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The Lake (The Lake Series, Book 1)



Synopsis

At 17, Layla Weston is already starting over. Having lost both her parents and grandparents, and with nowhere else to go, Layla is moving from Florida to a small town in North Carolina to live with the only family she has left: her estranged uncle and aunt. The last five years of Layla's life were spent appeasing her less-than-loving grandmother, followed by being her grandfather's caretaker. Growing old before her time, Layla lost her identity. Now she must learn how to allow herself to be the one cared for and loved. Life takes an unexpected turn when Layla meets Will Meyer. His breathtaking good looks are enough to catch her eye, but his sincerity and passion are everything she needs to find the strength and confidence she lost and lead her into love. When tragedy once again strikes Layla's life, her hope is all but completely crushed. Through it all, Layla learns what it means to truly love and be loved.

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Customer Reviews

Very surprised by this book. Teen romance novels are not my genre. It was this book's cover art and title that drew me to download (free) to my kindle in the first place. I'd read every other book I had available, was away from any wifi, so opened this up and started reading. The story opens with

some powerful visuals of a young girl/woman, her grandparents, a small home in southern Florida. Since I'm not into Romance novels, and especially Teen Romance, my first instinct was to close this and play a game, or re-read one of my other titles. However, it was the powerful storyline that kept me reading, and reading, and reading some more. We've all dealt with the story's antagonist type at some point in our lives. We've all loved, and lost, and loved again (hopefully) at some point in our lives. This story draws out of the main character Layla, her forced guilt, her drive to overcome, her victories, and her many losses. All to bring things full circle, back to love, family, safety, security, and redemption, and more loss. And I know I said I'm not into teen romance novels, but I had to get to the end of the story, so I actually purchased the 2nd and 3rd installments of this story - "Troubled Waters" and "Safe Harbor". The dialogue is very clean, one can find worse language in family friendly TV. And aside from only a few minor editing oops, I found this to be an excellent book. I would give 4.5 stars if I could. Annalisa has done a fantastic job in creating a work that would appeal to reader of all ages.

Layla and Will where to begin? Okay so I read some reviews that were not very flattering and said this book was slow. I entered reading this book knowing there are two more AND a novella. Layla lost her parents at age 12, was raised by grandparents until they passed when she was 17. Then she is shipped off to live with her only living relatives her Uncle Luke and Aunt Clair who she had not seen since she was very young. This is the set up book folks. New friends, new school, new "situations". This book is anything but slow and I enjoyed every single minute. Even before I finished this book I knew I would want to read more so I bought the entire series including the Novella for \$3.99. FYI, book 1 is totally Free! Go grab it and get started. PS- This YA and there is absolutely no sex in book 1. If you have a MS or HS'er in your house, this is a totally appropriate book for that age group.

I selected this book based on the many 4 and 5-star reviews; however I probably should have read more of the 1 and 2-star reviews first! Since it's a YA book, I knew that I couldn't expect any adult themes or situations; however the plot was so simplified and lacking in meaningful action and a narrative arc, that I was very bored. The young couple fell in love practically at first sight, but their relationship never goes anywhere - one misunderstanding after another, no insightful revelations and conversations, but they're still together. The ending, which felt rushed and incongruous, has obviously set up the reader for the next book in the trilogy but I won't be continuing on in this series... Perhaps the simplistic character development and plot will appeal more to younger readers.

I found this book to be very interesting. It was mysterious, dark at times, romantic in ways, and overall I just really liked it. I got it for free on the other day and thought, "Why not?" so here we are. After reading it I have to say I cannot wait to read the next two books in the trilogy. The characters are AMAZING and I wanted to help them with everything I had! I was beginning to get the creepy feeling from Marcus and I'm sad about that because I really liked him in the beginning. I felt like he would have made a really good friend to have, and while he did do some "friend-like" things, I just don't feel like he is doing it as a "friend" I think he has ulterior motives. Will...what can I say about gorgeous Will??? Not only is he drool worthy, but he finally has come out from under his father's thumb and stood up for himself, even though I feel like this could be the beginning of a HUGE journey for Layla and Will, and Layla's Aunt and Uncle. The way the book ends does leave you hanging, but luckily the other books are already out haha.

I thought it was well written but the story itself is what I didn't enjoy. The writer was very descriptive about the emotions within and between the characters, so she's painted the pictures well. Except, they weren't quite fitting. Two teenagers just met, and a few weeks later, they were SO IN LOVE, and their love was described so deeply like they were married for a thousand years. And it just dwelled on those emotions for so long that I caught myself skipping paragraphs because it's gotten almost so annoying. I did appreciate the relationship with the aunt and uncle though. It was touching.

This was a great book, had a good pace but sometimes I felt it was a bit slow. There was too much tragedy in Layla's life, she was a teenager that suffered great losses, the good thing is that she was capable of keeping a relationship with her uncle Luke and aunt Claire, when she arrives to a new house with them, she finally is able to express herself, however things won't be easy, with new friends, school and boyfriend. Will is good guy, but he has an awful father who is always trying to control other people's lives. Layla and Will, have a strong love and they will face his father manipulation and willing to destroy their relationship. This book has an interesting end, definitely will make me read the next book in the series. I gave it four stars because sometimes I felt there was some boring parts, mostly at the beginning.

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