



# Beautiful Americans

*Lucy Silag*

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## **Beautiful Americans** Lucy Silag

*Pretty Little Liars* meets *My So-Called Life* in this story of four American teens in Paris and the scandals that haunt each of them.

There's rich New York girl Alex; Cali-born dancer Olivia; closeted Memphis boy Zack; and finally PJ, an elusive beauty from Vermont who's hiding a dark past.

Studying abroad for their junior year of high school, they run wild in the Tuileries, hold clandestine parties in their host families' luxe apartments, take over tiny crowded cafes and generally live the glamorous life.

But in the end they all must face the lies they've told and secrets they've kept when the unthinkable happens.

## **Beautiful Americans Details**

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Author : Lucy Silag

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## From Reader Review Beautiful Americans for online ebook

### Kristi says

Honestly, when I started Beautiful Americans I was a little skeptical. I'd saw mixed reviews... the synopsis really didn't completely catch my interest, but by the end of the novel I was ready for more!

I loved the set up of the novel. The chapters alternate between the four characters, so you get to see inside their head as well as how everyone else perceives them. That in itself really made the novel for me. The writing was also extraordinary, I loved Silag's flow. It was easy to read and entertaining, with out being superfluous.

The characters are really what made this novel. It seems that all the reviews I've read had a problem with Alex, but I loved her. Yeah she was a bitch, but for some reason that attracted me to her character. The poor girl just wants someone to love her, sure she has a completely warped way of showing it, but that's all she knows.

Zach, was by far my favorite. I just want to wrap him up in big hug and tell him everything is going to be okay and that he's going to find the man of his dreams one day. Zach is by far the most honest character and has his moral compass set due north. I just wish the poor guy could have found a little love!

Olivia.... I thought I had her story pegged from the introduction, but I didn't! I thought for sure Vince was going to be a cheating whore while his girlfriend was a whole continent away, but no he was a good boy. I guess Vince was different from all the those losers I dated. I will admit that I did like the outcome of Olivia's story a lot better then the one I had thought up for her.

And then there is Penelope or PJ. Now this is the character that I found annoying. Cry me a freaggin river. Let me get out the worlds smallest violin and play PJ her little sob story song. The girl drove me freaggin insane. Here is some advice for you PJ, DEAL WITH IT. Obviously the girl went to Paris to "runaway" from all the bad stuff at home, but then she just dwells on it, instead of trying to forget it. Honestly, I didn't expect her to just up and forget everything that happened to her, I mean what person would, but the girl really needs to deal with some issues. By the time to story got around to something really disturbing happening to her, I was beyond the capacity to care at that point. I really hope she doesn't annoy me so much in the next novel.

Overall, it was better than I expected. I'm really looking forward to reading the next novel!

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### Lucy says

This is my book, coming out in January 2009! Please read and enjoy!

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### Amanda says

From the blurb: *Pretty Little Liars meets My So-Called Life in this story of four American teens in Paris and*

*the scandals that haunt each of them.* Given that I have zero experience with *My So-Called Life* and just a minimum of *Pretty Little Liars* - gave up after watching the first season, haven't read the books - I'd like to say this: **Beautiful Americans is basically Gossip Girl minus the money, and set in France.** It's the same bratty, woe-is-me characters living it up in France, never considering there might be consequences for their actions.

Some basic plot: Alex, PJ, Olivia, and Zach, four high school students are spending a year studying in France. Alex is moving away from her mother to the country in which her parents met, and where her father now lives. She's spoiled, whiny, and wants everything to be like the movies. Olivia is the dancer who hopes this trip will help her get into college (the same college her boyfriend attends), but she's leaving her family back in the States, and she struggles especially with leaving her autistic brother behind. Zach comes from a small(ish) town where he feels the need to hide his sexual orientation (gay), and hopes a year in France will help him find himself, or at least live out his desires. PJ is running from something, something unknown to the reader for most part of the story. She doesn't know where her sister is, and she isn't in contact with her parents. These four people form relationships, some stronger than others.

There's no solid plot here except for PJ's, and it's a secret almost until the end (it's a cliffhanger, by the way). Most of the story is Alex and Zach living it up in France, drinking wine, partying, gossiping about boys. Olivia joins them sometimes whenever she isn't doubting herself and all her (or her parents') plans. PJ, who is the most interesting (which isn't saying much, trust me), is barely in the story at times. Instead we're stuck with Alex, who's biggest issue is when her American Express Card is declined because her mother decides to cut her off since Alex has spent almost all her money after a few months. Then there's also the instance where Alex sexually harasses a boy, but since she's a girl, it isn't portrayed for what it is. (view spoiler)

The characters aren't well fleshed out due to the fact that there are **four different POVs**. They get about 80 pages each, which is far too little to make these characters stand out as individuals; it's sometimes hard to tell them from each other. Alex was the least interesting character, but everyone treats her like the special snowflake that she is. Olivia should've had a bigger role, explore her sense of guilt and also liberation in being away from her family, of not having the pressure breathing down her neck at all hours. PJ's story should've moved faster (and not use it as a cliffhanger). Zach, unfortunately, is stereotypical and his presence in the book feels more like he's only there to fill up some non-straight characters quota.

All in all, it's a good idea for a story, with four young confused people struggling, but the execution makes it come off as some poor soap opera with bratty and spoiled kids gossiping, partying, and only caring for themselves with a single thought about consequences.

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## stephanie says

this surpassed my expectations, and that's saying a lot, given how much i love Lucy Silag.

there were a lot of things i think that were done brilliantly, and a lot things that i've read review about that i don't agree with - the characterization of alex, for one. maybe you just have never met an alex, but i definitely have, and she's very, very believable. (also, from a psychological stand-point, it *\*completely\** makes sense why she behaves the way she does.) i don't know if we are actually supposed to feel super-sympathetic for her right now - i have a feeling that will come in the later books, but i definitely had my moments of sadness for her. anyway.

1. it was written for YA and it felt that way, without being either too much, or too little. by this i mean, lucy chose to write "boobs" instead of "breasts" or whatever, which is perfect, because when you're 17 they are definitely boobs. little things like this just made it all the more authentic.
2. there was name-dropping in terms of clothing brands, etc. but it wasn't over the top. (i can't tell you how much it irritates me in some books how clearly they are just trying to do product-placement. this felt more organic, especially since most of the observations came from zach or alex - the two who would both know, and care.)
3. a smart, scared gay character dealing with issues of coming out! written thoughtfully, but not in that over-handed "lifetime story of the week" way. zach also had good development throughout, which was nice.
4. you felt like you were in paris. the use of french was just enough - and if you don't know french, you can still figure out what's going on. the descriptions of the city and the whole country were amazing. LOVE.
5. *madame bovary*!!!! oh, emma.
6. i really liked olivia. and, i was pretty on board with brian too, which tends to be hard for me, since i work with autistic kids. but lucy handled it in a way that was both true to the disorder, and true to how olivia felt about it.
7. ballet! i haven't danced really in years, and man, this made me want to dig out my pointe shoes. not to mention olivia on a whole - i loved the development of her character and the realization that life doesn't have to be completely planned out yet.
8. PJ. PJ with her hair and her sad family story. i do hope we get more of her story in the next installment, or at least clarification on what exactly went down. i loved how strong she was for other people, and so weak for herself.
9. PJ's host family reminded me of something straight out of an {author: Isabel Allende} novel. totally creepy and something not quite right, and poor PJ trying so. hard.
10. it left me satisfied, but wanting more. which is perfect for a book in a series.

i identified a little with all the characters - even ones like vince (oh, vince) - and i'm telling you, lucy wanted to capture that group of kids that studies abroad, and i thought she did fantastic. it made me think of high school (in so many ways) and how everyone made *sense*. the characters weren't cliché because they were constantly evolving (alex, i would say, made the least progress so far), and the structure of the book itself made for interesting reading. each character had a very specific POV, and finding out different things from different perspectives really moved the plot along while still allowing for character development.

can't wait until september!! ...more

flag 2 likes · Like · see review

Nov 16, 2008 Yan rated it did not like it

*This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, click here.*

flag 2 likes · Like · see review

Feb 09, 2009 Stephanie rated it it was amazing

Shelves: own

To be honest, I was a bit hesitant to read this book because I don't really like books that come in multiple perspectives. However, Beautiful Americans made me rethink that thought and now, I'm definitely ready to read the sequel.

What I loved about this book was the plot, the very idea of following four teens to the most romantic city in the world and following them as they spend their first semester in the prestigious Lycee de Monceau. I loved the secrets and the scandals involved and h

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Nov 06, 2009 Kari rated it really liked it

Shelves: arc-or-review-from-publisher-author, read-teen

The most defining feature of this book is the fact that it is American teenagers but set in Paris at the Lycee- a very nice twist on the high school setting. The four main characters all have vastly different but still strong personalities and although some of them bothered me, I grew to love them all.

Alex is selfish, stuck up, and completely self centered but she still wants love and friendship. Even though many parts of her story were very obvious, it was in that way the reader is almost scre

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Feb 26, 2009 Rachael rated it really liked it

Four teens, Penelope Jane, better known as PJ, Olivia, Alex, and Zach, find themselves in Paris, the city of love, for a prestigious study abroad program. Alex is a spoiled snob used to living the high life and getting exactly what she wants. For Olivia, dance is everything. PJ's trip to France is the result of fleeing from her embarrassing past. Zach, the adorable emo kid, is catching all the wrong eyes. But not all is well in this beautiful city: Alex's out-of-control desires are setting her u

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Feb 02, 2009 Connie rated it liked it

Shelves: 2009-reads

Too put it shortly, Beautiful Americans is the first of a trilogy about four teenagers studying abroad in Paris.

There is Alex — the Brooklyn fashionista who is the girl that everyone loves to hate, or like me, just plain hates. She's spoiled, proud and out of control. Out of the four teenagers, she's definitely the most dramatic but Lucy Silag's construction of Alex's background gives the reader an understanding to why she acts the way she does.

Olivia is the good girl of the bunch - at least in

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Dec 03, 2008 Jennifer Wardrip rated it it was amazing

Shelves: trt-gold-star-award-winner, trt-posted-reviews

Reviewed by Amber Gibson for TeensReadToo.com

BEAUTIFUL AMERICANS by Lucy Silag is the story of four very different American teenagers studying abroad for a year in Paris. For PJ, Olivia, Alex and Zack, Paris is a place to run away, reinvent oneself, find love, and discover what it really means to live. Like the Lost Generation of the 1920s, these Americans escape to the City of Lights with the hope that the joie de vivre of the city will rub off on them.

PJ is fleeing from an embarrassing family

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Apr 05, 2009 T.V and Book Addict rated it liked it

Beautiful Americans was pretty good. I liked the story and the well-developed characters but I found myself having to take a break from this book every now and then. It is not really a page turner, more like a reality T.V show in writing, sometimes it can get slow.

Even though at times it bored me a bit, I still enjoyed it. I loved how Zack, Alex, Olivia, and P.J have their own secrets. It definitely made the book more interesting to read.

Zack-He's in Paris and he's there to make some friends and

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flag 1 like · Like · see review

Feb 17, 2009 Katie rated it really liked it

Beautiful Americans is the first of what promises to be an exciting trilogy. It's the story of four Americans and their wild adventures in Paris for 9 months. This book is just the beginning of some crazy nights and even crazier teens.

Beautiful Americans is told from the points-of-view of Penelope Jane(PJ), Olivia, Zack, and Alex. I don't think there could be any four people as different as these. PJ is a Vermont hippie who is running from quite a past. Olivia is a dancer who is in Paris to try

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Dec 18, 2008 Lauren rated it it was amazing

Beautiful Americans had a mix of romance, friendship, and secrets. Lucy's writing in this book was extremely well done in the way the book just pulled you right in at the first chapter. Also, Lucy slowly told the secrets of Zack, PJ, Alex, and Olivia instead of just telling everything in the very first chapter. So, I was constantly wondering what was going to happen and guessing everyone's dirty little secrets.

Beautiful Americans characters where three-dimensional in the way that you could feel

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Oct 28, 2009 Wendy rated it liked it

Beautiful Americans is the story of four teenagers in Paris and how their paths crossed. I wasn't so sure I was



going to like it but I was definitely surprised. Each one - PJ, Olivia, Zack, and Alex - has their own individual characteristics, flaws and of course, secrets they're trying to keep hidden. While I enjoyed reading about PJ's insecurities, Zack's difficulty coming to terms with himself or Alex's attention-grabbing antics, I think Olivia, the ballet dancer from California stole my heart

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May 04, 2010 may rated it really liked it · review of another edition

'Beautiful Americans' is the story of four American teenagers, PJ, Olivia, Zack and Alex who are spending a year abroad in Paris, studying at the Lycée de Monceau. A prominent theme in the book is secrecy, with each character having a secret. These are revealed in turn as the story progresses.

To be honest, it took me a while to really get into this book. Despite the lovely opening which introduced two of the protagonists in the novel, PJ and Alex, there seemed to me to be just too many character

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flag 1 like · Like · see review

Dec 21, 2009 Kayla rated it it was amazing

At first, I thought the book was kind of boring, something I wouldn't be interested in because they're were so many characters to follow. But eventually, I got really into the story and now I know absolutely everything going on! I couldn't believe half the stuff Alex did, and thought she could get away with it. And its killing me not knowing what PJ's parents did that was so bad. Can't wait for Wanderlust!!!

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Jun 15, 2009 Abby rated it really liked it

I liked this book. It was a pretty good YA, and was fairly well written. I think that one problem a lot of YA authors have is the whole teenage dialogue thing. I think they overthink it a little. We really don't say dude THAT much. But I liked the four characters and was interested in their problems. I always like when books are written in different voices, it's fun to see things from different people's perspectives. I look forward to the next one since this book ended with a cliffhanger!

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Feb 19, 2009 Hayley Brentmar rated it it was amazing

Shelves: read-2007-current

Beautiful Americans feels very real and modern (in an up-to-the-minute "now" kind of way). There are many references to current popular culture, and it is obvious that the author has first hand knowledge of what life is REALLY like for teens today.

The fact that it's told as a first person narrative, and in the present tense, makes it all the more believable and engaging. I'm looking forward to the rest of this trilogy. This isn't your standard "goody-goody" Young Adult fiction novel.

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Aug 22, 2008 Phoebe rated it it was amazing

Shelves: france

Beautiful Americans is an absorbing, compulsively readable, and very funny book, even if you are no longer a young adult and have instead recently entered your 30s. The characters are well-drawn and relatable, and the excitement of living in Paris comes through in each chapter. I look forward to the second and third books!

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Jun 21, 2009 Sammi Wolf rated it really liked it

Shelves: summer-2009

I loved this book. Especially how it kept the rotation of every chapter being the perspective of four different characters. Olivia = my favorite! I can't help but to believe that Lucy better be coming out with a sequel. Otherwise my stars might have to go down! There are so many things I need to know about!

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Mar 16, 2009 Lora rated it really liked it

Shelves: young-adult-lit

I kind of loved this book. It is one of those entertaining books that you wouldn't really call amazing literature. I love books like that, they are a true escape. I see this book being very popular with the Gossip Girl crowd. I'm excited that this is the first of a trilogy, which made the cliffhanger acceptable.

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Aug 22, 2010 Catalina Sennett rated it really liked it

American teens spending nine months in Paris for school. Add in all the usual teenage drama and it pretty much sums up this book...

I really liked the characters a lot. Especially Olivia. And Zach. The ending made me mad, such a cliff hanger, I am so stoked to read the second book now. I have to find out what happens to PJ!!

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Mar 07, 2009 Karla rated it liked it

Shelves: ya

Follows four teens as they go to Paris for a study abroad program. They all have problems they want to hide, but of course the problems surface as they interact with others. The characters themselves are a bit cliché; this was a quick light read. First of a trilogy.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

May 05, 2009 Marlee Cowan rated it it was amazing

this was was sooo good - i literally could not put it down. i was very unproductive at work the last few days as i kept wanting to pick it up and read the next chapter! i can't wait until the next one comes out!

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Aug 23, 2009 lucem rated it really liked it

Recommends it for: those wanting to study abroad

Shelves: realistic-fiction

This book follows the lives of several high school students studying abroad in Paris, France. It gives a look into life with host families, regular students, exchange students, school, field trips, parties, fashion, culture, etc.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Mar 11, 2009 Carol rated it it was amazing

A young adult coming of age story with twists and turns and interesting viewpoints from the various characters. Lucy Silag is an author to keep your eye on! I've watched Lucy mature into an incredible woman with tons of talent.

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Mar 18, 2009 Maura-jane is currently reading it

Recommends it for: teenagers who need to get out of there life and into someone elses

I really do like this book. It goes back inforth between 4 young adults who are living in Pairs. At first I couldnt get into it but now I have & I just cant seem to put it down.

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Apr 10, 2009 Nick rated it it was amazing

Recommends it for: every1

Recommended to Nick by: no1

I LOVED THIS BOOK VERY MUCH but can some1 tell me when the next can be expected to come out cause i really really really really wanna read it

flag 1 like · Like · see review

View 1 comment

May 11, 2009 Mitzy rated it it was amazing

ahhhhh I really enjoyed this but got SO frustrated that it didn't end! I did find out that I only have to wait a few months to see what happens next for the foursome, but I want to know NOW! =)

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 14, 2008 Doug rated it it was amazing

One of my all time favorites!

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