



Reunited

Hilary Weisman Graham

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1 Concert

2000 Miles

3 Ex-Best Friends

Alice, Summer, and Tiernan are ex-best friends.

Back in middle school, the three girls were inseparable. They were also the number one fans of the rock band Level3.

But when the band broke up, so did their friendship. Summer ran with the popular crowd, Tiernan was a rebellious wild-child, and Alice spent high school with her nose buried in books.

Now, just as the girls are about to graduate, Level3 announces a one-time-only reunion show.

Even though the concert's 2000 miles away, Alice buys three tickets on impulse. And as it turns out, Summer and Tiernan have their own reasons for wanting to get out of town. Good thing Alice's graduation gift (a pea-green 1976 VW camper van known as the Pea Pod) is just the vehicle to get them there.

But on the long drive cross-country, the girls hit more than a few bumps in the road. Will their friendship get an encore or is the show really over?

Reunited Details

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From Reader Review Reunited for online ebook

Hannah says

I wanted to love this book. The whole idea sounded like so much fun - I love road trip books, especially ones set in the summer after high school. And three ex-best friends reuniting to see their ex-favorite band perform is such a cool idea. Reunited sounded like a book I could love, but unfortunately, it didn't happen.

The unique concept caused for a fun plot, but I believe the characters suffered from it. To me, they fell flat. Alice is the brainy, control-freak-ish one; Tiernan is the troubled, rebellious one; and Summer is the misunderstood popular girl. Sadly, the character development doesn't go much deeper than that - the three girls pretty much just embody those cliches. I never really felt like I got to know them, aside from those cliches. The only times they showed some real personality were the scenes where they got whiny and annoying. The character growth was disappointing to me - I felt like they didn't change much over the course of the novel, except that they don't hate each other anymore at the end. I didn't love the characters, and for me, it's hard to love a book without loving the characters.

Surprisingly, the book felt too immature for me. I generally don't mind books that are for people a little younger for me, but because Alice, Summer and Tiernan are my age, I was expecting some more maturity. The attitudes of all three characters seemed more freshman-year than just-graduated-high-school. Maybe it's because they're being nostalgic and going back to middle school, back when they fangirled for their favorite band, and their attitude matches the way they were back then. Either way, the unnecessary drama and unwillingness to communicate felt more like younger YA to me. The reason I love older YA and new adult books is the uncertainty about life - I don't want younger YA, where the character doesn't need to think about what they'll do with their life, and I don't want adult books, where everything is already settled. I want books where the characters are trying to figure out their place in this world, characters that have some idea of what they'll do with their lives but aren't completely sure yet. And I didn't get any of that from Reunited - it's mentioned where each of the girls is going to college, but I have no idea what their plans are, what they're thinking of doing with their lives. The future isn't really mentioned all that much, which surprised me, since right now, for me and the people in my graduating class (as in, people the same age as Alice, Summer, and Tiernan), the future is what we're all about. That just added to the immature feel of the book.

Then there's the predictability and the cliched-ness of the plot. I'm sorry, but there's only so much unrealistic cheesy-ness I can take, and Reunited crossed the line. The unrealistic ending and all the too-good-to-be-true situations in the book bugged me. I was also annoyed by the constant mentions of the Winter Wonderland Dance - that frustrated me so much! Not a chapter goes by without a character hinting at the fallout the three best friends had at the dance their freshman year, but what really happened isn't revealed until the end. Sure, that's supposed to hook the reader and whatnot, but I didn't think that was necessary at all. The constant mentions and the underwhelming revelation at the end did nothing but annoy me.

But despite all of this, this book does cause for some fun, entertaining scenes. I did very much enjoy the road trip and all the crazy stuff they encounter along the way. A lot of the ridiculous stuff these girls get themselves into had me laughing out loud. I did enjoy Reunited, but I was disappointed by the lack of character development and the immature feel to the book. It's a fun, quick read, but don't go in expecting too much, like I did, or you'll end up disappointed.

Reviewed at <http://www.paperbacktreasures.blogspot.com>

Hazel (Stay Bookish) says

So refreshing to read a contemporary book where romance wasn't one of the main themes! It's all about these three girls and their ex-friendship and their misadventures as they are reunited for a road trip to see their fave band. Lots of crazy hilarious things happen and I just enjoyed reading! Was also surprised by the touching themes. I think it's a really fab read!

Jessica says

Hilary Weisman Graham's *Reunited* takes a look at what really makes people friends and whether the past can be set aside in order to re-spark a previous friendship.

The story begins with disappointments and the high school graduation of three ex-best friends. After finding out that her summer abroad has been cancelled, Alice is hoping for a new laptop as a grad gift, but gets a refurbished 1976 VW camper van called the Pea Pod instead. While she's breaking in her new wheels, Alice hears her ex-favorite boy band, Level3, on the radio and reminisces about the good times she had with her fellow groupies and ex-best friends, Summer and Tiernan. When a Level3 reunion concert is announced that night, Alice knows that is more than just coincidence and buys a ticket for herself, Summer, and Tiernan.

Summer has problems of her own, however. Her boyfriend broke up with her at the graduation ceremony, breaking her heart and ruining their summer vacation plans. Taking up Alice's Level3 road trip offer gives her an excuse to get out of town. And rebel, Tiernan is stuck at home because she's grounded, so a 10-day break from her mother is very welcome. She jumps at the chance to see Level3 again--though she's not telling her mom about the trip until she's well on the way and can't be stopped.

Their trip starts off with a lot of bickering and a funeral, and the girls have trouble letting go of old resentments, but there are also a lot of funny moments to balance out the bad. Of course, various boys are involved in the trouble in one way or another and you will smile at some of the situations.

The Tiernan, Alice, and Summer are a nice change from the general female stereotypes of the sexy one, the smart one, and innocent/naive one. While the three girls are very different and it is easy to see why they grew apart, they all have well-developed personalities that keep them from being one dimensional--even Summer has more going on than just being the pretty, popular girl--and they continue to develop throughout *Reunited*.

The way Graham made up Level3 song lyrics and placed them between each chapter was a fun touch that reminded me of the lame boy band songs I used to run around singing (I was a major New Kids fan).

Reunited is an excellent girl power story about old friends helping each other find themselves before they go off to college. It's rated for ages 12 and older, but adults will also enjoy this fun coming-of-age story and its message.

Riya says

Originally posted at The Teen Book Guru

This review is based on an Advance Readers Copy (thank you S&S!)

Hilary Weisman Graham's debut is a fun, bubbly and heartwarming coming-of-age story of friendship, love, and ultimately, finding yourself and being true to who you are --- no matter what. It's one of those books that has a little bit of everything, for everyone... one of my favorite YA Contemporary reads of 2012 so far!

Reunited was one of those books that I just loved from the very beginning, mostly because of the characters. There's Alice, the overachiever and nostalgic and sensitive kinda, lives in the past type of person, Summer, the misunderstood cheerleader/queen bee, who actually doesn't want to be popular, and Tiernan, funky, needle in a haystack, doesn't care what anyone thinks, kinda gal. I honestly loved every single one of them! Towards the end of the novel, I started feeling like I knew them personally... they became my three best friends for the four hours I was reading this book! And while they are a little cliche, sometimes, cliche works! It's only when it's too overdone that it starts becoming boring, and ordinary, and what-not.

A long time ago, in Middle School, Alice, Tiernan, and Summer used to be BFFs and Pop band Level3 worshippers. They considered themselves to be the band's biggest fans, and let me tell you, you will not know the whole meaning of 'obsession', and 'devotion', until you read this book. I mean, seriously! I have friends who are crazy IN LOVE and so infatuated with Justin Bieber, and, more lately, One Direction, but oh my gosh Alice, Summer and Tiernan make them look almost normal! It's scary (but in a good way!).

Anways, so it starts out with Alice, and things aren't really going well for her. It's almost graduation time, and she hasn't got everything worked out and as planned as she would have liked. Her summer trip with her friend was cancelled, her acceptance letter for the University she is dying to get in hasn't arrived yet, and she just feels pretty bummed. I don't blame her! I would too. And then, a bombshell. Level3, Alice's (and Summer and Tiernan's) old-time favorite band who broke up over three years ago (when that awful fight between Alice and Summer and Tiernan happened), are getting back together for ONE CONCERT. The only problem, is that it is over 2000 miles away. But still, she has the Pea Pod (basically the Level3 fan worship van), and she is sure that, as big as the fight was, and even though they barely even talk anymore, she is sure Summer and Tiernan would not be able to say no to the awesomeness of Level3.

And, it takes a lot of time, but Summer and Tiernan finally come around-- both for their own personal reasons, though, and Alice feels something she hasn't felt for a long time start to blossom inside her---hope. If Level3 can get back together, even for only one night, can't they? And so, they set out on the long road trip, with one question looming above all of them: will they come out of this friends, or enemies?

Reunited was the perfect break from all the heavy Paranormal books I've been reading (and admittedly, enjoying), and I'm so happy I got the chance to read it. Graham really WOW'd me with this touching debut, and I look forward to reading more of her books! A strong, powerful new voice in YA Contemporary!

Chelsey Wolford says

What an absolutely cute and heartwarming book!! This story takes us, the readers, on a road trip with three girls who USED to be friends; weird, huh? Alice Miller finds out that her favorite boy band is getting back together for a one time reunion show, so why can't she and her two ex-best friends? Spontaneously she purchases \$200 tickets to the one time concert in hopes that they will attend. Before she knows it Summer and Tiernan are riding alongside her in her newly refurbished van (that's another story in itself) on a road trip halfway across the country to see a band that they all drooled over when they were thirteen.

Alice, Summer, and Tiernan have each taken different paths throughout the course of their high school years and they have seldom spoken to each other since the Winter Dance in middle school. This story line shocked me a little because I was like how is Hilary going to write this so that this trip halfway across the country is not awkward and unnerving for the girls. She fits their individual stories and their personalities in like small puzzle pieces! Each girl brings something different to the table. One has a sassy side, and one just doesn't have a filter and will say anything at whim, while the other is Ms. Perfectionist! When all of their various personalities were jumping off of the page at me I was thinking how were you guys ever friends to begin with? The more I got to know them the more that I saw how much they really did appreciate the things that set each of them apart.

You may think it is strange for a friendship to form over a boy band, but theirs literally did. They were obsessed with the music and the boys and knew every song verbatim. This seems like such a minor detail when reading the story of even thinking about this out of context, but that one detail formed a strong bond between girls that brought them together after four years of not speaking to one another; now that's good writing! This book is made up of so many small details, like the struggle that each girl is fighting within herself. If you like stories where you unravel more than one main character then this story is definitely one for you. Alice, Tiernan, and Summer each have a story within themselves and I believe those are the best kind of books.

Another aspect that I really enjoyed about this book is the fact that it took place the summer after their senior year. They were just graduating from high school when the book began and I believe that this, besides the actual college experience itself, is one of the most crucial that a teen goes through. Sometimes this is the time that you really start to uncover who you are and what makes your clock tick. Each girl took a journey within herself on that road trip and came out with some sort of revelation for a new beginning. They were gone from home for 10 days, but sometimes it only takes a day or two out of your normal schedule to clear your head and start afresh. They learned things about themselves that they might not have known otherwise.

So by the end of the novel the road trip, not the boy band, was the new detail that had bonded these three together once again. The story line sounds so simple at times; a road trip to see a one time reunited boy band. But the things that the girls witness and learn on this trip will change them forever. They went on the road trip with heavy hearts and mind, each of them stressing over one issue or another and they came back swearing to starting clean slates within their friendship and their relationships with others. This book is such an amazing summer read and made me want to take a road trip of my own if only NSYNC were reuniting for a one time concert in Austin, TX!!

Shelley says

Genre YA

Rating 4.0

Review

Four years ago, Alice Miller, Tiernan O'Leary, and Summer Dalton were best friends and Level 3 idolizers. They did almost everything together. They were so obsessed with the band that they covered the entire inside of a 1976 VW Camper (called the Pea Pod) with pictures of the band and themselves. Level 3 broke up at the beginning of their freshmen year because of family issues and shortly thereafter, after an incident at the Winter Wonderland Dance, a final wedge was put in the girl's friendship.

Nearly 4 years later, Alice hears about Level 3 reuniting for a benefit concert in Austin, Texas. On a whim, Alice, the most put together of all three girls, not only purchases 3 tickets for the concert but then somehow talks Tiernan and Summer into going to Texas with her.

Alice's summer road trip with her best friend had been cancelled because she's going to China for the summer instead. Alice still hasn't heard from her first choice of colleges Brown, and time is getting short. On top of that, her parents refurbished the Pea Pod and give it to her for her graduation present instead of something more useful like a computer, or Ipad. Alice is normally the most level headed character of the bunch and knows exactly what she wants. On this trip, what she holds dear comes into question, and the possibility of love is definitely in the air.

Summer is part of the popular crowd who the rest of the school hates. She's had more boyfriends than she can actually count, and her current BF is an asshat who is most likely cheating on her. On top of all that, he decides that he wants Summer to go on the road trip with Alice verses going to Martha's Vineyard with him. So, on a whim, Summer decides to join Alice on the trip to Austin. Summer is a very good writer which goes to show you that you can't judge a book by its cover.

Tiernan is the rebel with a clue. Her father left her for another woman, and her mother is so busy that she can't see that Tiernan is rebelling against her authority with her blue hair, and combat boots. Tiernan is also the one person most responsible for breaking up the girl's friendship after purposefully twisting Summer's words around. Tiernan's claim to fame is that she's really good at photography and could make some real money if she took it seriously.

Reunited is a fun, yet poignant story about the three very distinct teenagers who used to be best friends, but life got in the way. It's a story about growing up and owning your responsibilities while trying to have a great time and seeing your all-time favorite band play one more time.

Reunited is the debut novel of Hilary Weisman Graham.

Recvd 05/16/2012 *Participating in Southern Bloggers Tour for Book!

Kaye says

Okay, first of all, we can't start this party off without a little mention of the cover. Just take a moment to scroll up and look at that. From the moment the ARC slipped out of the package and into my hands, the feeling I got was, "Summer is here, so slather on the sunscreen and let's get some beach reading done!"

I kid you not. That shade of yellow is definitely an eye-catcher.

Anyway, down to what's inside that pretty package. The story centers around Alice, Summer and Tiernan - three best friends and self-proclaimed biggest fans of the band Level3 (which, if you want to get a mental approximation, personally makes me think of a mixture of the Jonas Brothers - pre-"Joe the Hobo" stage - and One Direction). Unfortunately, when the band broke up, their friendship shattered right along with it.

Until now. High school graduation, getting ready to fall out of touch forever with the beginnings of their adult lives, and Alice just knows it's fate when Level3 announces a once-in-a-lifetime reunion show in Austin, Texas. So, does this girl go, "Oh, my gosh, our favorite band is getting back together? I should go and watch them by myself, for old times' sake!"

Puh-leeze. If she was that flat and boring (and...just not a teenager), we wouldn't have over three hundred words of plot, right?

No. Alice goes with her gut instinct and hits that Pay Now button - three tickets for three ex-best friends to see the band that made their friendship. Now, before we start linking arms and singing Kumbaya, remember that crucial word: ex. As in the guy with the weird toaster obsession that you'd rather take the long way home than face...or how about the co-worker who was always picking her nose? People you want to forget. People you don't expect will sit for hundreds of miles without fighting for shotgun or arguing over snacks or unplanned road trips.

You really can't blame Tiernan and Summer for wanting to avoid that hot mess, can you? In any case, due to their own ulterior motives, both girls jump on board - and you, the reader, are in on the most messed-up road trip of your summer vacation.

Ms. Graham has to be given kudos for a crucial aspect of writing YA that many would-be authors flounder on: she knows teenagers. True, many instances of the plot aren't really the escapades me or any of my besties would be caught doing (attempting to bury a reanimated squirrel? Going swimming with hippies of a suspicious nature? Parents, do you know where your daughters are tonight?), but the emotions and turbulence and uncertainty that come with leaving a certain stage of life behind ring true.

One complaint I always have about realistic fiction is the lack of happy endings - or at least, endings that fit my criteria for putting aside the book with a goofy smile on my face and a gentle pat on its glossy cover. I am happy to tell you that Reunited does end on a good note - in spite of the old resentments, and the lost concert tickets, and a particularly awful night in New Orleans.

Long story. I think you should just read it for yourself. As it is, I think my spoiler filter is being stretched to the max. Just, hang on until June - or better yet, plan a large road trip, kidnap one or two friends, and have a good excuse to read it for yourself.

Just...make sure they're willing victims. Or you'll find yourself in a big mess of your own.

Warnings (or, stuff that I would NOT pack in the backseat for that week-long road trip): A lot of innuendo. Personally, I think that could be taken out and spare the plot completely. Also, I think there are one or two

instances of language, a mention of a philandering father - and a boyfriend - and some kissing.

Hallie says

I was going to give this a two-and-a-half-star rating, rounded up, but then saw the average rating here and decided to go with my first thought, which was to round down. Read this on the recommendation of someone I'd never taken a rec from before, because I liked the sound of a funny road-trip story with a broken friendship that gets repaired over the course of the road-trip/book. But. I thought the execution of the story was quite weak, with that sort of characterization that relies on over-the-top stereotypes to distinguish the three ex-friends. They **are** distinguishable, at any rate, but they never felt at all real. There could have been a lot more editing to get rid of repetitive lines that became quite annoying, like whoever's the one atm putting on "a bad Southern accent".

Alice, who owns the VW van in which the three head off across country, is supposed to be organised, good-girl, responsible - so organised she's a control-freak, in fact - which is a bit tired in itself, but also falls apart when she behaves in a highly irresponsible manner.

Here's where I go into full-on disapproving mode. I have NO idea whether it's as easy as it is in the book to find multiple bars in New Orleans that don't make any attempt to card obviously underage kids. I don't **like** the fact that teens in large numbers will get themselves shit-faced, in situations in which it's really, really less safe than it *normally* is to get so drunk you don't know what you're doing. But in this case, the three are clearly stupid enough not to have thought through the possible dangers of going out in New Orleans in order to drink (a lot), the night before they've another long highway drive ahead of them. And they won't even let Alice report that her bag's been stolen - though it's the bag with her driver's licence in it. Aaaand Alice gets up the next morning, throws up a lot, and gets in her van to drive - either towards home (1500+ miles, which she thinks they can make in 1 day) or to Texas (5 + hours' drive). Aaaand then when they decide to go on to Texas, they compound the driving drunk (chances of her being sober at this point are very, very slim) & stupid by deciding to make it on time for a contest, saying "screw the speed limit". This is NOT cool, and it's NOT cute. This is the kind of thing that kills people, and I'd hope that it's not only adult readers who'd notice and be disgusted at this.

I was also disappointed and irritated to see a bunch of nasty fat-slams apparently in there to contribute to the "funny". Had there been anything to indicate that the three teens were just showing their immaturity and cluelessness it might have been okay, but there was nothing of the sort. Making "jokes" like "Instead of a flat boat, they should have called it a *fat* boat" doesn't show a sense of humour - just a prejudice and willingness to join in society's abuse of fat people.

Yes, I did finish it, and this write-up is based on a reading from start to finish.

Andrea says

Three high school graduates. One pea green VW bus. A roadtrip to Austin to see their favorite band, Level3, reunited. REUNITED had all the makings for the exact sort of Contemporary Young Adult story I love.

The girls who make up REUNITED are three very different, distinct girls. Alice is the organizer. She is a

sweet, well-meaning but a bit exasperating control freak. Tiernan is the rebel. She's abrasive, infuriating, uses humor to mask emotion, and I completely adored her. Summer is the sweetheart. She's gorgeous and popular, but feels as if she doesn't have a voice. Jealousy, miscommunication and a lie tore their friendship apart. Will close quarters bring them back together, or tear them apart forever?

REUNITED was extremely well-written. Hilary Wiseman Graham's writing was well-paced and very readable. The narrative was excellent. The changing point of view were easy to navigate. I never had to struggle to keep going.

As far as the story goes, I really enjoyed it. As an adult, I can look back and see so much of myself and my friends in these characters. I have to say, it made me nostalgic and more than a little sad. I appreciate the fact that while there are a couple of instances involving the three and the guys they meet along the way, this book isn't about a girl trying to get a guy. This book is about the Alice, Tiernan, and Summer. Plain and simple. I wish there were more stories like this, about friendship, out there. The only thing I didn't love about the story was the ending. Yes, it was cute and very neat. But after all the girls had been through, it felt like one too many obstacles and then an unrealistic turn of events. This could just be me, being nit picky, but it felt a tad too cutesy. But still, I did smile.

REUNITED is a sweet, endearing and thoughtful book about the struggles of self and friendship. I would enthusiastically recommend it to fans of The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants series.

Favorite Quote:

"Alice didn't want to over sentimentalize it, but it did seem like a rather strange coincidence that the three of them had wound up at the edge of the very same soccer field where they'd first met and become friends back in the fourth grade. Even stranger was the fact that they'd now spent more time giving closure to a dead squirrel than they had to the death of their five-year friendship." (pg 45, ARC)

Mary (BookHounds) says

MY THOUGHTS
LOVED IT

Take three best friends from junior high with one giant misunderstanding that causes them to hate each other, mix in some musical love and give them four years to marinated and grow up and you will get this wonderful debut, Reunited. Alice, the brainy one, hears an advertisement for a reunion concert for the band Level3 and buys tickets thinking they could all reunite as well and road trip to the show. The trio of girls had seriously bonded over the group when they were in middle school but after a major fallout in their freshman year, stopped speaking to each other. Summer, had grown extremely popular, while Tiernan was shuttled off to boarding school after rebelling from her parents divorce.

The three have little in common anymore and each has their own reasons for agreeing to go with Alice in the Pea Pod, a now-restored green VW camper that they had used as a club house while growing up. Summer

has a boyfriend that turns out to be a cheater while Tiernan is escaping from another grounding from a run in with her mother. Alice just wants to relive the friendship and bond that they once had. Of course, the trip is anything but smooth and each character shows strength and resources that help explain why they were once so close. They don't realize until the end that this has been the trip of a lifetime and when it is almost too late discover that their friendship is really true.

I just adored this sweet story. No guys, no sex, just wonderful female self discovery and girl power that keep everything real while being fanciful at the same time. It is full of adventure with each twist and turn of the road they travel in their last big hurrah after high school. I enjoyed how each made a major self discovery and remembered why they were once friends. This is well suited for older teens since there is once mention of alcohol which doesn't end well and some hooking up but nothing too graphic. This is chick lit for the younger set but one that adult should love as well.

Books are TARDIS says

Top 10 reasons to really LIKE this book:

- 1) Road Trip!
- 2) Friendship is the focus which is a refreshing change.
- 3) A story about fallout between friends.
- 4) We all have that one (*cough* or ten *cough*) bands from early (*cough* or late *cough*) teen-hood we crazily obsessed and made googly eyes over.
- 5) I happily searched the recesses of my music archives for pop bands from back in the day to play with the book.
- 6) I pretended that Level3 was Hanson.
- 7) Fan-girling in the book, lots of it!
- 8) This Scooby-Doo (1976 VW) bus
- 9) Concert fever

(view spoiler)

Katie McGarry says

What an amazingly written book! Graham has done the very difficult job of capturing the distinct voices of three very different girls.

But what I found the most enduring is that Graham nails the crazy emotions of three ex-best friends struggling to find independence in the world surrounding them while trying to rebuild their friendship.

Friendships are never easy and, as we grow up, our insecurities can destroy ourselves and our relationships. Graham delves into this world, mastering the right moments to reveal each girl's insecurity and showing how their once strong friendship was destroyed.

I absolutely loved, that during the road trip, each girl discovered something about themselves that helped them become a stronger individual while at the same time helped them patch their friendship.

Well done! Very well done!

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Reunited is one of those stories that stays with you for some time. I have read lot's of road trip books and I loved them all and when I read Reunited it reminded me of The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants how they all start out as best friends and then there are little things that build to big things and there is a fallout and the girls are no longer friends.

In Reunited Summer, Tiernan, and Alice are best friends who do everything together and even love the same band Level3. Then Freshmen year something happens and the girls are no longer friends. Summer is popular in school and Tiernan is shipped off to boarding school after she starts acting out because of her parents divorce then you have outgoing and easy going Alice. After graduating high school the girls find out Level3 is coming together for one last gig and they decide to go see them. The only thing is they will have to travel miles to see the band in the pea green VW that used to be their playhouse.

As the girls venture on this trip they will go through highs and lows and through it all discover who they are and where they want to be. This is an adventure where they will restore their friendship or leave it broken. This story is about facing what went wrong and learning to forgive and move on. Hilary does an excellent job of grabbing you and sucking you in so much so you don't realize you at the end of the story until you turn the page and there are no more pages. I truly loved this book and I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT AS A BEACH READ!

Jessica (Goldenfurpro) says

This and other reviews can be found on The Psychotic Nerd

MY THOUGHTS

This book didn't wow me, but I thought it was a very fun story about friendships, and non-friendships.

Alice, Summer, and Tiernan used to be best friends, obsessing over the band Level3. Once they reached high school, the band broke up and so did the girls. Now the girls have graduated and a one time reunion concert from Level3 is happening many miles away. Alice automatically buys three tickets to the concert and decides to ask her ex-friends to come with her, hoping they can mend their old friendship on the road. Easier said than done.

This book has the prevalent plot of them traveling all the way to Texas for the concert. It is not easy at all. Not only do they have to deal with the fact that they are no longer friends, but the trip is a complete mess. They run into so much trouble along the way with just their car, the concert, and just the trip in general. Road trips are never easy aren't they? Add in three no-longer-friends who may still have a few problems with each other and are complete opposites and you have even more problems. So, you have a mess of drama, adventure, yet there's still some fun.

As I mentioned, this book is about the friendship. The three girls grow into getting along and figuring their problems out. That's what I really liked about it. I liked seeing these old friends get together and stick with one another through this hard trip, yet still have fun and even become friends again. Also, from the start these ex-friends may have hard feelings for each other (except for Alice. She's the nice girl who tries to fix things), but you could tell that there's still something between them. Why else would they do this? I know I'm rambling, but I just found it oddly wonderful.

Also, there really isn't any romance in this book! There are some brief mentions, but they never take up the story!

IN CONCLUSION

Overall, I liked this book. It's a really nice contemporary book with adventure, friends, and a very eventful road trip. If you enjoy books with road trips and friendships, this is the one for you!

Lenore Appelhans says

1. The squirrel scene will likely be the funniest thing I read all year. Hilar!
2. I love the serendipity of road trips and how anything can happen. Sure, this particular road trip has its share of mishaps, but they ALL result in excellent stories to tell the grandkids one day.
3. The way these three girls friendship revolved around a band and then imploded around the time the band broke up resonates, and it's fitting that Alice believes the band's reunification means it's time to patch up the friendship.
4. Each of the girls feels very distinct and fleshed out. I could easily sympathize with all of them.
5. The ending surprises but is so very cool.
