



## **The Day We Met**

*Dusti Bowling*

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Sixteen-year-old Lenna James goes to church, attends youth group, and hangs out with the "church geeks" at school. At least, she did. Enticed by a chance with the boy she's had a crush on for years, Lenna abandons her values and her lifelong friends to hang out with the popular crowd. What she gets in return couldn't be further from her expectations.

Feeling used and alone and facing an unexpected pregnancy, Lenna struggles to regain control of her life, her parents' trust, and the love of her best friend, Will. But when her pregnancy takes an unexpected turn, taking away what little control she thought she had, she must find the strength to make the most heart-wrenching decision of all.

A beautiful story of love, faith, and forgiveness, *The Day We Met* will make you laugh, make you cry, and touch your heart forever.

## **The Day We Met Details**

Date : Published November 7th 2013 by Ketina Publishing House (first published November 16th 2011)

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Author : Dusti Bowling

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Genre : Young Adult, Christian Fiction, Christian, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Day We Met for online ebook

### Kristie Kercheval says

I bought this while perusing through the list of top rated children's fiction on Amazon. It was only 99 cents, and it was about a high school girl who wasn't sure about hanging with her church friends. Hmmmm, plus it was an independently published book with such good ratings? Sounds interesting. I loaded it before leaving town for work, and didn't come to it in my queue until I had finished a couple other books first. By that time I had forgotten i had even downloaded it. So I began reading the first chapter which takes place at a party, and by the time the main character is in an upstairs bathroom washing some spilled beer off her skirt I was hooked. The story is written in first person, but is straight forward without trying to be "cool." I think the absence of hipster language will give this book a longer shelf life.

Bowling does a great job of writing a believable real life problems story from a Christian worldview without being either cheesy or too R-rated. It isn't preachy and the characters aren't perfect, yet it communicates hope and grace better than most books I've read in this genre. It's also a cautionary tale that I would not hesitate to hand over to even the most sheltered 8th grader. I think it would actually be a great book for a book club of young girls (even guys) to discuss some of the things Lenna faces in the book regarding her faith, friends, boys, judging others and the sanctity of life.

There are a couple nit-picky things I didn't agree with in the book. For instance, I would have had Pastor Ted communicate things little differently with Lenna. I think he could have acknowledged that she did sin but that God was ready to forgive. What makes God's love so amazing is that we are all so undeserving because we are all bent on living lives our own way apart from God's help. Overall, though, I did love the scene and thought Bowling did an amazing job with the interaction between the two characters without being sappy.

This book was a total surprise. I cried several times, and that is not my usual response to teen fiction. I hope Bowling has more books on the way. I'll be looking for them.

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### Miriam says

There were some things I liked about this book quite a bit. I felt that the voice of the main character was pretty genuine, and the last few chapters were very sensitively written. However, I am not a huge fan of books that start off in the middle and then use flashbacks to get me caught up. I don't feel that the character is established well enough before she gets pregnant--the book blurb tells us she is a "church nerd," but we don't really see that in the text. Her disconnection from church starts even before the Halloween party, but we don't really know why. And while I was glad that the author skipped the actual scene where she loses her virginity, it would have been good to know more about what is going on in her head--much later she says that she went through with it because of peer pressure, but it takes a long time for that to be established.

The other thing that bothered me was that in one spot the main character admits that she had a choice and she made it, and then in other places she expresses the feeling that God meant for all this to happen; one of the characters says that "everything happens for a reason." I think I understand what the author is trying to say, but I'm not sure the text really conveys that.

I did like the way the author dealt with the topic of abortion and birth defects--the main character's reasoning

behind her decision to go through with the pregnancy is clearly conveyed and supports a pro-life stance without getting too much into the various arguments that are often used. It seems appropriate for the character.

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### **Jessica says**

HOLY CRAP! This book made me cry its about teen pregnancy a girl has sex for the first time with the guy she has a crush on and ends up pregnant and he wants nothing to do with it he wants an abortion. She knows she can't do that so decides on adoption and then ends up she can't do that because the baby isn't going to live because it has a very rare disease. The girl starts to blame God for everything that has happened and goes into a major depression that her family fears she won't make it out of.

This book was so emotional and talked a lot about faith and God (which isn't my cup of tea, but works for this story) and it breaks my heart for all the moms that have to go through what this girl had to deal with.

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### **Kassy says**

Loved this book! I had come across this while looking for another. This book was so worth coming upon. This book shows how one can lose their way and yet find their way back to God. No matter what takes place there is always a way to have love and faith in what is not in your hand.

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### **Loren says**

As an Independent Book Reviewer, I find it a huge honor and privilege to read so many amazing books, as well as work with some awesome publishing companies. I receive numerous emails weekly offering me opportunities to read and review a vast array of genres, authors, and story lines. Some come from authors I have never worked with in the past, or maybe not heard of before. Honestly, I tend to stick with those I know and have worked with closely; however, there are times when I've stepped out of my comfort zone and found that book that speaks to me in a way I didn't expect. Dusti Bowling, the author of "The Day We Met," certainly falls in this category. Here's why:

"The Day We Met" is a beautiful story of unconditional love, friendships, and powerful life lessons for young and old alike.

Lenna is a typical 16 year old. She has a great family, and a close group of friends. She and her friends are most definitely not in the "Popular" category, but rather, the "church geeks." Lenna attends church with her Mom and Dad and is involved in their youth group. As with many teens, Lenna goes to church because it is what her family does. She hasn't experienced what it means to have her "Own" relationship or walk with God.

Lenna has had a crush on a certain young man, Aidan, for what seems like, forever. Aidan is very good-looking and just happens to be the most popular guy in school, and sadly, has no idea who Lenna is. One

day, Lenna is asked by one of the "popular" girls to attend one of "their" parties. Lenna is certain that Aidan will be there and in all of her thoughts, hopes, and even nervousness, preparing for this party, she never could've believed she would find herself in a bedroom, alone with the boy of her dreams, patting a place on the bed where he sat, and hearing the words, "come and sit down."

Lenna experiences all of her "firsts" with Aidan. She quickly learns, however, Aidan could care less what happened behind those closed bedroom doors. He returns to his life, his friends, and not acknowledging Lenna in anyway whatsoever. That is, until, he is given the news that she is pregnant with his child.

"The Day We Met" will take you on an emotional journey, sharing the thoughts, hurts, and fears experienced by Lenna, her parents, and those whom she calls "friend." Lenna is such a brave and courageous young woman who learns at such a young age, the lessons of how our choices can change our life in just a matter of moments. It is what we do with those lessons that make us who we are. Learning what it means to come to a place where we can either choose to walk with Christ and allow Him to bring goodness to what seems an impossible situation. I was moved to tears many times and truly appreciated the support system that the author gave Lenna in this story. Seeing the vulnerable side of her parents as they too walk through all the questions and concerns, as well as, lessons of their own, that this situation brings was just beautiful and so moving.

I live in a town that has a very high teen pregnancy rate. Sadly, I have seen too many times the devastation that comes to those who are like Aidan and his family when they deny responsibility. On the other hand, I have also seen the blessings that come to those who come face to face with the truth of their actions and choices. When we cling to Christ we can face any storm, any situation, no matter how difficult they may seem.

I would highly recommend this book to Boys and Girls alike ages 13/14 & up, Youth Pastors, and to Jr. High and Highschool teachers. They could not only read this book but might even be able to share it with someone who could truly benefit from reading Lenna's story.

Thank you Dusti Bowling for allowing me the privilege of reading and reviewing your book! "The Day We Met" is a definite 5 ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥'s!!!

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### **Revati Ragini says**

a stupid decision that leads to a horrible situation. what should have been a heart-breaking story.... just wasn't. i find myself unable to sympathise with this character, i found her annoying and immature and she was just plain stupid most of the time. people make mistakes, and her's turned out very sad, but i can't love a book if i don't love the main character.

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### **Christine Lockamy says**

I'm not really into religious books. Which was the biggest downfall of this book. I'm LDS, and I believe I have found the middle ground between preachy and indifferent. I don't push my beliefs of people, but I make

them aware I am open to discussion. I too went through a tough time with my faith as a teenager, but this girl is just moronic, and the way her family, friends, and religious leaders deal with her lack of spirituality is so off putting it annoyed me. Its like, between the plot points, someone will say "you should pray" and everyone is professing their faith in God in such a superficial way, they never mention anything specific about it. And it just didn't feel like it was a REAL part of the story. Its like, she wrote the books, and realized if it wasn't labeled Christian Fiction no one would read it. Sorry. I did enjoy the book, but the way that faith and religion was dealt with was just aggravating, and made me almost put it down several times.

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### **Korie Cox says**

Oh, where do I begin? I think most of us remember what it's like to be a teenager. So many long to be accepted by the "popular" crowd, and for a Christian teen that can be quite a bit of a challenge. This story is about how far one girl went to gain that acceptance, and how quickly she realized that it wasn't at all what she'd imagined.

Lenna is such a \*real\* teenager. I love how the author was able to tap in to that personality so effectively. She isn't graceful, she is very self-conscious, and ultimately she is very confused. This book literally made me laugh out loud at times, and also made me flat-out sob (I am a mother of 3, so naturally I was thinking about my own pregnancies and how I would've reacted in Lenna's situation). Heather is the BFF of my dreams! She is so kind and straight-forward.

I was honored to win a signed(!!!) copy of this book through the Goodreads giveaways. The moment I finished I went and purchased the Kindle edition of her other two books! This author is NOT afraid to tackle hard issues. Highly recommend!

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### **Chandra says**

GENRE: Inspirational, Contemporary

SETTING: 2009 (somewhere USA)

#### **CENTRAL FEMALE CHARACTER:**

LENNA is a practical high school girl. She is not part of the "in" crowd. She should be in church but she stopped going.

HEATHER is a great friend and one to encourage.

#### **CENTRAL MALE CHARACTER:**

WILL has changed lunch tables and avoids Lenna.

AIDEN is a guy that all the high school girls have a crush on and he uses this fact well.

**SYNOPSIS:** Taking responsibility can often be denied. You always have the nosy ones that will dig to gossip. Some judge you and avoid. Some avoid because of anger and some just love you for who you are. Regardless, this is the story surrounding Jeremiah.

**WHAT I LIKED:** Get a box of tissue and ride the waive of your faith and your life. Prepare for some humor. Above all remember HIS sacrifice and especially HIS love.

**WHAT I DID NOT LIKE:** At first I found the main character chatty. I was WRONG as I read through the book.

This book gets (5) stars it was so thought provoking. I'm not kidding. It really was thought provoking. I'm serious. Does GOD really hate you? Now on my list of favs and will rereads.

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### **Megan Hoelscher says**

I downloaded this book to my Kindle because it was free and was looking for a different book to change up my normal reading. Well i'm glad I downloaded this book. I finished this book in one day and I was left crying my eyes out at the end with it. As a teenage mother myself I could relate to this and all the things going through her head. Dusti Bowling did an amazing job handling the struggles Lenna was facing. At first I thought while reading this book it was just going to be another book about a teenager having a baby by a guy that didn't want to be a part of it. The book took a drastic turn when she went for an ultrasound and found out something was wrong with her baby. What I truly love was this book wasn't just about teen pregnancy, but also finding your way back to God when you have gotten off the path. Everything that happens in your life is because God has a plan for you, you may not understand it at the time and you may keep asking him "why me?" but in the end it always turns out the way it was meant to be. I feel that this book should be a mandatory read for all youth groups at Church, it will teach them to trust in God and also let them see that if they do end up having sex before marriage pregnancy can happen and sometimes it doesn't always turn out with a healthy baby.

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### **Sara says**

The most perfect way to describe this book is to say that it is a true love story between a mother, her baby, and God.

I went into this book thinking that it was going to be a tale of a teenage mother and her baby and the struggles she faces when the father chooses to not be part of the life of the baby. But this book was so much more than that. I was a story of teenage girl who has to find the courage and strength that she forgets she has to face the hard truth that her unborn child is very very ill.

This book made me cry while reading it. It made me cry when I finished it. Even now each time I speak about it I cry some more. No other book has yet to have such a lasting impression on me.

But what I loved most about this book, was that it reminds you that no matter how angry you are with your self or God, He still loves you. You watch this girl leave that path of God angry and sad, and slowly find her back in her own time, for her own reasons. She is able to find strength and courage to live and love herself and her baby.

It left me emotionally drained and wondering how I would react if I were in her shoes carrying a baby I knew that I might not be able to keep.

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### **Lisa says**

In this book the major event was teen pregnancy and struggles. The major character in this book is a young teen named Lenna James who one day goes to a party and has a little too much fun and ends up getting pregnant by a boy in her school that is very popular and whom shes had a crush on since forever. When Lenna finds out she is pregnant and tells the boy He wants absolutely NOTHING to do with the pregnancy. Lenna ends up alone having to deal with the struggles of being pregnant. During her pregnancy as time goes by and she starts to get more ultrasounds she finds out that her pregnancy isn't going so good, and her best friend will is being distant. Lenna feels as though this is gods way of punishing her for being pregnant. She goes and talks to her paster from her church club and learns that god isn't punishing her, that these struggles and complications are just apart of life and that the only thing god does is to give you the strength to go through the struggles. Near the end of the story will shows up to the hospital where Lenna is gonna be giving birth at and apologizes for all the wrongs he did and him being a jerk towards her. In the end of the book Lenna gives birth to her son Jeremiah who only has a couple minutes to live. After Jeremiah passed away a year later lenna is at the grave with will and they leave little knickknacks for him.

I think this book was really good and i would definitely recommend it. It shows you the struggles of being a teen AND also being pregnant and what type of complications it can bring into your life. There was nothing i didn't like in the book. While reading this book it made me think about the fact that every pregnancy teenage or not a teenager its not all easy and perfect, they can come with complications. If i could ask the author a question i'd ask what made her write a book like this?

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### **Jade says**

#### **Love it!**

Love this book makes me cry every time would recommend this to anyone brilliant story no words can say how good this book is

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### **K says**

What to say about this book that would do it any kind of justice... This book was about loss of faith and one young woman's ability to refind it in a heart wrenching situation. The author took the reader on what, for me spiritually, was a recognizable journey, seeing ones ability to blame God for their trials instead of realizing that not only is he not the cause but that he's waiting there to be trusted with the burden. A perfectly paced and beautifully written story...I'm grateful to have found it.

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### **Hrtnsoul28 says**

A beautiful story about the love a young girl has for her baby. I don't normally read many religious books as I have my own issues with GOD. I believe in a higher power but not sure I believe in just one God. Anyway

the book was very wonderful and made me cry not in sorrow but in the miracle of birth and love.

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