



When the Stars Go Blue

Barbara Caridad Ferrer

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Winner of an International Latino Book Award

A dancer driven to succeed.

A musical prodigy attempting to escape his past.

The summer they share.

And the moment it all goes wrong.

Dance is Soledad Reyes's life. About to graduate from Miami's Biscayne High School for the Performing Arts, she plans on spending her last summer at home teaching in a dance studio, saving money, and eventually auditioning for dance companies. That is, until fate intervenes in the form of fellow student Jonathan Crandall who has what sounds like an outrageous proposition: Forget teaching. Why not spend the summer performing in the intense environment of the competitive drum and bugle corps? The corps is going to be performing *Carmen*, and the opportunity to portray the character of the sultry gypsy proves too tempting for Soledad to pass up, as well as the opportunity to spend more time with Jonathan, who intrigues her in a way no boy ever has before.

But in an uncanny echo of the story they perform every evening, an unexpected competitor for Soledad's affections appears: Taz, a member of an all-star Spanish soccer team. One explosive encounter later Soledad finds not only her relationship with Jonathan threatened, but her entire future as a professional dancer.

When the Stars Go Blue Details

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From Reader Review When the Stars Go Blue for online ebook

Miss Susan says

Umm why do I read so much paranormal YA again? Clearly all the best authors are writing contemporaries. I am in love with this book. I meant to just read the first chapter in the book store to see if I liked the writing and I ended up sitting down and reading through the whole thing in a few hours.

This came along at a good time for me. Lately I've been really frustrated with the state of YA romance. Why does so much of it suck? There are very few YA relationships that haven't pinged me as unrealistic or unlikely to last or considerably more unhealthy than the author was willing to acknowledge. This book? Did not do that. I don't want to spoil you for what happens but I'll just say that I am extremely satisfied with all of Ferrer's choices with regards to how she portrayed Soladad's relationships. I'm also very fond of Soladad herself, she's a great character and I enjoyed getting to be in her POV for awhile. Ferrer did a fantastic job conveying physicality through the page, I got a strong sense of how much Soladad lived in her body. Which sounds stupid but I don't know how to put this properly. Suffice to say I really believed in Soladad's love for dance and how much being a dancer meant to her. This is a fabulous book, I recommend it without any caveats.

Anne Osterlund says

Soledad is a dancer. Dedicated to training her body to obey her every command. And to proving herself. Through hard work, auditions, and an eventual move away from her Cuban grandmother in Miami to the competitive dance world of New York.

Then Jonathan, a music student in the same performance arts school as Soledad, challenges her to audition for the role of Carmen in his dance and drum corps. To travel with them the entire summer. Of course, it doesn't hurt that he's clearly interested in more than her professional technique.

When the Stars Go Blue was a pleasure to read from start to finish. I received an autographed copy at the ALA Meeting this winter, and this book was definitely my favorite takeaway from the event. I love the novel's blend of Soledad's Cuban culture and the rigorous world of performance art. The author delves into the personal lives of both main characters, and I empathized with Soledad and Jonathan in their struggles to navigate less than ideal family situations, first romance, and their professional dreams.

Sarah says

When the Stars Go Blue by Caridad Ferrer is a story that made a very strong impression on me. I've been lucky, this is the second book in a row I've read with a strong and resilient female protagonist.

Synopsis: Dance is Soledad Reyes's life. About to graduate from Miami's Biscayne High School for the Performing Arts, she plans on spending her last summer at home teaching in a dance studio, saving money, and eventually auditioning for dance companies. That is, until fate intervenes in the form of fellow student

Jonathan Crandall who has what sounds like an outrageous proposition: Forget teaching. Why not spend the summer performing in the intense environment of the competitive drum and bugle corps? The corps is going to be performing Carmen, and the opportunity to portray the character of the sultry gypsy proves too tempting for Soledad to pass up, as well as the opportunity to spend more time with Jonathan, who intrigues her in a way no boy ever has before. But in an uncanny echo of the story they perform every evening, an unexpected competitor for Soledad's affections appears: Taz, a member of an all-star Spanish soccer team. One explosive encounter later Soledad finds not only her relationship with Jonathan threatened, but her entire future as a professional dancer.

This book mimics the ups and downs of dance and the arts so well. Caridad Ferrer does an amazing job of bringing the movements of Soledad's passions to life through words. I felt her pain when a performance did not go quite as expected. I felt her passion for each movement across the football field, and I felt her disappointment in knowing that the chances of becoming the star dancer she dreamed about may not come true. Of course, this book is about so much more than dance.

Caridad Ferrer does an absolutely exquisite job of interpreting Carmen for a YA crowd. Teen girls in particular are going to dive head first into the whirlwind romance that Jonathan stages for Soledad. Her passion for him is strong and seems invincible. Of course, as anyone knows, teen girl or not, no love is invincible and cracks start to surface. But the initial courtship, that whirlwind of meeting someone who matches you in passion and determination, it is off the charts for Soledad and Jonathan.

The romance in this book is center stage, no doubt. On first reading many of Jonathan's accolades and praise for Soledad, I was kind of creeped out. However, as the story continued, I feel like Ferrer did a good job of fleshing out Jonathan's character. He was a troubled boy in love with someone for the first time in his life. He did not make good decisions, but I truly believe, especially in the book's beginning, his heart was in the right place. He was not all evil, even if his actions were not worthy of the love he claimed for Soledad.

Then, there is Soledad herself who is this powerful, kick-ass female. She knows what she wants, even as she has many doubts that she will ever get there. I liked how she opened herself up to love, to passion, even knowing that it may not end well. I found her strength to be one of the best aspects of this story. It was a good mingling of both strong and weak because Soledad does realize, she cannot always be strong, cannot always pull off the brave face.

And Taz. What to even say except that I quietly fell in love with him as he made his mark across the story. There is a scene, and you WILL know the scene when you read it, that I think it would be pretty darn impossible to not give your heart over to this character. At least, it was for me.

Also, I really enjoyed the drum and bugle corps. I really learned quite a bit in this book, without it being information dumping at all. Ferrer obviously knows her stuff when it comes to the corps and it shows as Soledad and Jonathan face the pressure of performances and training. Honestly, sometimes I felt like I was sweating with Soledad as she worked on her routine yet again, trying to find that perfect balance for the very top deck of the bleachers to understand her passion for Don Jose.

I'm absolutely loving what YA authors are doing with female characters lately. I love a strong romance, don't get me wrong, but I also love truly amazing female characters and this is one of those stories. As soon as I finished my ARC, I went and pre-ordered a copy of this book. And I absolutely cannot wait to booktalk it because I know in my city, there is an audience for this book.

One word of warning (so to speak), particularly for my fellow teen librarians, this is a sexual book. Sex

happens and love happens. The passion of dance translates very easily into the passion of love and I would say this is one of the most sensual YA stories I have read in quite some time. This is a compliment to the author because she conveyed this sensuality without always using intimacy, but it is also a charged story that is definitely for your upper level readers.

One final note, as Abby (the) Librarian noted, I think it would be helpful to know a little bit about Carmen before totally consuming this book. Having read Abby's review previously, on her recommendation, I looked up information about Carmen and yeah, it really just makes this story even more lush. It's not totally necessary but on the other hand, the layered details that Ferrer incorporates makes her reimagining of Carmen even more amazing.

Tara Chevrestt says

DNF. I tried. I picked it up over and over again, but I was bored to death. In all fairness, had I paid closer attention to the summary when I pre ordered it rather than drool over the lovely cover and the fact it's a Latina heroine, I would have known it wasn't for me. It's just a love story and then a love triangle. Not action packed enough for me and I wasn't really feeling the romance because it seems to have popped up out of thin air and just suddenly within a day... too unbelievable for me.

Cool chick though.

Maria says

this was a very great read, i loved the cover and picked it up. I didn't see the ending coming, it was intense and gives you a glimpse of the life of teenage performers and the pressure they receive from their families. Soledad and Johnathan's relationship captures your attention from the start, and you become so aware of their feelings that you start to notice the change with in each other. Like I said you will never, never see this ending coming. I read this book in one sitting, it was a page turner from the beginning, especially when Taz comes into the picture. If your looking for a intriguing YA novella then this is the one for you.

Maggie Desmond-O'Brien says

I can say, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there has never been a contemporary romance I enjoyed more than When the Stars Go Blue. Coming from someone who reads so little romance to begin with, perhaps that is an uninformed compliment. Maybe it was just that this book was perfect for me. But considering how smart, sassy, and just plain brilliant it was, I'm fairly certain I'm not wrong.

Three things that made this book above and beyond for me? One, the fact that Soledad isn't a tortured eating-disordered dancer, but rather a healthy and powerful one. She had her insecurities, but they never overwhelmed her life. Two, the fact that her relationship with Jonathan is passionate, by turns sweet and steamy, and all-consuming, but that we also are told that she has had relationships (involving sextimes, of course) in the past, and she never loses sight of herself. And third, the fact that chica has got the best sense of humor of any heroine I've read in recent memory.

Put it this way: the thing I loved about this book was Soledad, and how her strength seemed to evolve naturally from her character instead of being foisted upon her by a self-conscious author. Speaking of characters, something must also be said for Soledad's grandmother, whom I loved. Another smart and strong character that rang true instead of ringing like a mouthpiece for all the wisdom the author wanted to interject into the story (which the plague of all literary grandmothers, especially YA ones).

While I've never read any of Caridad Ferrer's other work, I can't imagine her being anything other than at the top of her game here. Stars is a fantastic balancing act of characters and story and beautiful writing, and I am so happy to have let this book be a part of me.

I really have no criticism. At all. I need more Caridad Ferrer in my life!

Arushi says

It's scary. Being in the center of that much love. So scary - and thrilling and...potent. And I know it goes both ways. My hold on him is as strong as his is on me. He'll never leave.

When the stars go blue is the story of a Latina ballet dancer, Soledad. She was brought up by her Cuban grandmother ever since her mother just abandoned her and disappeared off to somewhere. About to graduate from her High School for the Performing Arts, Soledad has the whole summer planned. She knows what she's going to do and where she's going to do it until a distraction hits her in the form of Jonathan, her classmate of four years who has different plans for her. To be the Carmen of his drum corps. This book is all about that one choice which can - and really does - turn Soledad's world upside down.

Ay Dios mío. I can safely say I haven't ever read a book that is so, so hard to review. Soledad is a likable character. I can relate to her because I did ballet in school for a semester and I know how the slippery, smooth hardwood floor feels when you *jeté* and *chassé* across it. Soledad is filled with life and energy and I'm sure she can suck you in as she explains her love for dance and why she feels inclined to do it. To release her emotions. To feel.

Jonathan himself was sweet and adorable at start and I immediately liked him and his funny nature. I adored how he made me Soledad feel and even though I was riled about the instant attraction and love between them that was just *there* since the starting of the book, I accepted it and understood why it wasn't stretched out. I know that a relationship *was* needed before they left for the tour but believe it or not, I felt like Ferrer could have given them both at least fifty more pages until they started jumping each other's bones. I still calmed myself and waited to be blown away.

I wasn't let down.

The twist in this book is the **mother** of all twists and while I read on, I completely lost myself in the book. I'm still not in check with my emotions but I know for sure that soon I'm either gonna start laughing like a crazy lady or break down on the floor and cry oceans in a few hours.

This book is an exquisite mixture of dancing, love, family issues, music and corps and the author made sure

she incorporated each of them with enough detail and passion. I don't wanna ruin this for anyone but I can damn well say you **will** be mind-blown when you reach the ending.

Audrey says

read the full review on my blog, holes In My brain

WHEN THE STARS GO BLUE swept me off my feet: it was a beautiful and raw novel with such a strong main character and a well-developed plot. Soledad is a dancer; she's not a tiny anorexic ballerina, she's a ball of energy and power, and the author successfully conveyed her character and ambitious personality so that I felt complete in tuned with her. Within the first few chapters I completely fell in love with her strength and realism.

Soledad's voice is clear and vibrant, entirely engaging and filled with personality. I don't know why, but I just loved one of the lines when she was calling one of the boys "that little shit" because it just felt so her, you know? I was miffed with the Spanish... most was unfamiliar for this non-speaker (think Perfect Chemistry times two). Secondary characters were by no means shoddy; they too were well-formed and lovable. I also want to touch on the fact that I admired how all the POC are so much more than their ethnicity.

While Ferrer managed to include so much into a novel—familial issues, first love, music, dance, the corps.. she makes sure that the story isn't overwhelmed, it was Soledad's journey with these little pieces transforming her summer and person. At first I really liked her romance with Jonathan (so cute!), though it moved a bit too fast for my tastes and I was afraid it would become clichéd. No, I wasn't afraid, I was sure it would have a clichéd conclusion the more I read. The inclusion of the intriguingly hot soccer boy (who is awesome) just added to my adamant belief it was going to be "*one of those stories*"-- predictable, a bit emotional, but overall feel-good and overdone.

So imagine my surprise when things unravelled.

Man, the climax and everything that followed was such an impressive shocker for me, but this is important: *it is not unbelievable*. Ferrer managed to make the twist probable and even *logical*, the way she had developed the characters (splendidly) allowed me to think, "you know, that is actually pretty plausible... all things considered, I shouldn't be surprised".

So obviously I loved the intricacies of the plot. But another thing I loved was the whole vibe of the novel, the passion in the writing, the allusion to the opera Carmen (which I'm unfamiliar with), the dancing... things were intense, sexy and fiery, but there were also times of reflection and insecurity. Caridad Ferrer really managed to create a story with *soul*.

4.5/5 - because I was truly surprised and delighted by how good this book was. It has everything I wanted: a dynamic romance that doesn't dominate, a strong protagonist, intriguing characters, cute 'masochistic' boys (love you Taz!), great and engaging voice, and a fantastic plot that moved like a dream. It dealt with issues with finesse, and oh, it has an ending that will amaze you. I wish I could ramble on forever, I can't recommend this enough!!

Janssen says

Kelly told me the ending on this dragged and she was right. . .it took a long long time to wrap up. In some ways I liked this book - I thought that Soledad was likable and I desperately wanted things to go right for her. I thought the whole corps thing was fun. But I thought Jonathan kind of changed at the drop of a hat and that annoyed me.

I expected it to be nothing but romance, but it really had a lot of other things going on, which I appreciated, although sometimes there were just too many "stare off at the skies, lost in my own thoughts" passages.

Really, I think this book could have benefited from some considerable editing. 100 pages less would have been far stronger.

Ashley says

Originally reviewed on my blog, Books from Bleh to Basically Amazing.

When the Stars Go Blue by Caridad Ferrer is all the cover suggests it to be- stunningly beautiful.

It is the story of Soledad, and passionate and gifted dancer, hurt by her past but full of life and love, and ready to give. It is the story of Jonathan, an intense and brilliant musician, damaged by his past and present and scared of the love he's giving. It is the story of Carmen, a sultry gypsy who jilts her jealous lover for another and meets with tragedy because of it.

Before you read this book, I strongly recommend familiarizing yourself with the story of Carmen. (Link takes you to Wikipedia page- which is a good place to start).

Soledad is asked by Jonathan to play the part of Carmen as a dancer in the drum and bugle corps he is a part of. She eventually agrees, largely in part because of her growing relationship and fascination with Jonathan. Their relationship quickly takes off, and it's easy to see why Soledad falls so hard for him so quickly. He's very attractive, understands her dedication and passion for dance, because he shares it for music, and he thinks she is the center of his world. It's a heady feeling to be the recipient of that much love and passion, and it's easy to understand how a young girl, experiencing love for the first time could get so wrapped up in him. Soledad is just as involved with Jonathan as he is with her. I enjoyed their relationship in the beginning, but it quickly started to scare me. Jonathan is just too intense. I would be worried for my daughter if she was involved with someone as intensely involved with and devoted to her as Jonathan is, especially at 18. Soledad becomes his world and he is possessive of her affection. He loses track of boundaries and his jealousy begins to consume his thoughts. It scares and confused and hurts Soledad because she doesn't understand why Jonathan is worried when she is so in love with him, and as devoted to him and he is to her.

I was beyond impressed with this book. Ferrer's writing is beautiful and haunting, bringing the world of dance and drum corps alive. I was involved in the band program all through school, and I've watched more

than one corps perform. Ferrer captured the powerful emotions associated with that world perfectly. I could feel the chills with Soledad as she begins to learn what a corps is all about, and as she performs her routine successfully. I haven't really missed that part of my life before, but reading this story made me wish for it again.

The writing is beautiful, and the characterization is spot on. Ferrer has done a brilliant job creating multi-dimensional characters. There was not a single character I felt to be one-dimensional. Everyone had depth. The closest we come to a one-dimensional character is Jonathan's father, Marc. We learn early on that their relationship is rocky and it's easy to hate him. But as we learn more about what drives him, he's more understandable. I doubt anyone will ever like him, but I found his actions and reactions easy to believe. I've seen it before. Soledad has an amazing inner strength, one that I hope I share, but equally hope I'm never in a position to find that strength as Soledad was forced to. Jonathan appears to be perfect, in nearly every way but it doesn't take long to realize there is much buried within him, and far more than meets the eye. Raj, one of my favorite characters, describes him as one within whom still waters run deep and that becomes more and more clear as the novel progresses. Raj is good for Soledad, a close friend within the all-male corps who isn't a threat to her relationship with Jonathan, and someone who is always willing to listen and help where he can. He's also her partner, dancing as Don Jose (Carmen's jealous lover) throughout the show. Then, there's Taz. He is a Spanish soccer player, touring the United States with his Spanish team. At first, he seems a bit like just another cocky, good looking jock, but there's a lot more to him than that, and as we get to know him better, it's really easy to fall for him. Plus, he's just oozes hotness.

He is interested in Soledad and takes every opportunity to talk to her when their tours cross paths. Both teams are playing at many county fairs, so they see each other several times over the course of the tours. Each time they meet, Soledad is more and more intrigued by Taz, more interested and more drawn, and Jonathan becomes more jealous of their conversations and more possessive of her attention every time. It soon becomes complicated, and there is a sense of imminent danger. Something is about to happen, but what is unclear.

The story by itself was wonderful, but I believe it was made better by the ties it shares with Carmen. Too often when people use a previous story for inspiration, they merely retell the same story, adding a thing or two of their own, but leaving no doubt as to where the ideas came from. I don't like stories like that. I never have. I have to say, I was very impressed with the Carmen connections made, because it was easy to see the inspiration, but it was never over the top. It was still Ferrer's own story.

This is a book I think it would be a shame to miss. It has much to offer, was beautifully written and definitely captivating. The prose moves seamlessly, filled with gorgeous descriptions and evocative imagery. It's certainly a book to pick up, one that would be a great addition to almost any collection.

Ari says

People always asked why I danced. Why I'd devoted so much of my life to something that seemed to offer so little in return. But good as I was with words, in this they kind of deserted me. Every once in a while, I wished I could talk about it. How dancing created this huge, chaotic jumble of emotions and adrenaline rushing through my bloodstream—the freedom and power that came from the ability to command my body so completely." If you have ever felt passionately about something, no doubt, you can relate to what Soledad is saying. This quote is on the 2nd page and it was then that I knew Soledad and I would get along just fine. Soledad is one of the most driven protagonists in YA that I've ever come across. In this novel, the similarities

between the original Carmen (I've never seen the opera so I'm basing this off summaries I've found and the musical Carmen Jones, which I adore) and this retelling are harder to spot. One of them is in how ambitious Carmen was and how ambitious Soledad is. Plus they both live in the moment, a quality that Jonathan envies of Soledad. Furthermore Jonathan and Soledad have tempers, much like Don Jose and Carmen. There is a love triangle but there is no clear winner, not until the grand finale. Taz is probably the only guy with long hair I will ever see as utterly sexy (that silver streak!), and it doesn't hurt that he's a soccer player ;) There are no one-dimensional characters. Each character is very carefully fleshed out, the flaws becoming more evident while the plot thickens. There is an intense air throughout the whole novel since Carmen is a tragedy and you know that eventually there will be a dramatic conclusion.

The writing is indescribable. It is expressive and elegant and it has obvious that the author knows both the story of Carmen and the world of which she speaks (drum and bugle corps, dance). The passion for the subject matter leaps off the page, after all only a dancer could really name the indescribable feeling that dancing provides. The romance is steamy, not because it's particularly explicit but because there is so much longing between Soledad, Jonathan and Taz. "Felt as if we had a whole conversation in the glance we exchanged in the silence following his words. But it was a teasing sort of exchange, the words in a language I wasn't quite comprehending. That I didn't really want to understand yet. But in a way, I did. At least, I wanted to try." (pg. 208). The author clearly illustrates the confusion Soledad feels over the behavior of both Taz and Jonathan, the confusion of being in love and wanting someone so badly, you don't know what to do with yourself.

When the Stars Go Blue is a dazzling read set in a world that will be new to many readers (including myself). I've never been to a college football game or seen a drum and bugle corps perform, but now I really want to see one live! I can't say that it looks easy being in the color guard, playing an instrument, etc. but I now know from this book that it's not, it takes a ton of blood, sweat and tears (well I already knew that about playing an instrument and dancing but still). The fervor that Soledad feels for dance, that Taz feels for soccer and that Jonathan feels for playing the horn is a palpable feeling that anyone who has dedicated themselves to a craft of some sort can relate to. The romance will have any romantic swooning and the climax will have you gasp out loud (especially when witnessing the painful rebound Soledad must make, it's a struggle to say the least). Caridad Ferrer is definitely one of my favorite authors and I will read whatever she writes next, no questions (after all I swore I would never develop a crush on a literary character with long hair or for that matter, any guy with long hair. Until Taz came along). At one point Jonathan tells Soledad to "Own it.", own the role of Carmen. Caridad Ferrer owns this retelling of Carmen and just like her main character, she triumphantly makes it her own

Samantha says

Soledad Reyes dreams of becoming a professional dancer and she has a plan to make it all happen. After graduating from an arts high school, she's planning on teaching at a dance studio, save some money, and then strike out and start auditioning for dance companies. But along comes Jonathan Crandall who offers her a whole different gig, performing with the Drums & Bugle Corp, who are performing Carmen. Intrigued by the prospect and even more so by Jonathan, Soledad agrees.

But feelings and emotions are running on high as Soledad's own life is having an uncanny resemblance to the story she performs, as an unexpected competitor for her affections enters the picture.

This book was a little odd, to be honest. It wasn't amazing, but it wasn't that great either.

It's sorta/kinda a retelling of Carmen (Bizet's Opera). Knowing that, I had a fairly good idea of what was going to happen within the story.

Surprisingly, my issue with the book isn't the retelling aspects or the relationships. It's with the delivery of the story. There were points in the narrative that were unclear and confusing.

Overall, the story is actually pretty boring. There's nothing too memorable about Soledad or Jonathan. Their voices don't come across and there's little to no characterization for them or the other characters. Perhaps it's Soledad's own character that's rather passive, but from a reading standpoint, I'm not sure if that's a fault of the character or the writing.

This story does have a happy ending (as in nobody dies), contrary to Carmen. But, I wouldn't necessarily recommend this book.

Janina says

Yawn. Sorry, but this book is boring me to death. I am really disappointed. I had pretty high expectations for it – silly me – and those weren't met at all. I made it until around page 160, skimmed the next 100 pages and then 'read' – leaving out a few sentences/ paragraphs every now and then – until the end, simply because I wasn't willing to give up on it entirely.

The premise sounded so intriguing to me: A modern retelling of Carmen, including a heroine who loves to dance and works hard to make her dreams come true, finds love on the way and has to make an important decision between two boys. I used to love stories revolving around ballet and dance when I was younger, and as I had wanted to read something by Caridad Ferrer for a long time, **When the Stars Go Blue** seemed like the perfect opportunity. I had expected a passionate love story, dance and music that get under the skin, strong and fierce main characters. Instead I got a lame romance without chemistry including a boy that gave off seriously creepy, possessive vibes, a heroine I only sort-of liked but never really felt for and endless descriptions of rehearsals and performances that got boring pretty soon. The only character I liked was the *other boy*, but his role was a subordinate one until about two thirds into the book.

Also, the author didn't seem to be too familiar with the principle of showing, not telling. Soledad talked about Jonathan's presence the whole time, that he made her feel dizzy and that she was falling head over heels in love, but I just never felt it. The same goes for the feeling dancing gives her. I was only *told* how great and important it was to her, how she felt on stage, but it never got under my skin. I didn't *see* it in her behaviour, words or gestures.

Also, the explosive encounter the summary mentions? About 80 pages before the end. Seriously, why is something that happens so late even mentioned in the summary? I was waiting and waiting for it to happen.

So sorry I spend money on this book. And I definitely don't recommend it.

Lina; says

I don't have words to describe how much I loved this book ❤️❤️

Haleema says

This one was one of the most bizarre books I've ever read. At some points, I couldn't decide whether I liked it or not.

The writing was beautiful. It flowed so remarkably, with perfect details and word choices. I enjoyed every part of it, especially when Ferrer described Soledad's dancing.

However, the protagonist was an obvious Mary Sue. She's an exquisite dancer just at the age of eighteen. She's beautiful, tall, lean, and graceful. Everyone seems to love her. But there wasn't anything awesome about her. She had no friends. Literally. There wasn't anyone she talked to besides her grandmother and Jonathan. No girls her age in her life. It was weird. Is she not social? Soledad and Jonathan hook up in what, the first forty pages? I don't care if Jonathan wanted it to happen for four years of his high school life. The audience JUST met these two. The relationship between them didn't even build nicely for me to accept them being together. It was so unrealistic.

Then they break up. I liked that. All they did was make out. Oh, and I didn't even know she wasn't a virgin! Then she falls in love with Taz, the most amazing Mexican soccer player in the world. It was just so predictable.

Despite its amazing lyrical prose, *When the Stars Go Blue* failed to keep me interested.
