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Paintbrush



Synopsis

Mitchell Morrison and Josie Sedgwick have spent their whole lives at the Indian Paintbrush Community Village, a commune full of colorful characters tucked in the mountains of North Carolina, and they aren't particularly close--at least, not anymore. Josie wishes she could spend all of her time at Paintbrush planting tomatoes, hiking the trails, or throwing giant communal birthday parties, while Mitchell can't wait to escape the bizarre spiritual sharing and noisy community dinners. Luckily for both of them, high school graduation is just around the corner. But when Mitchell's mother makes a scandalous announcement that rocks the close-knit Paintbrush community, and Josie's younger sister starts to make some dangerously bad decisions, the two find themselves leaning on each other for support and looking at each other in a whole new light. Their childhood friendship blossoms in to something more as they deal with their insane families, but as graduation approaches, so does life in the real world, forcing Josie and Mitchell to figure out what, exactly, their relationship is and if it can survive their very different plans for the future.

Book Information

File Size: 3782 KB

Print Length: 315 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Blaze Publishing, LLC (July 11, 2017)

Publication Date: July 11, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06ZYXH7WC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #628,213 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #93

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Art & Architecture #238 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents

Customer Reviews

This is probably one of the sweetest romances I have read yet this year! The characters were stunningly imperfect, as yet not overdone. Mitchell is a wonderful male lead that stays away from the traditional "reformed bad boy" or the other common themes that I have been seeing lately. His struggle to accept who he is isn't done in a way that feels overdrawn, but instead balances the person we are with our family, the person we want to be, and the person that comes naturally to us. Really well done. The highlight of this story, in my opinion, is the sweetness of the romance between Mitch and Josie. Yes it's a friends to lovers scenario, but it is done in an easy, slow burn that makes the characters feel so real, and their emotions vibrant. I mean... the cave scene. THE CAVE SCENE. The aspect that surprised me about this is also the parenting aspect. You see multiple families struggling through their relationships with each other and it really brings to mind that you have no idea what people are facing at home, and that no matter what the situation, you can always come out on top. And let's be real... THAT COVER!!!!

I received a copy from NetGalley for an honest review. Rating: 4 Stars We follow Josie and Mitchell seniors a few weeks from graduating. They have spent their whole lives together and used to be the best of friends which is easy to see being the only kids at the time at Indian Paintbrush Community Village-AKA Paintbrush. Josie loves Paintbrush and is content to spend her time there while Mitchell is ready to get as far away as possible. They live separate lives in school but as Mitchell's mother makes a huge announcement it rocks everything he knows while Josie's younger sister is acting out in dangerous ways. Both of them need support and find it in one another, having shared so much. They see one another in a new light and something more than old friendship starts up, just as they are about to go down separate paths for the future. I read through this in one day. It was such a quick and sweet read. I was so caught up in the story and the idea of this community. I like how they both saw different sides of Paintbrush. I'm not even an outdoorsy type of person, okay honestly I avoid it like the plague, but this made me wish I was. It made me want to go out and just enjoy nature. I loved the whole concept of the place as a whole and how it played its own character in the story. The concept and idea of the place was explained simply as it was and that was that. A place that takes in all sorts and creates a diverse and colorful community that works together. I could see the positives that Josie loved and the negatives that Mitchell was ready to escape. Paintbrush is all about the

characters and relationships. Between Josie and Mitchell. Between families. Between friends. Between the community. I like that while Mitchell and Josie had been best friends for most of their life and were still friendly as they grew apart they found their own grove and new friends. Mostly because I loved Leah and Cord. Leah though, she had some of the best moments for sure. She is a great friend and so many of the things I love about her are things I see in my own friend! Cord and Mitchell, they are so different but they just have this type of acceptance that is so nice. This story takes place in such a short time frame when compared to many other books but it manages to pack so much feeling into that time. It tackles so many issues that I think anyone can relate to and this makes the story that much more real. I am so pleased by this debut book!

4 charming stars
Charming: : *Adjective*: charming: very pleasant or attractive. Synonyms: delightful, pleasing, pleasant, something that kept me interested and immersed in this sweet story of coming of age. Paintbrush is Hannah Bucchin's first published work and I must confess I swooned over the pretty cover. I am a cover junkie and this was the first trigger. The second reason why I requested this book was the blurb. It mentioned "a commune full of colorful characters tucked in the mountains of North Carolina". I love stories talking about tight knit communities and colorful characters. I can read books without bog plot as long as the characters are so well portrayed and interesting that they are the stories. I also love "feel good" books from time to time. They give me hope and energy for days! Just to compensate for all the gloomy news we are drowned in every day. I can now honestly say Paintbrush fit the bill to the T. Paintbrush is not an action packed/fast paced/intricate plot/high angst read. No. Paintbrush is a charming story built around the budding romance between two childhood friends Josie and Mitchell. They know each other since they were toddlers and live in the same community filled with quaint, earthy characters. "People watching is a prime activity at the Indian Paintbrush Community Village for Sustainable Living". A few weeks before graduation Mitchell's mom will make a scandalous announcement that will turn Mitchell's world upside down. So far Josie and Mitchell were just friends but Mitchell's ordeal will change perceptions. The authenticity of the story was what I loved most. It broaches topics we all encounter at one point in our lives:- the path we have to choose for our future;- the choice to blend in or remain true to who we are;- forgiving people who hurt us with the hope to heal and not become bitter;- accepting diversity and respecting

other in their choices-how to raise your children either letting them make mistakes or controlling their every moves, I could go on and on. Mitchell has always wanted to blend with his school's crowd. To be "normal" and not some freak living in a "hippie" community. At school he is the Golden Boy, captain of the swimming team, joking with everyone, easy going. He can't wait to finish high school and leave for college. Leave the community life behind. Even if he loves his people he wants to be "normal" whatever normal is. "It's not that I'm embarrassed I like to read books. Or that I'm embarrassed to be seen with Josie. It's just that I've spent my entire life working so hard to be normal. I'm captain of the swim team, I plan pep rallies and dances, and I take as many advanced classes as my schedule will allow." Josie was totally different from Mitchell. She loves her community, loves the lifestyle and does not hide where she comes from. She does not wear make-up has her hair in a braid and outdoor work clothes are her favorite right alongside flowing gowns. "High school is where people can find their place, when they can find out how to fit into the puzzle. But I don't have a place, and I don't have a thing. All I know is that when I'm inside the school walls, the only place I really want to be is outside in the sunshine, gardening with my hands in the dirt, breathing in the fresh air." She loves her family, her neighbors, her mountains and does not know what to wish for her future. Would it be so bad to stay at Indian Paintbrush Community? This indecisiveness was a stress in itself when Josie witnessed all her friends preparing to depart for a new beginning. And when Mitchell's mom does something shattering his world to pieces he is so angry with her. Here comes the path to forgiveness. Do we know why others make some choices? As long as we did not walk in their shoes we can't judge. It is also easier to hold a grudge than forgiving but is it the better choice? I relished in the characters gallery all very well portrayed and adding layers and colors to the story. Between our two main characters you have Josie's sisters with Libby being the typical rebel teenager. You have the nature freaks practicing naked yoga every morning for all to see. Grumpy old men smoking weed or polishing their rifle or the couple with seven kids etc. They all help to make the story so vibrant and interesting. Last but not least the budding romance was very sweet. Mitchell and Josie were touching, both somewhat clumsy in their first love. You'll have no-dates-dates under starry skies, at the lake, eating junk food in the middle of nowhere. Beating hearts and heads filled with "what if". Oh and Mitchell's speech at graduation day

made me really, really want to listen again to "Long Live" by Taylor Swift This is one of those perfect stories to charm you when on holiday at the beach or in the mountains. I hope you'll give this book a chance.

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