



# Sierra Jensen Collection, Vol. 1

*Robin Jones Gunn*

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## **Happenstance...or God's Great Plan?**

She's the bold, free-spirited type. She's cute, she's fun, and she's following God. She's Sierra Jensen, Christy Miller's good friend, ready for her junior year of high school! All twelve books in the popular Sierra Jensen series come together in four volumes to reveal the ups and downs of Sierra's incredible God-led journey!

**Volume One:** In *Only You, Sierra*, she's nervous to be the "new girl" after her family moves to Portland and wonders if meeting Paul in London was only by chance. Just when everything important seems to elude her, all it takes is one weekend *In Your Dreams* to prove otherwise. But even a vacation doesn't keep her troubles away in *Don't You Wish*.

**Christy Miller knows a good friend when she meets her,**

**and so will you--**

**Get ready for Sierra Jensen!**

*Only You, Sierra*

The Europe mission trip brought Sierra Jensen the best gift possible: two new friends, Katie and Christy. But now Sierra is headed home, and she can't help but wonder will her friendships last? And what about her new home? Her family moved while she was gone, and that means facing a new high school. And the biggest question of all: Will she ever find love? Then a chance meeting in a London airport answers that question. Paul makes her heart leap. But she'll never see him again! Or will she?

*In Your Dreams*

Sierra has had it! She's done everything she can to find the right job, good friends, and most important, true love. But nothing is working out. Now she has to stay home to care for her grandmother. By herself. For the whole weekend! It will be terrible. But a series of startling surprises shows Sierra just how wrong she is--and before she knows it, she's on her way to the perfect job, her first real date, and an encounter with a mysterious stranger.

*Don't You Wish*

Sierra has three wishes: visit her California friends; have her older sister, Tawni, disappear; and learn more about the mysterious stranger. When Easter break arrives, Sierra's first wish comes true! She's headed to Newport Beach for fun, sun, and surf. Unfortunately, not only does Tawni not disappear, she accompanies Sierra on her escape. What's worse, *everyone* has a boyfriend except Sierra. But will her wishes begin to change as she realizes God wants to mold her according to *His* wishes?

## **Story Behind the Book**

"After writing the twelve-book Christy Miller series for teens, a new character showed up on the pages of the final novel. Her name was Sierra Jensen, and she was so compelling as a teenage character that readers

began asking for a series about Sierra in order to hear more about her life choices. Our family had just moved to Portland at the time, and I found it easy to picture a sixteen-year-old like Sierra shopping at the local vintage clothing stores, hanging out with friends at a garage band concert, and serving at the homeless shelter on weekends."

--Robin Jones Gunn

## Sierra Jensen Collection, Vol. 1 Details

Date : Published June 1st 2006 by Multnomah Books (first published March 24th 2005)

ISBN : 9781590525883

Author : Robin Jones Gunn

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## From Reader Review Sierra Jensen Collection, Vol. 1 for online ebook

### Smiley says

Now I really enjoyed this Series soo far. I'm hoping I'll like the other ones of her.. But, I still have to say I like Christy Miller Series better. But, I still like this one very well. =D

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### Bonnie says

I loved this book. Really love being back where also have Christy, Todd, Doug, and Tracy back. Meeting Sierra also she is really good, and love how even though she is younger? They all embrace her and they dont treat her younger. And to me when I read books by Robin Jones Gunn, I feel like am with friends and just truly love the book. Robin Jones Gunn is a favorite author of mine and would highly recommend, but first read the Christy Miller series before you start the Sierra series.

I gave the book an A+ or 5 stars.

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### Halee says

Such a great start to the Sierra Jensen series! It's been a 6 months or so since I read The Christy Miller Series and I had forgotten how much I absolutelt adored Robin's writing, characters and just all the spiritual learning in her stories. I'm soooo glad I'm re-reading Christy and "meeting" Sierra this summer, they're such fun/summery books.

I can't wait to read the next books!

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### RebekahAshleigh says

Sierra Jensen is a fun-loving 16 year old girl. This is sort of a spin off series from the Christy Miller series. You wouldn't necessarily have to read the Christy books before you read the Sierra ones, but I would recommend it. Mostly just because the Christy books were written before the Sierra ones. Sierra is in the last Christy book and some of the characters you wouldn't know quite as well if you hadn't read Christy first. This volume has the first three books in it and they are all fun.

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### Brooke — brooklynnnereads says

1. Only You, Sierra (3/5)

Initially, when I started this book I couldn't help but compare and contrast the character of Sierra to Christy. This wasn't a good thing because I wasn't liking Sierra as much. However, as the story went on, I found I became more and more interested of how Sierra's story will unfold.

Now, after reading this first book in the Sierra Jensen series, I'm happy for the differences between Christy and Sierra. Both of their lives are vastly different, both of their personalities are different, and therefore their stories would be different. I'm interested to see where the story goes and I feel like Sierra has some growing up/maturing to do (as many teenagers do). I found by the end of the novel, Sierra was starting to discover those irritating/unappreciative attitudes that she had for the majority of this initial novel which originally had me hesitant on whether I would enjoy this collection. I'm looking forward to see what is to come as this series progresses.

#### 2. In your dreams (3.5/5)

I'm really starting to warm up and enjoy this series. I love reading the different personalities and I also love the relationships and the characters of Sierra's family. I always felt the Christy Miller series didn't really have her family included as much.

Sometimes Sierra continues to seem immature but then again, she's a teenager. With that being said, I also think there's some things that she's facing (e.g. being new to a social group) that I think applies to any age.

I can't wait to read more and to see where this series goes from here!

#### 3. Don't You Wish (3/5)

I liked this installment and how it was a reunion of all my favourite characters in a beach setting. It was an okay read, definitely feel like there is some unresolved issues between Tawni and Sierra that hopefully will get faced in the upcoming collection.

An okay read but would not say it was my favourite of the three in this collection.

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### **Jessica says**

I chose this book from Waterbrook Multnomah Press thinking that my daughter might like to read it as she gets older. I enjoy many youth and young adult books but had a very hard time with these 3 books. While I do appreciate the strong faith they demonstrate for young readers, as most of the characters are strong Christians despite their young ages, it really seemed much too unrealistic and almost silly. The dialogue seems very contrived to get across the author's "message" and so much of the stories seems so fake. The main character meets an older boy while returning from a missions trip to a new home her family moved to while she was away, and pines over him while adjusting to life in her new city. The entire situation is strange, especially the part where she feels God telling her (at 16) to "fight for this boy" and when she tells her dad this, he encourages it! Whose parent would encourage a 16 year old to go after a boy several years older that she met in an airport? All the interactions between the family members and most of the friends as well seems very fake and "too good to be true". I would think that perhaps an early pre-teen might enjoy these books, but I can't picture any girls much older than that enjoying them.

I received an e-copy of this book from Waterbrook Multnomah for review.

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### **Lena Morrison says**

I do my reviews in the form of a letter, which is why they are written like this.

Dear Robin Jones Gunn,

I will review each of the Sierra Jensen books separately. This actually got 4.5 stars.

### Only You, Sierra

This book was a pleasant surprise for me. I had tried to read it before, and thought it was okay, but this time I liked it. Sierra is a pretty cool character. She's really spunky and brilliant, and she also really loves God. I thought she was extremely relatable, maybe a little bit more than Christy. Christy is my favorite character in all of your books, but sometimes she's a little too nice for me and I can't relate to her. Anyways, I'm glad we got to meet Paul. He seemed like a cool guy, and I liked the chemistry that they had when they first met. Too bad he was dating the wrong person, though. Also, it was cool that Sierra moved to Oregon, because that's where I moved more than a year ago. I didn't like that she completely ignored the people in her school, but at least she got reconciled with them.

### In Your Dreams

This one starts off a bit weirdly because I thought Sierra would have had friends by now. She does, but only kind of. She seems to be kind of hesitant to be with her friends. Her poor grandma! It must be awful for her to see her Grandma fade that way. At least in this book she's pretty healthy. I like that Tawni is featured a bit more in this one. Also, Randy is just so cute! I kind of want Sierra to realize that he's the one for her. But she has Paul in her head. \*sigh\* I thought all her embarrassing moments were funny though. I liked this book.

### Don't You Wish

This was probably my favorite book in this volume. I really like the fact that Sierra gets to see Christy and "the gang" again. There was so much that happened! First off, I had some major irritation with Tawni at first. She was being a flirt. But after a while, she met Jeremy, and I was rooting for her. Todd and Bob got burned! I knew this was going to happen, but I didn't expect it to be so soon. At least Bob became a Christian because of that. That was a good thing. I also really liked that Doug proposed to Tracy. It was so sweet.

All in all, I really liked this volume. You have such a gift, Robin. You're able to make the most seemingly insignificant circumstance seem interesting and important. I really like that. Thank you for surprising me, again, with your writing skills.

Sincerely,  
Lena Marie

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### **Kelli says**

It was really cool to meet Sierra Jensen and learn about her life. I have been a huge fan of Christy Miller since I was in middle school and still enjoy coming back to her story, but I have never before read about some of her other Forever Friends. It was interesting to see a different character, and one that I seemed to relate to a little bit more, and how the author developed her story as well as intertwining it with the already established Christy Miller series. I will definitely enjoy reading more about Sierra and seeing where her journey takes her.

## **Patty Hearts Dave says**

From The Publisher:

She's the bold, free-spirited type. She's cute, she's fun, and she's following God. She's Sierra Jensen, Christy Miller's good friend, ready for her junior year of high school! All 12 books in the popular Sierra Jensen series come together in four volumes to reveal the ups and downs of Sierra's incredible God-led journey! Recommended for ages 12 and up.

Book 1: Only You, Sierra

The Europe mission trip brought Sierra Jensen the best gift possible: two new friends, Katie and Christy. But now Sierra is headed home, and she can't help but wonder, will her friendships last? And what about her new home? Her family moved while she was gone, and that means facing a new high school. And the biggest question of all: Will she ever find love? Then a chance meeting in a London airport answers that question. Paul makes her heart leap. But she'll never see him again! Or will she?

Book 2: In Your Dreams

Sierra has had it! She's done everything she can to find the right job, good friends, and most important, true love. But nothing is working out. Now she has to stay home to care for her grandmother. By herself. for the whole weekend! It will be terrible. But a series of startling surprises shows Sierra just how wrong she is--and before she knows it, she's on her way to the perfect job, her first real date, and an encounter with a mysterious stranger.

Book 3: Don't You Wish

Sierra has three wishes: visit her California friends; have her older sister, Tawni, disappear; and learn more about the mysterious stranger. When Easter break arrives, Sierra's first wish comes true! She's headed to Newport Beach for fun, sun, and surf. Unfortunately, not only does Tawni not disappear, she accompanies Sierra on her escape. What's worse, everyone has a boyfriend except Sierra. But will her wishes begin to change as she realizes God wants to mold her according to His wishes?

My Review:

These books kept my interest. You can pick up any one of them and know what is going on without reading the ones before it. But you'll want to read the books first to last because you discover situations being resolved as you read.

I think that it is annoying how young girls are taught by society to have a boyfriend so young. Sierra is 16, which isn't extremely young so I found that refreshing. The characters are Christians in these books so their relationships are portrayed in a manner that isn't sexual - something else that was refreshing to read.

All the teenage drama goes on in these books. There are sibling issues, trouble making friends, thinking guys are cute, wanting a job to have money, messy rooms, and more. I would recommend this series to the tween crowd. This series of books would be good for the girl that hasn't started dating yet. It would be a great started point for discussions with your child about relationships and dating.

I received a free copy of this e-book from WaterBrook Multnomah for my honest review.

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### **Anna says**

reading these books taught me so much about infatuations, love, and growing up. this series is a must read for all christian girls, along with the christy miller series by the same author.

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### **Ashley Carmichael says**

Sierra is the type of teenager I wish I was and the type of teenager I am a little afraid I was. Which makes her a relatable, realistic character. Having read the Christy series, I enjoyed the crossover to Sierra, but was also glad to see a completely unique storyline and character. One who is a little more spiritually mature, but still a teenager dealing with life. Gunn does an excellent job developing the character and the relationships over the course of the three books. Like Katie and Christy, Sierra is a little boy crazy, but I find the friendship angle to be stronger in these books which I believe is a valuable theme for teenagers.

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### **Leona Carstairs says**

I do not know why I ever picked this up, maybe because I had read everything else in the library, but it was so dumb. It's a stupid, boring book about Sierra's stupid pointless life. I tried the next ones, **because apparently I like torturing myself** and DNF ed at the last one I think. Such a stupid series. Do not recommend.

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### **Melissa Richardson says**

It's the kind of book that gives a teenage girl peace, that it's okay to not be in love; and hope, that true love will come in its own time. That's the thing I love most about this book, it supports the idea that true love exists, and that you shouldn't rush into any random relationship, because when true love happens it's absolutely amazing. It's a great theme, especially since so many books nowadays discreetly support modern beliefs that a persons sexual life is to be shared with many people, which is something that causes that persons heart to become emotionally ill. That's probably why I clicked so well with the book; it's five stars all around and I can't wait to read the rest! I recommend it to anyone seeking solace from "non-Christian" beliefs, someone who's looking for a gentle boost in a positive direction.

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### **Emily says**

{3.5 stars}

I wavered back and forth about what to rate this book for a while. Considering that it's three books in one, it's a bit tricky, but I rated them all together. I enjoyed reading Sierra Jensen's first volume more than Christy Miller's. Sierra is more relatable, being that she's from a large family and is already a Christian, as well as

being mature for her age. I love how the author is able to make ordinary, everyday, and even sometimes difficult situations seem so real and purposeful.

Also, the romance and boy-craziness that was basically the point of the first three Christy books wasn't as prominent in these. Yes, the first book starts with her wishing she had a guy, and she does meet one, but he's actually "behind the scenes" for much of these three books. Sierra's feelings about Paul can be acknowledged, while at the same time, the story can continue without him. The whole tone of Sierra's journey was just so much different than Christy's.

However, there's a few things I didn't love about the collection. For one, some of the family dialogue and dynamics seemed a bit far-fetched....I can't really see some of what Sierra's parents and family did taking place in real life. Plus, sometimes Sierra seems just too old for 16.

Still, I enjoyed reading this collection, and especially enjoyed Sierra's sweet devotion to her grandma, as well as her personal development through highs and lows in these three books.

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### **Erickah says**

I absolutely enjoyed reading this collection. I'd recommend this to other teenage girls who are still growing in their walk with Christ. ^\_^

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