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Things I Can't Forget (Hundred Oaks)



Synopsis

"A must read...I couldn't put it down." •Simone Elkeles on *Catching Jordan* From the bestselling author of *Catching Jordan* comes a new teen romance sure to appeal to fans of Sarah Dessen. **SOME RULES WERE MEANT TO BE BROKEN.** Kate has always been the good girl. Too good, according to some people at school—although they have no idea the guilty secret she carries. But this summer, everything is different...This summer she's a counselor at Cumberland Creek summer camp, and she wants to put the past behind her. This summer Matt is back as a counselor too. He's the first guy she ever kissed, and he's gone from geeky songwriter who loved *The Hardy Boys* to a buff lifeguard who loves to flirt...with her. Kate used to think the world was black and white, right and wrong. Turns out, life isn't that easy...Praise for Miranda Keaneally: "Fresh, fearless, and totally romantic." •Sarah Ockler, bestselling author of the *Twenty Boy Summer* "Catching Jordan is the romantic comedy I've been waiting for. I loved it!" •Jennifer Echols, author of *Such a Rush* "An incredibly well-written, beautiful story that balances romance, drama, and comedy perfectly." •Bookish, on *Stealing Parker*

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (103 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I'm going to start by stressing that I am not religious. Not at all. For this reason, I tend to be annoyed by books that push religion at me or that in any way promote, display, depict... you got the gist. So that I rated it so high in itself speaks volumes. The story is about holier-than-thou Kate, who goes to

work as a counselor in a Christian camp during the summer. She's just lost her best friend Emily, who's been kicked out of the house after they discovered she got an abortion. Kate helped her getting it and her sense of guilt, as a friend and as a Christian, is overwhelming. Her beliefs, self righteousness, conception of sin and of what's right or wrong are strong and very much black and white. For a good part of the book - and for someone maybe for the totality of it - Kate is not a character that one can easily like. She's judgmental, her vision of the world is restricted to her little community, so much so that she got on my nerves almost immediately. Take Parker, take Will, and - le sigh - take Matt. These are likable characters, normal, reasonable, good kids, good at heart not only because they're good Christians (in fact, if you remember Parker from the previous book, you know she messed up quite a lot). However, what really stands out here and makes this book an almost five star read for me, is the depth of Kate's spiritual growth. There are some big topics tackled in this book and I have to say, they are really well explored. Through Kate's eyes, and with the help of some other characters - her dad's speech, in particular - we see her questioning what she believes and striving to understand what it is that she really believes versus what's been fed to her.

Kate was supposed to attend Cumberland Creek Camp with her best friend, Emily. They were supposed to be counselors this year, but recently, Emily and Kate had a blow-out after Emily got pregnant and had an abortion. Even though Kate took her to the doctor's office, it went against everything Kate believes in, and she is having a very hard time dealing with it. Determined to put her losses behind her (not only has she lost Emily, but after a knee injury, she was also forced to quit playing soccer), Kate starts her job at the camp, reconnecting with Matt, a guy she hasn't seen in years -- the guy who was her first kiss. Matt has blossomed from a nerdy, scrawny kid into a super-hot college guy, and Kate can't stay away, even though she doesn't agree with some of the things he does. As the weeks pass, Matt and Kate grow closer and Kate is tested both spiritually and emotionally. She learns that life isn't always perfect and things aren't always black and white. Sometimes it's best to just accept the gray. I will shamefully admit that until recently, I hadn't read any of Ms. Kenneally's books. (Don't judge!) I read *Catching Jordan* last month and really enjoyed it. With all of the books I had to review, I wasn't able to get to *Stealing Parker* before reading this book (and I wish I had, because Parker is a major character). With that being said, I still enjoyed this one. In fact I liked it even more than *Catching Jordan*. Kate, the MC, was a breath of fresh air even though I have to admit that when I started the book, I prepped myself to be really put off by her. Within the first chapter or two, it's clear that Kate has a very close relationship with God. Now, don't

get me wrong -- I'm not put off by religion in the least.

I love Miranda Kenneally's writing. I hope that she writes for years to come! Although this book doesn't have the sporty title like the two before it, and although it doesn't really involve sports, doesn't stop this book from rocking like the first two. This book is heavily focused on religion, mainly on Kate's beliefs and where they fit into her life. At first I didn't really like Kate, I thought she was judgemental and almost snobbish, and she was, but then you start to realize that's the point because throughout the novel we see a change in Kate. Not necessarily in her beliefs, but she starts to realize that everyone is entitled to their own. And that is one of the main reasons I loved this book. It talks about religion, but, in my opinion, it talks about how it should be treated. This novel is different than the first two. Not really any sports, the boys are different, and Jordan Woods comes back and actually talks in this one. Not to mention Parker is actually a pretty key character here too! At first I was a little worried about where this book was going but within a couple of chapters I was a goner and knew that I loved it. Good: Kate--she isn't trying to be rude or judgemental, she's just trying to figure things out and making mistakes along the way. Matt--He puts his jeep doors back on and wears flip-flops just for her. Bad: The only thing I didn't like is the fact that Megan was not really explained (she was kind of picking solely on her and someone should have told her to shove it!), and Brad. I felt like Brad's story was unfinished. Overall (Writing style, story line, and general): Overall this book was awesome. I loved how each chapter was her sketching what she is re-telling us.

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