



Knee Deep

Jolene Perry

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Shawn is the guy Ronnie Bird promised her life to at the age of fourteen. He's her soul mate. He's more uptight every day, but it's not his fault. His family life is stressful, and she's adding to it. She just needs to be more understanding, and he'll start to be the boy she fell in love with. She won't give up on someone she's loved for so long. Luke is her best friend, and the guy she hangs with to watch girly movies in her large blanketopias. He's the guy she can confide in before she even goes to her girlfriends, and the guy who she's playing opposite in Romeo and Juliet. Now her chest flutters every time he gets too close. This is new. Is Ronnie falling for him? Or is Juliet? The lines are getting blurry, but leaving one guy for another is not something that a girl like Ronnie does. Shawn's outbursts are starting to give her bruises, and Luke's heart breaks as Ronnie remains torn. While her thoughts and feelings swirl around the lines between friendship and forever, she's about to lose them both.

Knee Deep Details

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Author : Jolene Perry

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Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Knee Deep for online ebook

Katie says

I really enjoyed this! All though the story is tackling some very mature subject matter (physical and psychological abuse in a relationship) for a YA book, the writing was not overly depressing or overly emotional. It wasn't a slap in the face, or a wake up call for civilization that screams "WAKE UP PEOPLE. ABUSE IS ALL AROUND YOU AND YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!" like some other YA books can come across as. This just seemed more realistic than that to me. A caring, sweet teenage girl who comes from a loving home, with loving friends finds herself confused when she realizes that maybe her boyfriend isn't the person she thought he was. And maybe her best friend Luke isn't going to sit in the "friend zone" and silently witness her turmoil.

It takes Ronnie a while to accept that her boyfriend is abusing her physically. At the same time she realizes that the way he toyed with her emotions was not right either. This all played out in what I was convinced was a realistic manner. Ronnie was used to being loved. She was surrounded by good and loving people. So how could her boyfriend tell her how much he loved her if he was abusive?

Really great character development. Great Heroine, you will fall in love with her, she's adorable. Really great conflict, though you'll want to hate Shawn, he does have his redeeming qualities so you can relate to Ronnie's confusion. Great supporting characters, Luke is dreamy. My only hold out on the 5 star rating was I was hoping for a little more of a HEA than we actually got.

Hilda says

We all know it's Shawn and Ronnie *forever*.

Shawn and Ronnie have been in love since they're twelve years old. Shawn is Ronnie's first kiss, first love, first boyfriend, and first everything. Shawn was once the sweet boy who prepared Ronnie a very special picnic because he said the coolest girl in the world needs the most perfect spot for her first kiss. Ronnie believes that twenty years after, she would still be with Shawn, in love.

This is their senior year and Shawn starts acting weird. He is easily irritated, irrationally possessive, and tense all the time. His outbursts start leaving bruises on Ronnie's body. Ronnie keeps making excuses for Shawn's strange behaviors. It must be temporary, because she can still see glimpses of the guy he fell in love with. Love means keeping up with your loved one in the hard time... right?

Things begin spinning out of control, and Ronnie is desperate to fix everything and has her perfect life back. Ronnie plays Juliet in a play while her best friend, Luke, plays Romeo. Shawn is the love of her life, but why does her heart flutter every time she sees Luke? Why does everything feel so easy and comfortable with Luke? When Ronnie's and Juliet's feeling mingle, she can't see the difference between Juliet's lines and her words anymore on stage.

Knee Deep is the kind of book that will suck you from the first passage. The descriptive words are beautiful and the atmosphere between the characters is so thick. I keep feeling that something bad is going to happen, and the tension makes me uneasy, nervous, and breathless at the same time.

It's not like I can't understand Ronnie. She's a character I like from the beginning. She has overwhelming desire to fix anything wrong so she has always been the first who offers peace after her argument with Shawn. I think deep down, Ronnie has already known that there's a crack in their relationship. She only refuses to see the crack, because she's supposed to have her happy ending with Shawn.

They are in a destructive relationship, and throughout the book I just want Ronnie to admit it. Shawn might be Ronnie's perfect guy once, but now, he's a ticking bomb waiting to explode. For the life of Ronnie, I just want to shout out at her to please, please do what you know you have to do if you want to save your life.

Knee Deep is a wonderful book and I admire how much the characters' feeling exposed in the story. Ronnie does make mistakes, but in the end she learns that sometimes, some things are not meant to be. This book deals with fairly hard issues and I'm very glad to tell you that the result is amazing.

There's something incredible about being loved by someone I've known for so long. Like he knows me, loves me, and yeah, it's this thing I can count on. Solid. Stable.

Kaylee says

I really enjoyed Knee Deep and can't wait until it comes out and so everyone else can get a chance to read it too!

Luke is one of my favorite book boys of the year. I love nothing more than the nice guy (I guess that's what floats my boat) and he is that. He's not some doormat, though. But he's a friend first to a girl who needs a friend more than anything.

I started this book while I was sick, thinking I'd read a little here and a little there to pass the time, and ended up reading the entire book in one sitting, unable to put it down. This is one of those books that breaks your heart, but you don't care and you love it anyway (and maybe because of that!)

When it comes out, get a copy, and plan a whole evening to finish once you've started. :)

Kristin (KC) - Traveling Sister says

3.5 Stars

Took my breath away!

I was initially a bit hesitant to read a book majorly focused on abuse; a subject such as this normally leaves me with an uneasy feeling. But the way Ms. Perry flawlessly tackles this delicate subject—using a soft touch to convey a firm message, left me in awe!

The story begins at the birth of the abuse and progresses from there. Shawn was Ronnie's childhood love; her destiny, and she couldn't imagine life without him. As Shawn's behavior becomes threatening, Ronnie starts to see herself as the cause of his abusive behavior rather than a victim of it. Throughout this all, her amazing

(and gorgeous) best friend Luke stands by her. But as the line of friendship between them starts to blur, her internal struggle further intensifies...

This book does an outstanding job demonstrating how easily one can fall victim to abuse. It also conveys the importance of *getting out* and not regarding such behavior as "normal". There are no gory details or in-depth accounts, but the message is strong and clear enough that I felt as if *I* were the one holding my breath at times.

I would absolutely recommend this book to Young Adult readers of all ages, but especially teens. The story takes place in high school, and is a fairly clean read. Although the main focus settles on escaping an unhealthy situation, I really enjoyed the tender love story between life-long friends, as well. Original read!

Book Stats:

? **Genre/Category:** Young Adult

? **Steam Caliber:** Clean

? **Romance:** Friends-first connection.

? **Characters:** In high school. Abusive hero. Broken and confused heroine.

? **Plot:** A young girl's struggle with an abusive relationship. *Mildly graphic scenarios*

? **Writing:** Authentic and engaging. Fluid and graceful.

? **POV:** 1st Person: Heroine

? **Cliffhanger:** None/Standalone

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

A Huge THANK YOU to Nicole at Tribute Books for allowing me to be a part of this great tour. Knee Deep grabbed my attention a few months ago when I saw the cover reveal. I said man this book is something I need to read when it comes out. The cover just screams READ ME..... READ ME.....

Knee Deep is a story of love, friendship and consequences of loving the wrong person. This story shows you the consequences behind actions made in haste. This is a must read for all teenage girls. When a girl loves hard she loves hard but with that also comes the crashing or falling hard on your face when the relationship does not work out.

Ronnie has loved Shawn all her life. She knows she is supposed to be with him. He is her soul mate and she will do and say anything to be with him. Then Shawn moves away and Ronnie gets close to Luke. Luke is her best friend and he will do anything for Ronnie. Then Shawn moves back and he and Ronnie become a couple. With this new relationship Ronnie and Luke's friendship starts to fade because she is spending all her time with Shawn.

Then Ronnie and Luke try out for the school play and Ronnie and Luke get the leading roles. Ronnie is excited because she gets to star opposite Luke and she will be able to spend time with him and build their friendship back up. But there is danger lurking in the background and someone is not happy about their friendship. Their friendship and love will be tested and when Luke finds out Ronnie's secret all hell will

brake lose.

What will Ronnie do about Shawn? Will she have the courage to stand up and tell someone? Will she confide in Luke? What is a girl to do when she is torn between two guys? One guy is good and one is poison, who will she choose? When her love hits rock bottom who will be there to pick up the pieces of her broken heart? This is a MUST READ for all teenagers!

As I was reading this book I kept thinking about a song that describes Ronnie and Shawn's relationship and I think Cut by Plum is perfect for them.

<http://youtu.be/OJkqkWIpFAI>

Ronnie and Luke have this awesome friendship until something happens to it. So I picked Be Still by The Fray <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nUuBj...>

Thank you Jolene for writing such an open and honest story that shows us some things are better of being said then keeping them secret.

Haley ~ YA-Aholic says

“He’s it for me, Luke.” ...Luke’s face falls. “He can’t be. It can’t be possible for someone like him to get someone like you”

What if the person you were supposed to love and be with forever, changed for the worst? This is exactly what happened to Ronnie. Shawn and her are supposed to be together forever. She promised herself to Shawn when she was 14, and now that she is about to graduate she can’t be more excited to start the future with Shawn. But things don’t always work out how we plan...Shawn is getting angry with Ronnie everyday over smaller and smaller things, the first time he leaves a bruise Ronnie can’t believe he would hurt her and knows he is sorry when he begs her for forgiveness. But as the bruises keep adding, and Shawn’s temper keeps getting worst. Ronnie is starting to think maybe Luke is right, maybe Shawn isn’t who he used to be...

Wow, and wow. Jolene Perry has officially become one of my favorite authors; Knee Deep is yet another work of hers that has taken my breath away! I am not a huge fan of novels that are on tough subjects such as abuse, but Knee Deep I completely connected with and loved to pieces. Most of the time when I hear about girls or woman that are in abusive relationship I just don’t get what they are thinking or how they could stand to be with that person. But while reading Knee Deep I completely understood where Ronnie was coming from, and why trying to convince herself that Shawn is abusive was hard. Jolene did an amazing job at making Knee Deep a powerful and moving novel on abuse.

My favorite part about Knee Deep was easily, the emotions. That may sound like a weird thing to like so much, but Knee Deep had so many different emotions flying around from each character and Jolene did a spectacular job at portraying each characters feelings. Never once did a reaction seem too dramatic, or under played. Everytime Ronnie felt hurt it felt real, it didn’t feel like you were just reading Ronnie’s story. While reading Knee Deep you really feel Ronnie’s pain and struggle. Even when Luke gets hurt or upset you can’t help, but feel sad for him. Every emotion in Knee Deep was so real.

Another part of Knee Deep that I found myself loving was our main character Ronnie. She went through SO much with Shawn, and although some people may see her as weak. When it comes down to it, I think she is

one of the strongest characters I have ever seen. Not only was she a strong character, she was also a great friend, and daughter. Considering everything she went through and to still come out of it all so strong, makes her an amazing main character in *Knee Deep*.

Altogether, *Knee Deep* was an amazing tough subject contemporary novel. It will touch your heart at some points, and completely crush it at another. This is a novel for anyone looking for a novel of heart break, friendship, love, self-recovery, and moving on.

Juhina says

I've really hit the jackpot with *Knee Deep*. I have been getting quite restless with the amount of repetitive contemporaries I've been reading lately and was dying to read one that just emotionally affected me, and *Knee Deep* was the one. I always say how I always look for the realistic aspect of contemporaries. The story revolves around the beginning of an abusive relationship and how the female protagonist is in denial and can't admit to herself that her boyfriend, her childhood sweetheart, would do such a thing. While the protagonist might have pissed me off because of her denial and obvious attachment to her boyfriend, coming from a reader who is a feminist, I do understand why she chose to keep on giving him a second, a third, and a fourth chance, hoping he would go back to being the Shawn she loved.

The writing of the story gripped me, I was so invested in all the characters, including Shawn, and wanted to know how this situation came to be. I must say, I also liked the protagonist, Ronnie. Like I said, I would usually have hated a character like her, but the reality of the situation is that many women have gone through such abusive relationships, some couldn't end it, others wouldn't end it, while a few actually walk out. So in the end Ronnie is one of the brave ones and I give her credit for that. I also liked the development between Ronnie and her guy friend Luke. A contemporary YA wouldn't be one without a romantic line and this is where Luke steps in. I loved how he was so nice and a true friend to Ronnie. Being hot doesn't hurt of course. The scenes between the two were sweet, carefree, and just what they should be for a 17 year old girl! The contrast between Luke and Shawn's scenes were mind boggling.

Jolene Perry has wrote yet another fantastic contemporary. *Knee Deep* definitely went deep emotionally for me and I am sure for the thousands of girls that have witnessed an abusive relationship whether through family, friends, or word of mouth. This is what I love about YA contemporaries, they convey messages to us girls that make us stronger, independent, and to stay true to ourselves and love ourselves. I would recommend *Knee Deep* to all contemporary readers and also girls in general. This is a book you don't want to miss out on!

More reviews on Maji Bookshelf

Heidi says

“Four Stars: A compelling read that focuses on a difficult topic!”

Ronnie is excited to start her senior year. She has two wonderful best friends, Mindy and Luke, and best of all the boy she has been in love with she was twelve moved back last winter and they are so in love and happy. At least, that is what she tells herself. Yet, things haven't been perfect lately with Shawn. He has been moody, distant and they have been fighting more. She blames the situation on the added pressure he is experiencing at his job and at home. If she is just a bit more patient and understanding things will surely iron out, after all this is the boy with whom she is meant to be with forever. The problem is no matter how hard she tries things don't smooth out. She is constantly walking on eggshells not knowing what will aggravate Shawn. It could be something simple like wearing high heeled shoes that sets him off. One day his anger escalates into physical aggression when he grabs her wrist and bruises it. Despite this incident, Ronnie is still convinced that Shawn is the only boy for her, but why is she suddenly experiencing these fluttery new feelings for her best friend Luke?

What I Liked:

*I absolutely applaud Ms. Perry for addressing this difficult topic. So many women out there suffer horrible abuse inflicted on them by the person they love. I was so glad to read this book and I am grateful that Knee Deep will help spread awareness. Granted this book focuses on a teenager caught in the beginning stages of a relationship that unexpectedly turns abusive, but it is still a compelling novel, one I think any teenage girl should read.

*I appreciated that the violence was minimal. I think this was important because first, it shows that aggression even small acts, like grabbing an arm, are a form of abuse. Using little incidents and finally building to a more violent scene show how it can quickly start and escalate. Young girls need to be aware that even a slight infraction like a harmful grab is a form of abuse!

*I also loved the way that Ronnie's character was portrayed. She is young, innocent and naive. A girl who feel in love at twelve with the first boy who made her heart flutter. She is convinced that Shawn is her fairy tale happy ending and that they are going to be together; no matter what. She reminds me of a little girl stubbornly clinging to her first fairy princess dress, despite the fact that it doesn't fit like it should anymore and it is worn and tattered. Her relationship with Shawn is much like that ill fitting dress. The relationship has turned into an abusive and controlling situation that will only fester and grow worse over time. She spends most of the book second guessing and trying to convince herself it is somehow her fault. I know many readers may struggle with her naïveté, but Ms. Perry gets it right in her depiction. Ronnie is the perfect example of how it is so easy for a girl to slip into one of these bad relationships. So many women are stuck in these cycles of violence. Time and time again, coming back when he apologizes and declares his love and utters his false promises that it won't happen again. If you know any young lady caught in this type of situation share this book and get her help!

*I liked that Ronnie has such a strong support system. She has her father, Luke and Mindy. Unfortunately, she, like most women in her situation, fails to take advantage of her support.

And The Not So Much:

*This is one book that I fervently wished that I could get inside Shawn's head to have a better understanding of what was motivating him and why he reacted the way he did. However, I realize that knowing why Shawn behaved the way he did would ruin the realism. Meaning, no one knows for sure what drives a man to beat the woman he loves. Seeing things through Shawn's eyes would ruin the book. It is best to keep it via Ronnie's view only, that way the reader is in the dark and clueless as well.

*I was a bit discouraged that there was not a more thorough discussion on the consequences that Shawn faced at the end. I think it is important for girls out there to know what the punitive results are for abusers. Hopefully, with this knowledge they will be more inclined to act. I also felt that at the end of the book it would be beneficial to include a list of resources for girls stuck in this situation. If including this information helps only one girl, it will make a difference.

*I was a put off by Ronnie's mother. Her character is flat, and a non participant for the most part. Her father

however plays a vital role in the book. I just wished the mother was better developed.

*Yes, this book presents a love triangle but I was willing to overlook it because I really liked Luke's character for one, and second it was a nice diversion from the heavy topic. Unfortunately, most abused girls don't have a Luke waiting in the wings.

*This of course is a book I would recommend for an older YA audience due to the weighty issue and the references to drinking and some sexual situations. However, that being said, this is an important book that any girl, even as young as thirteen or fourteen if they are in an abusive relationship, they should read this.

*This is a small personal issue, but for me there was too much repetition with phrases with the word melt and melting...it was a little much for my taste.

Knee Deep ended up being a moving and compelling read for me. I appreciated Ronnie's young, innocent and naive voice. Watching her struggle and blame herself for the bruises was an eye opening experience, yet so real. Too many girls are caught in these violent cycles of abuse and forgiveness because they fervently believe they are meant to be with this man they love, despite his shortcomings. No one deserves to be hit, slapped, controlled, mentally or verbally abused. No excuses, no blame. Get out! Get Help. I am glad that I read this book!

Favorite Quotations:

"I'd never admit to loving being back in school, but I love being back in school. It smells like new ink from unopened text books, and everyone's in their favorite new clothes. It all just adds up to a fresh start."

"I watch my toes peek out from under my dress, something I never tire of seeing."

"I hate never mind. It's like---oh yeah, that thing I wanted to say? You're just not important enough for me to say it."

"I'm like a leaf battered about in the wind."

"Did I just admit to what I think I did? I'm half freed/ half chained more tightly. Someone knows, but he's not someone who will understand."

"My heart is starting to swirl as much as my head and my emotions are as lost as my thoughts."

"I'd known him too long to think of him as anything less than a forever thing."

"Shivers run through me as his fingers slide through mine. Our fingertips touch, our palms slide together and I'm helpless to do anything but watch."

"I'm starting to understand the difference between embarrassment and humiliation. Embarrassment is toilet paper stuck to shoe, or your zipper sliding down. Humiliation is feeling stupid, knowing things should have been different instead of landing us all in this surreal situation."

"Mom tries to hug me, but I don't want it. I want to fold my arms and legs, fold myself in until I'm a tidy, crisp white envelope. Perfect. Clean. Untouched."

I received this book courtesy of Tribute Books in exchange for an honest review.

Posted @ <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/>

Morgan says

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE REVIEWS AT READING, EATING AND DREAMING I WAS BLAIR WALDORF

Knee Deep is a beautiful coming of age novel about love, abuse, and self-discovery. It's intense and gut-clenching, but it's also light and sweet! It's a great balance of dark of light.

Ronnie has been in love with Shawn since she was fourteen, and she is convinced that she is going to spend the rest of her life with him. He is her forever. Lately, Shawn's been stressed, tense, controlling, and forceful,

but Ronnie knows the Shawn she fell in love with is still in there somewhere because she still sees glimpses of him every now and then. Keeping Shawn happy is taking a toll on Ronnie mentally and physically, but she keeps making excuses for him and covering for him. Ronnie wants to be with Shawn, so why does her heart skip a beat every time she's near Luke, her best friend. When did her movie marathons with Luke turn into tingles and butterflies? And now that she's playing Juliet to Luke's Romeo in the school play, how does she know if it's real? Or an act? What choice will Ronnie make when her heart is split in two.

Yes, there is a love triangle in this novel. I never once doubted my favorite. The controlling, abusive boyfriend or the attentive, loving best friend? I'll take option B please!! Especially since he 1) is absolutely precious 2) has a heart of gold 3) watches chick flicks 4) wears cartoon t-shirts 5) is one of the best friends a girl could ask for!

Ms. Perry did a wonderful job developing the characters in this novel. I think that character development is one of the MOST important things in novels about abuse. Authors have to get the characters just right for the story to be received right, and in my opinion, Ms. Perry nailed it!

It's difficult to explain how I feel about novels written on abuse. I used this example in one of my reviews the other day and I'm going to use it again here because it's the easiest way to explain how I feel. Ya know when your watching a scary movie and you see the girl running up the stairs and you just want to scream "STOP!?" I'm sure it's not politically correct to admit it, but that is how I feel when I read a novel about abuse. That was also the case with *Knee Deep*. This novel had me super invested, a little stressed out, and a little bit frustrated. Although some of those things may sound negative, they aren't. In my opinion, anytime a book makes me feel that strongly, it's a good thing. I'd much rather get really worked up then feel nothing at all.

I gave *Knee Deep* by Jolene B. Perry 4 STARS. I strongly recommend this novel!

-XOXO

READING, EATING AND DREAMING

Ari says

I wanted to write a simple answer to the question "you didn't like Ronnie?", but I ended up with more than a comment. Keep in mind that this is not quite a review, just some thoughts that came to my mind.

I am not too familiar with this subject (thank God) so I saw all this through my own eyes instead of Ronnie's, but as much as this girl kept arguing with herself, she always found some excuses for her boyfriend, which yes, it seems pretty realistic.. the problem was that she never made it clear to him that he was hurting her and that she was upset about it.

He was like looking at his shoes (which she thought it meant that he was sorry), he said a crappy apology that I usually found pathetic and then she was all over him, kissing him and making HIM feel better, and thinking what a terrible girlfriend SHE was.

I'm telling you, the whole time my blood was boiling. I know this must be how things really happen, how

girls keep going making excuses for their abusing boyfriends, waiting for things to get better; I know that young girls NEED to read this book to know what to avoid, what NOT to do.. Still I was so annoyed and I thought this girls was so damn stupid and stubborn that I even had to skip here and there in order to just get to the ending. (you see, wanting to punch a character that has already been abused is no sign of sanity! I'm in trouble here.)

Also I don't think that she learned a damn thing from this story. She was abused, but she didn't want to break up with him (I'm not sure if it's worth trying to remember his name) even though things got worse, and maybe it's just me, but I think that if it weren't for all other people that got involved making her put a stop to this situation, she would still be with him even though she fell in love with someone better, which in reality most of the times it doesn't happen... Some girls don't have something/someone good to compare with and they get to think that what is happening to them is normal (that abuse is normal!), and they are scared to be alone starting over, and they keep thinking of all the good things, as few as they are, and forget all those bad moments even though they have bruises to make them remember.. Ronnie was lucky to have Luke, and she still didn't want to make the switch to a better love-life.

So I suppose the problem was that I simply couldn't connect with Ronnie, she didn't make me feel that she was as in love with her boyfriend as she made me want to think, I didn't feel that strong connection between them. Maybe it was because when the book started their relationship was already falling apart, but I just can't believe that someone can chance just like that, at once, that he was absolutely perfect until that first incident, there must have been signs that she missed.

Anyways, I think that many people will enjoy this book, and I think that many people need to read this kind of books, need to find of that stories can end with a happy ending.

Happy reading!

** This review can also be found at ReadingAfterMidnight.com*

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Abbie says

Actual rating - 3.5

Jasprit says

I'm never keen on picking up books dealing with sensitive subject matters such as abuse, I usually have a tough time stomaching them but also the last one I read which focused on this subject didn't work out for me. So you're probably wondering why did I decide to pick another one up so soon? When I first came across Knee Deep I actually didn't look at what it was about I completely fell for the cover, also my last book by Jolene Perry I'd surprisingly enjoyed so I'd really wanted to read more of her books soon.

Shawn and Ronnie have been childhood friends, Ronnie's always felt something between her and Shawn, even when he moves away they promise to keep in touch, she knows he's the one so when Shawn moves back, they're immediately drawn to one another, it's as though Shawn wasn't even away in the first place. But then all of a sudden Shawn starts getting tense, he loses his rag quickly and his temper changes in an instant. Ronnie knows it's because of the pressure his dad is putting on him so she tries to please him any way she can, she knows what Shawn's wanted for a long time but she's never been quite ready. So maybe Ronnie will have to change things quite a bit to make things alright between them.

I really feel for the individuals that find themselves in these sorts of situations. Ronnie was quite lucky as she had a strong support network, her dad was a therapist and so quite quick to pick up on the fact that something was not quite right, even though Ronnie's mum thought the sun shone out of Shawn. Also Luke, Ronnie's friend was awesome, he was also Shawn's friend, but was good as he also recognised that there was something wrong with Shawn.

I also I think I preferred this book a lot more than the other book which dealt with physical abuse because, the signs of the abuse were picked up quickly early on. Ronnie tried her best to cover them all the time by wearing long sleeved tops and acting as if everything was okay, but when her friends and family soon became to realise what was happening, they tried to bring a stop to it and convince Ronnie about what the right thing was to do. Also the fact that everything came out in the open earlier on, we were able to see Ronnie dealing with the aftermath of it months afterwards. Yes it was an especially tough time, but Perry goes to show that individuals suffering from any sort of abuse shouldn't give up, yes there's a tough uphill struggle battle afterwards trying to get your life back on track and it's difficult with everyone constantly gawking at you. But with the right support and direction it is possible.

I hate how abuse of any kind makes the abusee feel as if they are in the wrong. Ronnie did absolutely nothing wrong but she constantly felt paranoid, she had to over analyse everything all the time, should she wear her heels even though it made her look taller than Shawn and he hated it? She also had to pick up on Shawn's mood changes so she wouldn't say the wrong thing and make him even more mad. It is truly horrible to find yourself in that position. But hopefully by reading Knee Deep individuals who find themselves in similar situations will come to realise that there is always a way out.

This review and more can be found on The Readers Den

Jolene Perry says

This book is way more personal than I intended for it to be, and I'm a sucker for stories that involve best friends having a chance at more.

Luke, and his floppy hair, raggedy shorts, and juvenile T-shirts is one of my favorite, favorite book boys.

Savannah (Books With Bite) says

I know I probably said this last time, but how is it, that this amazing author is not published! Her books are amazing and so down to earth. Her characters have pivotal points in their lives that leave the reader breathless and wanting more.

Abuse in a relationship is so hard to get of. You make excuses for the person, covering up all of their bad deeds. This is why I am glad for books like these that address the issue head on. Ms. Perry writes such a significant point in the story. I love the way she builds up the abuse. It's subtle at first, just yelling, then shoving, then well, you can get the picture.

I like that in this story there is help. Ronnie gathers her strength to finally realize what she is going through. I admire her strength and her determination to change the one that she loves but she can't. People have to want to help themselves in order to get help and Ronnie has a hard time taking all of that in.

The love interest in this book is sweet and enduring. With amazing descriptions in emotions, Ms. Perry allows the reader to become deeply invested in this love. I know I hoped for Ronnie to finally see and when she did it was heaven.

Knee Deep is an heartfelt tale of love and lost. Not all things are meant to be. Sometimes we have to let go of things in order to see the bigger picture. Knee Deep is a solid story with amazing characters and their trials. With a love and hope that is solidifying Knee Deep is amazing.

Suzanne says

While not the type of book I usually read, Knee Deep really piqued my interest. I had signed up for a spotlight post with an excerpt and after reading it, I just wanted more. And I wasn't disappointed. It brought about some strong emotions and really left an imprint in my thoughts. I've never read a book about abuse situations before, usually keeping away from realism in the books I read, but I just felt compelled to read this one.

I really enjoyed Jolene's writing style. It was simplistic and made for a fast paced read. Ronnie, the protag, is a likeable girl and her characters actions and emotions were realistic to the situation. She has two best friends, Luke and Mindy. As things go downhill with Shawn, she starts to have feelings for Luke which doesn't help her situation, especially as he seems to feel the same, and they are playing Romeo and Juliet

opposite each other in the school play. This only adds fuel to Shawn's fire.

So, we have somewhat of a love triangle, with only one obvious choice to be rooting for. Luke does his best to help Ronnie once he finds out, but she doesn't want him to tell anyone, so he doesn't. He does jump in just at the right moment a few times though, always seeming to know how to act to douse the situation. He is Shawn's friend too.

Once she tells Mindy, it was again realistic as to how a best friend might act. Her dad's part also was very well done. I just couldn't believe that any mother would be as unobservant and "away with the birds" as Ronnie's. She noticed absolutely nothing going on with her daughter at all.

If this is the type of book you like to read, then snap it up, you will not be disappointed. Once I started reading this, I could not put it down. I would have no hesitation in picking up other books written by this author.
