. This doesn't make sense with who she is. Why is she going after the professor, somebody she's not even sure she likes, when she's being physically drawn to this other guy? I don't think that a Mennonite recently released into the free world would choose to her professor instead of her friend. It just doesn't add up and it's not ever really explained. And, as if that isn't weird enough, after she continuously makes herself think about Adam instead of her friend over and over again for seemingly no reason, all of a sudden she is upset that the guy her own age wants to "just be friends," because she "wants so much more." Apparently she changed her mind? I just don't understand!!

— I've already mentioned that I think her and her professor have an inappropriate student-teacher relationship. So, obviously it makes sense that the one time her professor actually does something "professorly" — invites her to be in a course he's teaching the next semester — she suddenly gets a "creepy" feeling from him. But, of course, there was no creepy feeling at all when he asks her to have tea with him in his office behind a closed door. **This girl seriously needs to get her stranger-danger radar checked out.**

— The whole book is just **riddled with inaccuracies** and things that don't make sense. Like how the main character is supposedly obsessed with archaeology, yet "never really thought about" how to tell female and male skeletons apart. She had no idea about the whole pelvis thing...which even I know about, and I don't know a thing about archaeology.

I finally just had to stop reading after the first sex scene. Wow, it was seriously fucked up. First of all, they were doing things that weren't physically possible. Is the person on the bottom during 69 really capable of grabbing the person on top's head? That sounds really hard and uncomfortable to me.

And then, the ultimate thing that made me say "hell no" — the fact that it is stated that (view spoiler). I'm not a guy... but, seriously. You cannot do that with your penis and not fucking realize that it's happening. That's

the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard.

I feel awful having to be so harsh, but it was totally warranted in this case. The author could've done so much more with this book; it had so much potential. I hope that she reads my review and understands that I'm not trying to bash her, there is just a lot that she needs to learn when it comes to writing novels.

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Cat says

REVIEWED FOR ROUND TABLE BOOK REVIEWS

Like Falling by Jaden Wilkes is an interesting fish out of water story. A young Mennonite woman struggles to understand her place in the world. Taken with archeology, Sarah convinces her parents to let her attend college. They reluctantly agree as long as she lives with another Mennonite student. College is eye opening to Sarah. She feels out of place, an outsider, but quickly adapts to stand out less. She is exposed to a multitude of things she wouldn't see in her family's community. We get a bird's eye view of what it takes to fit in and the confusion of figuring out what is acceptable and what is personally defining.

Sarah meets and is instantly attracted to Tyr, a gorgeous young man who is fighting his own demons of race, upbringing and fear. Tyr has built thick emotional walls to protect himself. Watching Tyr alternately respond to then ignore Sarah is frustrating. They are such beautiful people and need each other desperately. Neither can rely on what would be considered a regular support system.

I loved Sarah and Tyr as well as the supporting cast: Naomi, Nic, Adam: the alternately needy and creepy professor, Sarah's parents, Eric...Each one was unique and well thought out. The characters and their interaction drove the action. At times there was so much going on that it felt a little more soap opera than story. And, sometimes their interactions were strange. Was it their upbringing or lack of support system that had them make these decisions? I wanted to alternately yell at them or counsel them on their choices.

The story made me think and taught me about some cultures I had only been briefly exposed to before. I recommend this book if you are looking for a deeper read and don't mind an emotional roller coaster.

Tatia says

Reviewed for Round Table Book Reviews

Like Falling is about a Mennonite girl who is off to the University for college. It's her first time away from home, family, her village. Her family pressures her to get married, have babies, and work the farm. She sees different things for herself, but can't seem to vocalize that to her parents. They think she is going to study biblical archaeology. When in reality, she's not. She's interested in archaeology, just not that aspect of it. First day of school, she sees/meets 2 very attractive young men. But which one will she go after. This is all about the struggles that Sarah faces trying to adjust to the real world and find the real her. We are left with a slight cliffhanger as this is part of a trilogy. It's not a huge one, but it's one that I definitely want to know the answer to sooner rather than later.

I would have given this story 5 stars had it not centered so much around Sarah and her sex life. I understand that she's an inexperienced 18-19 year old young woman who is going to want to get out there and try new things. But even once she started dating someone, it seemed like that was all she thought about. I wanted to see more depth to their relationship, to see them connecting on a much more deeper level rather than just having great sex every chance they got. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for hot sex and steamy love scenes. But I also want to see them connect at an emotional level. We get a lot from the supporting characters, such as Sarah's best friend and a classmate she becomes close to. They are the true meaning of friends for the most part. They seem to be there when she needs advice or just some girl time. Overall, I enjoyed the story and will be sticking around to see what happens in the next book.

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

warning : I drop some colorful language in this review.

"Is that what you are Sarah?" he leaned across his desk, his gaze suddenly intense, "a good little Mennonite girl?"

1.5 stars. *cue overly frustrated sigh*

I feel like a jerk because I know that a lot of people are going to like this book (it is angsty and sexy and that is sort of popular at the moment) and will probably wonder why I was so hard on it.

It bugs me though when a lifestyle is used as a prop instead of being woven into the story. I loved reading about the Amish (the heroine in *Like Falling* reflects on being Mennonite as "Amish Lite") in books such as *Temptation* and *The Hallowed Ones*. To me, that was part of the draw in the first place.

Granted, I get that this story was about a chick who was *leaving behind* the lifestyle in which she was raised. Okay, that's fine. People move on and change their views. But what was the point of her even being Mennonite (she really could have been any mainstream religion) if we didn't get to see more about what shaped her into being the unique person that she was?

Instead, I got to read about a chick who wanted to get laid. And who thought about getting laid. And who delighted inwardly at how she could say words like cock and pussy now without repercussion (whoop de doo?). We didn't get a lovely coming-of-age tale. We didn't even get a thought-provoking story about a young woman who was discovering who she was as a person overall. Nope. We just sat around and waited for to get laid. And get laid again.

Her thought processes weren't helping matters either.

Whatever, he's an idiot, she thought, but so fucking hot. She felt pleased for even thinking swear words now, and took another drink.

Don't get me wrong. I like sexy books. But this story missed so many opportunities to be *more* than what it was. The sex itself had a few hot moments but Sarah's way of talking and thinking dragged down some of the heat because it was silly at times.

All I saw was : **WEEEEEE COCK FUCK PUSSY DRINK GIGGLE DICK FUCK WEEEEEE**. And it all drove me a little bit batty.

For those who've read the book, did anyone else pick up on the fact that Sarah (view spoiler) That's a pretty big error of remembrance.

I did award an extra half star for the realism of (view spoiler)

OH, but I did find the love/drug reference! I KNEW it was going to appear at some point!

I never expected you to become my drug, to become as essential as breathing.

Maria says

Sarah is a good little Mennonite girl (think Amish but they don't like that comparison) well, at least she tries to be. With her best friend going to college she gets to go too. For the first time she has freedom, now what to do with it? There's hot professor Adam, yummy tattooed Tyr, and the good Mennonite boy Eric. Ones is not who they seem, one has allot of secrets, and one would make her community happy. But what will it take for Sarah to be happy and how much could she loose once she figures it out? Being free isn't at all what she expected, and now that she has it is it what she really wants?

This is the first book in the trilogy and it has a cliffhanger ending, but its definitely worth starting right away and going along Sarah's journey to growing up.

Great read. I loved listening to Sarah's hilarious inner monologue and rooting her along to trying to find her way outside of her community!

Novel Grounds says

Gosh! This book blew me away. I am hooked and hanging on edge till the next book arrives. I fell in love with everything about it. The Fantastic writing, the great entertaining characters, the plot line! All of it. A story of learning how to live.

Sarah has dreamed of finding out what life is outside her small town Mennonite community. She has lived a far sheltered life and subsequently her outlook on life is just as sheltered. I saw her reactions as more of a child in the beginning then or a girl her age. It was wonderful and heartbreaking to watch her bloom and learn how to really live her life. To top it all she gets this chance starting college. You can imagine how that goes.

From day one out in the world her life changes. She not only meets one man that will greatly influence her college life, but two. Where it rains it pours, and this development may not be as good as it appears. Then dear old mommy and daddy jump in the mix and throw a perfect Mennonite man in the mix. Tattoos, T.A work, and Text messages. This poor girls life went form very boring to textbook college life.

This book is a journey for Sarah, but its also a journey for you as the reader. You really connect with her form the start and her ever awesome roommate. You feel for them and what goes on in this book. Some parts I was screaming at Sarah to see what was in front of her face, and other parts I was swooning.

Gosh, on to the ending. Jaden. Oh gosh how could you leave me hanging like that! I do not know if I can survive not knowing what happens! This ending it great guys. I mean Sarah has some stuff to sort out, but with a guy like that I don't know if it would be much of a decision for me Just you wait and see, you will be

on the edge of your seat.

Karen Weiseman muller says

I have to admit; I was a bit skeptical when I read the synopses. I thought: how cliché, a girl from a strict Mennonite home leaves home with her best friend to go to school. Well of course she goes wild. I didn't know that I could have been more wrong. This story proved me completely wrong. Sure she wants to be away from her family and their ideals, but I fell in love with this story which caused me to reflect and think; with a good healthy dose of sex.

Have you ever felt like you just didn't fit in? Have you ever wondered why others might feel that way? This book does not just tell a story, it makes you sit back and think. Sarah struggles, as most girls do, when discovering two attractive men, which one should she trust?

Since the book has many opportunities for you to stop and consider how you may feel in certain situations, it almost brings a sense of reality to it. Most of us have struggled a time or two with feeling out of place because of who we are, who we love, or where that person or their family comes from. Jaden Wilkes makes you take a look at these situations and forces you to make an opinion on it. I truly loved this book. I had trouble putting it down and it kept me thinking, but also had all of the lust, love and sex you could need.

Sarah

Sweet, sweet, sweet Sarah. This poor girl doesn't know what she is in for when she heads to University but knows she wants out of her family home, and to break free from her strict community ideals. Like any 18 year old breaking free of a strict up bringing Sarah finds herself conflicted about what to do, who she loves, and if she really did the right thing. Thankfully she has the support of her best friend.

Naomi

Sarah's best friend, and roommate when they go to University. Naomi is a great friend to Sarah through the years. She also comes from a Mennonite home but it is not as strict as Sarah's. Once at University though she is finally able to face something she has known for a longtime. Her secret will surprise Sarah!

Tyr

Tyr is a perfect example of why you should never judge a book by its cover. All tall, darkly tanned, tattooed and hot as hell. He will surprise you, frustrate you, and melt your heart. There is more than meets the eye with this guy!

This book will have you falling in love, wanting to throw the book at the wall; it will take you up and over the cliff and then leave you hanging. Yup that's right. CLIFFHANGER! Check out "Like Drowning" to see

the story continue.

Jazmen says

Sigh This book was so laden with contempt towards the religious lifestyle that getting to the premise of the story was like being at an excavation. I was trying to dig through it all to get through to the true idea of the story if there is one outside of the religious animosity. It should be shelved in the erotica genre not new adult. It also should've come with a warning label: Danger ahead, abandon ship. Using words like righter, and stalkerly. Not to mention the dialogue... "We need each other like the ocean needs the shore." (Blah so cheesy)

There is nothing unrealistic about Sarah's life or her struggles but, I just found it hard to concentrate Sarah's story. I'm quite surprised I managed to finish. I can't directly relate to Sarah's story but I know it because I know people like her. It can be restraining living in a home that is so deeply religious and that's something I get. But this girl is just the poorest example of such. She is so obsessed with sex it made me woozy. I understand she was restricted in her family life but the constant yearning and wanting for sex borders on pathetic. It's all she ever talks about. It's kind of sad actually. The girl thinks she's discovered herself because she's started drinking, and can use p, d, and f words. She's as clueless as she was before she left home. Her character drove me insane. The only thing I admired and I use that word loosely was Sarah's dreaming heart. She didn't let the restrictions of home keep her from pursuing her dreams. I admired that about her character but that's where it ends.

Also Sarah and the other characters they were so 'close' but, so detached from each other. They are superficial and shallow. They don't have much depth. They don't show any real care, or feelings towards each other. At least not in the way that mattered. They were friends that spent all this time together but yet knew nothing about each other down to something as small as a last name. I just can't come to terms with that. Sarah's best friend was oblivious and not very influential. She was wild and didn't appropriately help guide Sarah into this new life she didn't understand. It was kind of irritating. Tyr, yeah I still can't pronounce his name. I actually liked his character. I appreciated that he was native American. It gave the story culture and his story was relatable. The only times I didn't like him was when he was interacting with Sarah.

All in all I just really couldn't take this book. It was way too heavy in sex, naivete, and animosity. I would've given anything to not hear another sex or Mennonite girl reference in this story. I'm pretty sure I won't be reading the other books in this series. The ride ends here for me. I can't imagine what else there is to know.

Find more reviews on my blog. www.thisgirlreadsalot.blogspot.com

books are love says

I hope that Tyr and Sarah work this out. I like this book but I do have some questions with it.

First when you see things through Sarah's eyes the first time it is funny to see. Like when she first sees Tyr and waves that is precious. So it's a refreshing view to see. Tyr and his dark past makes him alluring as does the tattoos. Sarah and her innocence makes her adorable. The two of them finding one another and helping each through their issues is wonderful to see. The experiences that each have with one another are wonderful to read. Tyr is a sweet wonderful and loyal young man. What I see that is fascinating is the family dynamics and the traditions of their heritage and how this will be overcome in this series. Will these traditions and

beliefs help or hurt them? Will their backgrounds accept each other or create a rift?

I like how these two come together and the beauty in this. The constant sexual results are sensual but not necessary all the time. It can take away from the beauty of their growing love. Sometimes can make you feel this is more lust. You do understand why it is there for it helps Sarah see that for her this is more than lust and she was questioning her dynamic with Tyr.

Now the Professor situation is what gets me eh. That is a little too much when you read that this innocent would give herself so willingly and his background is a little odd. that being said this helps fuel the bringing together of her and Tyr and her self doubt in herself. It also though begins to get her to become more independent and see what she wants.

The professor is a douchebag like tyr says. he does however believe in Sarah and believes in her potential and this is needed for Sarah to go on.

this is a wonderful story about finding oneself and ones wants and desires will navigating through feelings of self doubt and discovery. Discovery of the real world, feelings and confidence to stand up for yourself. Looking forward to the next book in the series.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

****1.5 stars****

DNF at 38%. I think that was far enough in to rate this book and get a sense of the tone of the story. I didn't enjoy this one for a variety of reasons.

"Like Falling" has an interesting concept. It is about a Mennonite girl who is going to a big university to pursue her goals of getting an education while trying to break free from her suffocating, religious family. I loved the idea behind this book. I am shamefully admitting that I am a fan of shows like "Breaking Amish" and always am curious how religious people do outside of their little bubbles.

So why the hate-on for this book? Well, this book isn't exactly how it seems to be. I wanted a well-rounded story about a girl branching out and exploring the world. What I got was a girl exploring how to be superficial. Sarah is only interested in sex, partying, and fitting in. It is really odd how focused she is on sex. With all of these new experiences that she could be having, sex is the only thing on her brain. Now don't get me wrong, I love books with sex in them. However, it seemed like this book had a case of identity crisis.

Sarah comes off as strangely naive. Why do you say strangely, you might ask? Isn't she from a sheltered family? While the answer if yes, in this particular book, Sarah went to a **public school**. Now by going to a public school, not only would she have been introduced to modern trends and a variety of people, she also would have had to take classes and read books that dealt with stuff outside of her little community. Also, Sarah mentions the she often went to the library and read science magazines. That is why some of the stuff that she says makes no sense.

Funny, I don't even know exactly what couture means. I'll have to Google it later so I can drop it in conversation.

"He's got some grey hair too, salt and pepper I think it's called?"

"No, my parents would kill me if I showed up with ink," she was proud to have learned new slang. I have to remember to Google it so I use the word properly.

There are lots of examples where she acts like she doesn't know basic phrases that someone who was well read, went to public school, and had pop culture exposure would clearly know. That bothered me.

Another thing that really bugged me was the author trying to do that thing when you say something about the character that pretends to be a negative but it really a complement. It was annoying.

It was hard to be objective after surviving the years of criticism from her mom. Her mom was right about some things though, her eyes were too big, her lips were too pouty and her face too round.

She leaning in a smiled, her teeth seemed too white and straight, people always assumed she'd had some dental work done... She just wished she could look like somebody else, she felt plain and unnoticeable.

Okay, I have never heard anyone say, "God, that girls lips are so pouty, what an ugly cow!" These things are complements for freakin' sake. It is annoying that the author kept trying to tell us that she felt plain when she was clearly not. Just don't.

I was also disturbed by her skeezy professor. From the get go he was super creepy and very inappropriate. I didn't get their relationship or why she sought him out. The whole thing felt forced and odd. I also didn't get the relationship with Tyr. Her obsession with sex with these two felt very immature and YA, therefore I felt gross reading about it. She sounded so lost and pathetic for the whole book.

I also don't like how the author painted Sarah's Mennonite community. There are merits to the religion that deserve to be acknowledged. It seemed like the author was using religion as something to bash and mock, which rubbed me the wrong way.

Why even bother to give 1.5 stars, you might ask. Well, I thought that the concept was good and I liked that Sarah had some educational ambition. I also liked that Tyr was a First Nation character, which gave this book a touch of diversity.

I think this book will find it's audience. It isn't all bad and it has a fair amount of sex in it so it will appeal to some readers. However, those readers will not include me.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****

Karen Peacock says

I absolutely loved this book! Jaden has a remarkable way of weaving her words where you get caught up in the story and completely loose track of time! Thank you Jaden for the ARC copy of your book!

Jaden takes you on a journey through the emotions of first time love, but not in the traditional sense of other romance books. Sarah is from a Mennonite background, which adds challenges to her life because she decides to attend college instead of following her families wishes. This book made me feel all the emotions of falling in love the first time all over again! I felt swept away by all of Sarah's first experiences and all of the dreamy guys that she encounters once at college. Tyr is the complete package and the hot factor when they are together is sizzling. I found myself laughing along with the humor in her thoughts and swooning when she was with Tyr. There is a small cliff hanger at the end of this book, but it is not filled with so much angst that you will even notice. I can't wait to read more from this amazing author!

Jasmyn says

Sarah is ready to get out and learn what "real" life is like, to leave her Mennonite community behind and experience the outside world full force. She has no desire to get married and start popping out babies. Instead she heads out and starts her academic life at college studying archaeology. She experiences a bit of culture shock her first day, but determines to plow through it all and make the best of it. It seems to take a turn for the better when her professor takes a personal interest in her and they develop a bit of a friendship that may lead to more. But there is also the intriguing tattooed boy that always sits in the back of the room - she is drawn to him as well. Sarah was an interesting character, although I wasn't a very big fan of her friend and roommate, Naomi. Sarah tries to hold onto some of her basic family values but finds pressure all over the place to conform with the rest of society. She doesn't always make the right choices, but I enjoyed seeing her decision making process - or lack there of at times. Naomi I found to be a bit annoying. Constantly trying to change Sarah, but saying that she accepts her just as she is at the same time. It was an interesting dynamic to say the least. Adam and Tyr, her two potential boys, are a study in opposites. I didn't like either of them at first, but they are both quite complicated (as boys naturally are) in their own ways as well. Sarah will need to try and find a way to balance the men in her life, her studies, and her very traditional family. At time this tended to drag the story down a little as it dwelt a little too long on some of the issues. I did enjoy that it made a point of bringing up so many issues, I just disliked hearing the hashed out over and over. - See more at: <http://hotofftheshelves.blogspot.com/...>
