



## The Summer I Learned to Dive

*Shannon McCrimmon*

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## **The Summer I Learned to Dive** Shannon McCrimmon

Since the time she was a little girl, eighteen-year-old Finley “Finn” Hemmings has always lived her life according to a plan, focused and driven with no time for the average young adult’s carefree experiences. On the night of her high school graduation, things take a dramatic turn when she discovers that her mother has been keeping a secret from her—a secret that causes Finn to do something she had never done before—veer off her plan. In the middle of the night, Finn packs her bags and travels by bus to Graceville, SC seeking the truth. In Graceville, Finn has experiences that change her life forever; a summer of love, forgiveness and revelations. She learns to take chances, to take the plunge and to dive right in to what life has to offer.

## **The Summer I Learned to Dive Details**

Date : Published December 23rd 2013 by Shannon McCrimmon (first published May 7th 2012)

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Author : Shannon McCrimmon

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## **From Reader Review The Summer I Learned to Dive for online ebook**

### **Michelle says**

McCrimmom knows how to write a really good coming-of-age story. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

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### **Sarah says**

I bought this book on my kindle because it was free and was expecting it to be good since it had great reviews. This book was badly edited, and many of the scenes just seemed unrealistic. It was like reading a lifetime movie, and that's not a compliment. Good storyline, bad writing.

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### **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

Finley is what you could call a 'safe' person. Well in my opinion at least. She is safe because she keeps people at a distance and doesn't make room for friends. She has a plan in life and that is to make good grades...get into medical school and become a heart surgeon...marry by a certain time...have kids by a certain time. But that plan just got blown out of the water when on the day of her high school graduation she learns her grandparents have been trying to see her for years. Something her mother has been keeping from her.

Ever since her father died when she was 2 she thought they were the ones never wanting to see her. But her mother had been hiding the cards and screening their calls. Why did her mother think she was protecting her by keeping them away from her?

So in a rash decision, Finn takes off in the middle of the night, all alone, to find her father's parents and get to know them. It's the beginning of summer and no better time to seek them out. But what she finds that summer just might change her forever. Will she be able to rekindle a relationship with her hardheaded grandfather? Will she be able to keep to her plan? And who Finn finds inside herself that summer may surprise even her!

In the wee hours of night I started reading The Summer I Learned to Dive just to get a feel of the book. Not really expecting to read much of it until the next day. Before I knew it I was half way done. I was seriously hooked just pages in and was seeking the same answers Finn was. Why did her mom think she was protecting her by keeping her in the dark when it came to her grandparents? Was there a huge scandal? Were they abusive? What's the big deal? So I kept reading in search of answers.

Thankfully when I started reading the book, Shannon had given me a Dream Cast (which will be posted on the blog 7/11/12 as well as an interview with Finn). I was able to picture these kids in my mind and it made the story more real while reading. Now lets talk about these characters. Jesse is a cutie that I knew I was going to just love. And of course I loved those silly sisters, Meg and Hannah, always funny and there for Finn. Finally Finn had some real friends. Shannon gave us a great ensemble of characters that were fun and ones you really enjoy reading about.

In *The Summer I Learned to Dive* you will find a wonderful, clean storyline that is perfect for any reader. The only thing I seemed to have a slight problem with was the ending. It didn't give me that closure I was seeking. But none the less, I still loved it. I look forward to more works by Shannon and hope you will give *The Summer I Learned to Dive* a chance.

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### **Autumn Review says**

When I first got this request, I saw the cover and fell in love. Then I looked at my crazy review schedule and wasn't sure when I could get it in, but I took it on with hope that I could get to it by the end of the summer. Well, I'm a little past my deadline and am so sad that it took me so long to read this book. I really enjoyed it!

We meet Finn as she's just graduated from high school. She was a quiet teen who focused on school rather than friendships. As a result, she looked at her high school experience with a bit of regret. Then, she learns a huge family secret that leads her to South Carolina to get reacquainted with some long lost family members.

Finn arrives in SC, she's scared, confused, and anxious to find answers. Her grandmother is thrilled that she's finally come, but her grandfather is a bit skeptical. As Finn begins to learn more about her family, she also starts to make some friends. On the first day, she meets Jesse. Not only does he work at the family restaurant, but he helps her grandparents around the house. I absolutely adored Jesse! He understands Finn and her need to learn more about her life. Jesse is there for her as a friend and slowly becomes something more.

I wasn't expecting the romantic element to the story, but I sure did love it. Jesse and Finn are so sweet with each other. While I enjoyed seeing Finn go through her self-discovery process, I loved watching her and Finn the most.

This is a great coming of age story. While it was a bit predictable for me, I enjoyed it very much. In fact, I wasn't quite ready for it to end and think I would really like to have a sequel. If you're looking for a solidly good read, check this out.

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### **GW says**

Received this free on the kindle, and it was quite an enjoyable read. I'd recommend this to all young adults - and it's a really good contemporary and realistic story. It's about rediscovering family and finding romance. It's a quick read as well, I finished it in about an hour or so without putting it down.

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### **Lisa says**

Well friends, I finally won an ARC from Goodreads after years of putting my name in! I was so excited! I took it on vacation with me and I was all psyched up to read it. Then I turned on my Kindle. I saw THIS COVER (Doesn't Shannon McCrimmon have the best covers?). And hey, I was at the lake! So I just couldn't resist! I started reading it and I was instantly swept up in Finn's world (I'm so sorry, my ARC. I will read you soon, I promise). And *The Summer I Learned to Dive* was amaaaaazing!!!!

I know I've said it before, but Shannon McCrimmon is a fantastic writer. Her style is so fresh. It has a classic feeling, but at the same time, it feels like something completely new. It's like no one has messed with her words and style. It's all her own raw talent. I love it! Nothing about her writing or her story-lines feels forced or fake. It's just simple, interesting stories with likable characters that attach themselves to you instantly.

This story grabbed me right away. I loved Finn and was rooting for her from the first page. I felt like I knew her. By the end of the book, I was really sad to say goodbye to my new friend. But then I found THIS out: The Year I Almost Drowned is a sequel to this book! I don't have to say goodbye just yet :) So I'll be visiting my friend Finn very soon. I highly recommend making her acquaintance! 5 stars!!!!

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### **Cathy says**

A good story but the writing wasn't the best. Also, the Kindle version was littered with spelling errors.

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### **Nancy S says**

I really enjoyed the story in this book, but the writing was pretty poor. There were grammatical errors, missing punctuation, and even some misused words. I was shocked that this all got by an editor.

The 2 stars are for the ideas and the characters.

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### **Avon Bernabe says**

#### **4.5 stars**

The Summer I Learned to Dive is a very heart-warming book. It's a pretty quick read but you'll learn a lot. I didn't expect the book to be the way it was before I read it. I was surprised. I love it.

It's sweet, sad and happy all at the same time. Nothing is over the top. Emotions all in-tacked. You will appreciate the importance of friendship, family, love and life with this book. From simple things to not so simple ones. It will make you realize that sometimes, planning is not needed. Just take the plunge and stop being afraid.

Finn will teach all that with her Mom, Dad, Nan and Grandpa. As well as with Jesse, his Dad, Meg and Han. You will learn how to dive not only into the water, but also towards all what life has to offer.

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### **Lisa says**

This book was a beautiful coming of age story. It was about betrayal, new beginnings, and a young girl learning to spread her wings. Shannon's books always bring warmth to my heart and soul. The Summer I Learned to Dive is like home made apple pie...or in my case, chocolate pie.

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## Candace says

Shannon McCrimmon's *The Summer I Learned to Dive* totally caught me off guard. I really didn't know what to expect with this book, so I went in with an open mind. I decided I would read a couple of chapters just to get a feel for it, and then save the rest for a road trip we were going to take on Saturday. Ummmm, yeah. Once I picked this book up it was nearly impossible to put down. I even brought it to read at my hair salon, which is saying a lot. When I go to get my hair done, it's a gossip fest. Always a fun time to dish with the other girls. However, during this appointment I was in my own little, *The Summer I Learned to Dive* world. I didn't care what the other women were discussing, I was totally enthralled.

Being 30 years old (uggg, that hurts to type out,) I've read a lot of YA literature. In fact, I took several YA literature classes while studying for my Masters in college. I have found that after a while most books start blending together. I'm not saying that as a bad thing, I really enjoy the YA genre. However, *The Summer I Learned to Dive* is totally unlike any other Young Adult novel I have read. The characters are believable, the setting vivid, and the plot touching and surprising.

McCrimmon's *The Summer I Learned to Dive* follows 18 year old Finn as she embarks on quite the journey. Finn always had a plan. She would study hard, get into a prestigious Women's College, and then become a Doctor. In order for her plan to work, she had to sacrifice many things, including, friends, dating, parties, and teenage life in general. I found that I could really relate to Finn. While I had a few friends in high school, my focus was purely academic. It wasn't until college that I started 'living' life and came out of my shell.

After Finn's graduation ceremony (where of course she was Valedictorian,) Finn stumbles upon a secret her mother had been keeping. All of her well kept plans flew out the window when Finn decided to follow her heart. Finn travels to South Carolina in the middle of the night in order to discover who she really is. Embracing her new philosophy, Finn begins a new life with a family she never knew.

*The Summer I Learned to Dive* is a fast read that made me laugh one minute and then wipe my eyes the next. McCrimmon also did a great job in creating a realistic romance between Finn and Jesse. After I finished *The Summer I Learned to Dive*, I wasn't ready to give it up. I wanted to read more about Finn, Jesse, and her grandparents. I went online and started searching for information about the novel and found that McCrimmon is currently working on the sequel to *The Summer I Learned to Dive*. YES YES YES!!! This was exactly the information I wanted to find, I absolutely can't wait!

Shannon McCrimmon's *The Summer I Learned to Dive* is a great read! I challenge everyone to place it on your TBR lists!

Shannon McCrimmon has provided me with a complimentary copy of her book, *The Summer I Learned to Dive*, for the purpose of review.

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## Phammett says

What a sweet book. I loved it and so would anyone else who has experienced a first love. It is so well

written, without explicit sex and vulgar language. The Summer I Learned to Dive shows young adults making good choices about love and life. It is a book you can give to your teenager or your grandmother and they will love it. I love each and every character, I hope Shannon writes a sequel soon to let us know what Finn and Jesse are doing with their lives. Take this book with you to the beach, pool or lake and just enjoy!!!!

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### **Kim says**

I really enjoyed this book.

The only way I can think to describe it is by saying that it is a very 'pleasing' book - which says nothing at all really, only that pleasing is how the book felt to me from beginning to end. I'll try to do a little better if I can...

Finley (GREAT NAME) is an intelligent, socially awkward 17 year old girl with a life plan. She is a good girl who has always followed the advice of her single widowed mother. She has worked hard to ensure a successful life path for herself. Then, she comes upon a secret her mother has been keeping from her for almost her entire life. Finley freaks and does what she has never done before - takes off on her own to figure things out herself, leaving behind the great life plan.

The Summer I Learned To Dive is a great beach-read kind of book. It is a wholesome drama revolving around family secrets, but it is also a lovely coming of age story with a sweet budding romance, too. I easily connected with the characters. The relationships Finley forms are extremely interesting and very believable - really the most satisfying part of the book are these interactions & watching Finley develop into her own person as a result. As Finley is new to forming relationships, you really feel for her & can somehow relate to her difficulties as she meets new people. She is very naive, but she is forced to learn quickly that she must not give her trust away to just anyone.

You have to read the book to find out the rest!

Gorgeous cover that really kept me coming back to this one before I committed to reading it! I like the sub-meanings of the title, too. Very well-thought & intelligent writing!

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### **Sarah says**

Loved it! Highly recommend for a great, feel-good read.

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### **Melissa says**

(5 HUGE STARS!!)

This was a great summer read! I devoured it in a day; I could not put it down! Finley, aka Finn, is 18 and

fresh out of high school with plans to go to medical school. She learns a secret about her family which prompts her to head off to South Carolina in search of some answers. What she finds there changes everything she ever believed.

Beautifully written story about love, family, and learning who you really are and what you're capable of!

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