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Tell Me Something Real



Synopsis

Three sisters struggle with the bonds that hold their family together as they face a darkness settling over their lives in this masterfully written debut novel. There are three beautiful blond Babcock sisters: gorgeous and foul-mouthed Adrienne, observant and shy Vanessa, and the youngest and best-loved, Marie. Their mother is ill with leukemia and the girls spend a lot of time with her at a Mexican clinic across the border from their San Diego home so she can receive alternative treatments. Vanessa is the middle child, a talented pianist who is trying to hold her family together despite the painful loss that they all know is inevitable. As she and her sisters navigate first loves and college dreams, they are completely unaware that an illness far more insidious than cancer poisons their home. Their world is about to shatter under the weight of an incomprehensible betrayal |

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lyrical, beautiful, heartrending. Devlin skillfully weaves a tale of a family dealing with a mother's terminal cancer and impending death. But she doesn't leave it there. Instead, she seeds in hints--gentle nudges of foreboding, clues that all is not as it seems. This is not a simple story of loss and grief--but rather an uncovering of insidious betrayal experienced in different ways by a compelling trio of sisters. Set in San Diego, 1976, Devlin roots us in the lives of three suburban daughters (two of them teenagers) who each in their own way strives to assist their ailing mother, fulfill her neglected parental responsibilities, and traverse the trials of interrupted

childhoods. Poignant and powerful, a story that stays with you.

Not sure what I was thinking when I first got this book. I think it was maybe the cover of the book that caught my eye or I really like the publisher and based by trust in this book because of that. This book was pretty interesting. I will admit that this book was pretty slow during the first half, I found that the pace was too slow and I kept losing interest. After the second half I had a hard time putting the book down. Thing was throughout the book I got the sense that something was off and when the second half of the book came I realized and put the pieces together to see the bigger pictures of what was going on. This book is basically about family life dealing with their mothers cancer and trying to make life as normal as possible with the situation they are in. The one character I liked best was Vanessa. I actually seen a bit of myself in her. She's selfless putting others before herself, she was the strong one in the family. Even though she was the middle child she took on the role of caretaker in the house caring for her sick mother and making sure the family was in general ok. She didn't have to do half the things she did, she's a kid and needs to stay there not worry about everyone else. I wish that the father wasn't so absent in the girls lives, then everything wouldn't have happened the way it did. But then again its a good thing or else this book wouldn't exist. I did worry for the youngest though Marie wondering how everything was going to impact her but its a good thing she held strong to her faith to seek some sense and guidance though that. When it came to that middle half I was not at all expecting this book to turn out like that it was a pleasant surprised and I learned a bit from it. Overall this was a pretty good book. I'd rate it maybe 3.5 stars.

Wow, this book isn't what I expected, but I'm so glad it's what I got! It reminded me a bit of *The Virgin Suicides* with the images of close knit sisterhood, the time frame, and a summer sweltering in the miasma of tragedy. At the same time, it isn't like anything else I've read regarding plot. I'll admit it threw me for a loop as much as it did the characters. I love that Vanessa is the perspective chosen to tell this story. She understands enough about what is happening to be clear, but it is her innocence and confusion about the events that give this tale the right tone. While her experience is unique, her feelings are universal ones, particularly when she fears her own future is out of her hands before she could ever touch it. Her emotions and conflicted choices feel honest and ring true. The same applies to the the feelings her siblings express. I thought the romance would play a bigger part in the story, but I'm glad the author chose to give a more realistic portrayal of how life can offer some of its greatest joys at the same time as it hands you it's biggest betrayals - most of the time it's the bad stuff that consumes you, but it's the good stuff that can harbor you in the storm.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I think my high school readers will as well. It's definitely going on my classroom library wishlist. Language and situations are appropriate for high school readers, but adults will find it just as compelling. I received an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

This book is beautifully crafted. The characters are so diverse and believable, and you find yourself sympathizing with each of them in very different ways. The story is a real page turner, and takes you in a direction you never expected. It has incredible heart, but also surprise, and leaves you speechless. It's a story I will never forget. I loved this book!

'Tell Me Something Real' is the story of three sisters dealing with a mother who has cancer. They must work through the complexity of their family dynamics to be there for their mother. The story is told through the first person account of Vanessa, the middle daughter. I am always fascinated by the dynamics of sisters. I don't have a sister myself but see, through my own daughter's, that sister relationships can be one of the most complex and unpredictable. I loved how this relationship played out in the story. I also know that the process of dealing with a dying family member is one of the most heart wrenching and trying times a family can go through. I really enjoyed this novel. I thought the characters were well developed and realistic and I thought the plot twist was interesting. I also loved the premise of the story. I have not read any other novels on this topic but I think it will resonate with many, as most of us have been in a situation of dealing with a terminal illness of someone we love.

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