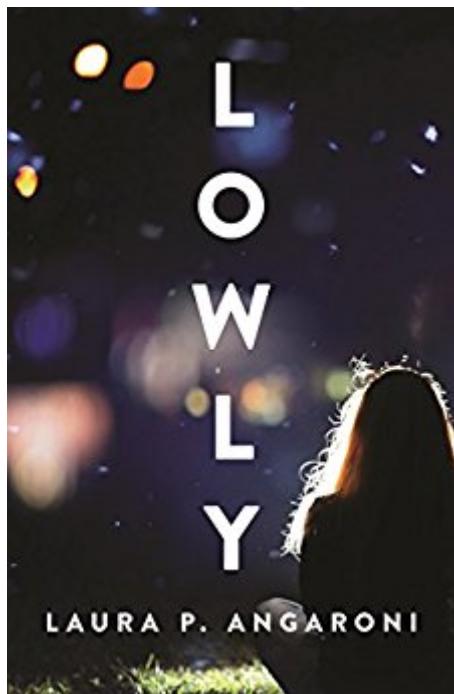


The book was found

Lowly



Synopsis

Iâ™m Lola, and I thought this year would be different. Just for once, I wanted to be a glass-half-full kind of girl. Itâ™s 1981, and nice girls donâ™t curse. But the Demented Duo has been harassing me since middle schoolâ™ cutting down my looks, my Christianity, my virginity. How am I supposed to control my anger when everyone at Sunset High School seems like theyâ™re out to get me? Theyâ™ll embarrass me about anything. And then George strides in, and like magic, everything is better. If only it lasted. How will I ever clean up my mess and make amends? Can anyone still love me? What others are saying about Lowlyâ™s identity. Belonging. Significance. Lowly gives us a deep glance into the world of adolescence and bullying with grit and grace.â™ “Dr. JJ Jones, D. Min., Family Discipleship Pastor at Fellowship Nashville, Franklin Campusâœ We really love Lowly. Laura expressed the feelings of a young girl so remarkably, along with some wonderful humor and a beautiful life lesson on forgiveness. We give Lowly a BIG thumbs-up.â™ “Russ and Linda Murphy, Russ Murphy Ministries (Russ is an award-winning inspirational singer-songwriter and author of *Not Alone: Finding the Love of Your Life*) Author Bio Raised in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, Laura Angaroni (BS, Economics, Baylor University) is proud to be from what some consider the wrong side of the tracks. She and her husband, Craig, live in Houston, Texas, where Laura writes, coaches her two teens, and after four years of high school ministry is taking a break to chase preschoolers around the church nursery.

Book Information

File Size: 1093 KB

Print Length: 201 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Deep River Books (December 14, 2016)

Publication Date: December 14, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01MXYCEA8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,319,751 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #40
in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Emotions & Feelings #115
in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Emotions & Feelings #131 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Social Issues

Customer Reviews

Okay. I finished reading Lowly today. I've been trying to wrap my brain around how to express just how much I LOVE this book...but I'm not as eloquent as the author. I could've finished it days ago, but I only let myself read a little at a time because I knew I was going to miss the main character when I was done. I laughed, I cried (that's such a cliche', but it's true.) I was NOT expecting the big shocker! I thought it was going to be another teen novel with a happy little neat ending, 'girl finds out her high school crush reciprocates her feelings and they live happily ever....until they break up'. Not. (don't want to spoil it, so I'll stop here.) I loved the lessons that she learned, about forgiveness (both giving and receiving), about true friendship, about God's unfailing love for her ... oh gosh I hope her senior year is continued for us!!! The author paints such wonderful word pictures. The characters are REAL. I love that they are Christians who mess up! I can't wait for my youngest daughter to read it now; she's going to love it.

When beginning to write, students are often told to "write what you know." It is easy to tell that Laura has written what she knows - all about growing up in Oak Cliff (a real area near Dallas, Texas), teenagers (she has two), and life in high school (she was there just a few years ago). Lowly (Lola's nickname) is a high school girl who's on the drill team but while not part of the most popular group, she still has quite a few good friends. For some reason she is tormented by the Demented Duo, two boys who call her ugly names and often sink to much worse behavior. Lola, while smart and caring, also has a problem keeping her tongue (and often her emotions) in check. As a result, her problems with the Duo's bullying escalate but on the flip side Lola's young childhood friendship with George is rekindled when he breaks up with his girlfriend. The rest of the book is about Lola's relationships with Earley, her best friend (despite being male), George, and her group of girlfriends as they encounter the trials and tribulations of high school...some quite tragic. Laura has nailed the emotional flow of high school years. Little things turn into big things, misunderstandings become cavernous divides, but in the end real friends really do look out for each other. The story is set in the 1980's at Sunset High School, a real school in Oak Cliff. I'll admit I was a bit overwhelmed at the

beginning with so many characters being introduced, but eventually realized that that is just what high school is like - lots of kids, some more important than others. The characters are believable and relatable as is the story line. What I really liked is that a story like this could happen in any time and in any place - it's the caring relationships that are important and help us grow. In Lowly, Lola grows when she is able to forgive herself and can ask for forgiveness from others. I highly recommend this book for middle- and high-schoolers as I believe most would be able to relate to a story dealing with adolescence in a thoughtful way and without profanity or indecency.

Disclaimer: I am related to the author but had not read the book until its publication. I first read the ebook in December, but I don't enjoy reading things in a digital format and was very happy when the book was released in paperback, allowing me to focus more carefully on the characters and their conflicts. The book starts slowly, with the author carefully laying out characters and their relationships to each other, and setting the stage for the various conflicts to unfold. I was impatient with these first few chapters. Once the pace accelerated, I couldn't put the book down. The best thing about this book is the author's authentic depiction of how very tense and how very emotional teen life is. And we see how easy it is for even the nicest girls from good Christian homes to crumble when the conflicts come too quickly and hit too hard. But after everything falls apart, we see that there is always hope for restoration and redemption, and the author gives us a roadmap while taking her main character through that process. This is the author's first novel, and I think she has some very important insights into teen girls. I hope she will write more.

Lowly possessed 3 relationships in high school that I wished I would have had. First a great group of supportive friends that welcomed newcomers in the fold; they cared for each other, and protected their own. Second Lowly had a wonderful adult friend, appropriately named Grace that helped her navigate her life. Most importantly, Lowly had a personal relationship with God and cared about living her life as a testimony to His presence. Lastly Lowly had an incredibly sharp wit and vocabulary to answer the bullies in her life. Two follow up questions: will there be a sequel for Lowly's senior year and will Kirk Cameron turn this into a movie? This book was well written, and all the characters were fully developed so that I was compelled to read this book in 24 hours. I was so glad for all the laughs to balance all my tears. My two favorite scenes are the pep rally where Lowly takes on the bullies single handedly-I wanted to stand up on my chair and cheer- and the bumper sticker spree! I felt like my friend, Laura was right beside me telling her life story. I can't wait to read more from her.

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