



## The Last Dance

*Melody Carlson*

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## **The Last Dance** Melody Carlson

With graduation looming, the Carter House girls are struggling with college visits, prom dress warfare, and boyfriend situations that are going from bad to worse. Mrs. Carter ups the stress level by planning a typical over-the-top Mother's Day fashion show, and things get tense when the designer favors certain models. Through it all, surprises are in store for each girl as their time at Carter House comes to an end. As final good-byes approach, some friendships will deepen while others crumble. Will the girls resolve old differences or part ways as enemies?

## **The Last Dance Details**

Date : Published March 28th 2010 by Zondervan

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Author : Melody Carlson

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## **From Reader Review The Last Dance for online ebook**

### **Katherine says**

This book was very well written. I think that it was a good way to end off the Carter house girls series even though it was kind of sad because they all were grown up and leaving the house i liked how everyone was reunited and happy.

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### **Laura says**

This conclusion to the Carter House Girls series was pretty good. I felt like it wrapped up things well and the drama and conflict were handled adequately. The characters did not make a lasting impression on me though and at the end of the series I didn't feel elation or joy that the girls were now grown up. I thought some of the girls were still obnoxious and I wasn't sad to see them go. But I did wish some things had worked out differently. Not sure I'd recommend the whole series unless you were already a Melody Carlson fan or appreciated this genre.

\*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2010...>

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### **Katie says**

Melody Carlson is a wonderful writer and she weaves Christianity throughout the books seamlessly. You don't feel overpowered by her message, but are still able to learn and it makes a positive impact on you. Melody Carlson knows how teens operate and what they want to read. This is probably why she has written over 200 books.

Now onto the book review.

This is the 8th book and final book in the series. The whole book revolves around college, prom, and becoming prom queen. It was a little slow at the beginning, but after a few chapters I remembered why I enjoy this series. There are a myriad of problems with all of the characters and it keeps you involved in the story.

The characters in this book seem to be more "mild" than the other books and not as interesting. With that said, Melody is able to give the characters many conflicts and it makes up for the lack of character interest. I do wish that Taylor had been more involved in the story though.

This book was a bit slower than the others, but was still interesting. I do think it could have been a bit better though. There's not much else to say about this particular book, but I would recommend the entire series.

Overall the book was a good, easy read and ended the series wonderfully. I hope she does a spin-off of the characters in college, especially DJ and Casey.

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### **\$hanel says**

This was my favorite book in the Carter House Girls series! its JUICY! All six of the girls are planning for the prom, having boyfriend problems and planning graduation. Not to mention the fact that Grandmother is planning an over the top Mother's Day fashion show for designer Dylan Marceau. The girls all have to look into colleges too. As Carter House comes to an end some friendships will grow and others will fade. Will all six Carter House Girls have a good or bad end of the year? **BEST BOOK IN THE SERIES...IN MY OPINION!**

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### **Alex says**

A good end to the series, although it left way too much up in the air for me. I know what happens a little to Taylor and Eliza due to their cameos in the Runway series I'm currently reading, but what about the rest? What happens to DJ, Kriti or especially Casey? How can it just end like that?

Also, something way worse should have happened to Madison. What a witch.

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### **Erin says**

**WHY DOES THIS SERIES HAVE TO END!?!?** When I first started the series, I had my reservations. I thought it might be a little too girly and silly. But it was so good! I really want to know what happens to all the girls and their friends when they go off to college. Carlson left the ending fairly open, which is something I love when authors do but at the same time I really hate it. I hate it because I don't know exactly what became of each character's life, but at the same time I love it because I get to decide what I think the characters did with their lives.

Overall, a really good ending to a really good series. I loved the way Carlson dealt with sensitive topics in the books. She was really good at balancing the more complex conflicts the girls faced with more silly ones. She kept the books both lighthearted and fun, yet also spiritual and meaningful. I really liked that.

Now I guess I need to do two things 1. Get a life now that the series is over 2. Start on my required reading this summer. Oh boy.

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### **Kaycie Schrader says**

This series is the best series I have ever read!!!

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### **Jerry says**

## A Quickie Review

It's graduation and prom time for DJ and her housemates. Everyone is excited...but life starts to change rather quickly for more than one of the girls. It's been a while since I read the penultimate *Carter House* novel, so, this feels more like a reunion movie than a series finale. Still, the writing, story, and such are as good as usual from Mrs. Carlson. As with the other books in the series, the themes are not for children...but, by now, that's to be expected.

**Score: 3.75/5**

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### **Tatum says**

[ One time, wh

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### **Angela says**

I debated on a 3 but I did love the book. I do wish the ending had been a bit different.

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### **Danni says**

I read this book but it wasn't exactly my style. Drugs, teenage pregnancy, backbiting. It was short, but it was stuff that I hadn't dealt with in years. It was also the last book in the series so I was sort of lost.

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### **Laura says**

I really love these books, and am kind of sad that the series has ended. However, I read book 2 in the author's next series and was pleased to have a little visit with some of the characters from the *Carter House Girls* series!

I don't agree with everything in the book or the actions the characters choose to take, but it was a fun story and held my attention.

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### **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

*"With six teenage girls living under one roof, things are bound to get interesting. Mix six teenaged girls and one '60s fashion icon (retired, of course) in an old Victorian-era boarding home. Add guys and dating, a little high-school angst, and huge personalities ... and you've got the *Carter House Girls*. With graduation looming, the *Carter House* girls are struggling with college visits, prom dress warfare, and relationships*

*that are going from bad to worse. Mrs. Carter ups the stress level by planning a typical over-the-top Mother's Day fashion show, and things get tense when the designer favors certain models. Through it all, surprises are in store for each girl as their time at Carter House comes to an end. As final good-byes approach, some friendships will deepen while others crumble. Will the girls resolve old differences or part ways as enemies?"*

Series: Book #8 (of eight) in the “*Carter House Girls*” series. (Book #1 Review Here! #2 Here! #3 Here! #4 Here! #5 Here! #6 Here! and #7 Here!) {Another series by this author, “*On the Runway*” mentions these characters after the final book. {Read #1 of that series review Here!} I personally recommend reading the CHG series then the OTR series. :)

Spiritual Content- Prayers; Youth group & discussing things there; ‘H’s are not capital when referring to God; Mentions of God; Mentions of Scriptures; Mentions of a youth group, church going, & sermons; \*Note: One of the girls is Hindu (but there’s really nothing said about that religion).

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘duh’, a ‘moron’, a form of ‘shut up’, and eleven ‘stupid’s; Mentions of curses are said (not written); Sarcasm, sass, & eye rolling; Mentions of Book #7’s kidnapping; Mentions of drugs; Mentions of underage drinking, drunks, hangovers, partying, & sobriety; A couple mentions of suicide; A mention of DJ’s parent’s divorce;

\*Note: Mentions of designers.

Sexual Content- Talks that a guy is only having one thing; \*Spoiler\* Casey is pregnant with that guy’s child \*End of Spoiler\*; Talks about & mentions of sex, birth control, who’s fault, abortions, abortion clinics, morning sickness, pro-life values, & an almost abortion; a ‘hot’; Mentions of unwed pregnancies; A few mentions of (Book #7) Casey thinking she’s pregnant;

Boys, boyfriends, girlfriends, dating, exes, crushes, proms, dates, & all that drama;

\*Notes: A few mentions of cleavage, bras, & being heavy on top; A mention of an eating disorder.

-Desiree Jeanette “DJ” Lane, age 17/18

P.O.V. of DJ

207 pages

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Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- One Star

Early High School Teens- Two Stars

Older High School Teens- Three Stars

My personal Rating- Three Stars

Out of all of the books in this series, I think this one is probably the cleanest in most regards...which shows how the girls have grown over these books. Overall this series would probably be most enjoyed by those wanting a teen issue driven series and more public school-y actions. ;)

Link to review:

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com/2014/05/carter-house-girls-book-8.html>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

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### **Kendall says**

I had mixed feelings about this series. I liked the plot a lot. I like fun chick lit books like these after reading something intense such as a dystopian novel. But on the other hand I did not like the Christian aspects of it. I have nothing wrong against Christian books, but the way Carlson wrote it into her books was not to my liking. Whenever something was going wrong all the girls did was pray and it was suddenly fixed. Being raised a Catholic I know that this is not realistic. Even if you pray you may not get what you want. This kept the characters from solving their own problems because God always fixed everything. Wasn't my favorite series and this will keep me from reading anything else by her.

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### **Lianna says**

This book was disappointing. The last few books of this series got more annoying by each book. D.J. got on my nerves. I was interested in her and Lane.. but nothing happened with that. Her decision about Yale.. ok, D.J., you really didn't choose it because of Conner. I don't believe you.

The whole thing with Casey. Really.. Really? The talk about abortion in this was cringe worthy. Uh.. Talking about killing babies and stuff to a series for young girls. Give me a break. Casey talking about pictures of unborn babies.. ridic. Most of those pictures that Anti-Choice people use are of miscarriages.. not abortions.. uh.. I like that they talked about choice.. but it should have shown both sides more in a reasonable way for young girls.

I skimmed through a lot of this, it didn't keep my interest like the first first books.

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