



Just Like Beauty

Lisa Lerner

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A plague of mutant grasshoppers is invading American suburbia. An underground suicide cult is gaining national prominence. Gangs of teenage boys with blow torches run amok. But what really has fourteen-year-old Edie Stein distracted from her town's annual Feminine Woman of Conscience Pageant is Lana Grimaldi, the sexy girl next door. How does a feminine woman of conscience deal with her? "Just Like Beauty" is a brilliantly inventive blend of adolescent angst and cultural satire set in a disconcertingly not-so-distant future.

Just Like Beauty Details

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Author : Lisa Lerner

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From Reader Review Just Like Beauty for online ebook

Catherine Handren says

Really, really interesting sci-fi, feminist, coming-of-age weirdness. I read this in one sitting. It was like going on a space ship to another universe. Which is always a good feeling.

Jenna says

another great book with a random girl and a skirt on the cover

Steven Werber says

Very dark!! Like Judy Blume meets Steven King.....What would it be like to go through puberty and come out in a dystopian society? I couldn't stop reading it but I don't know if I liked it....

Kelly says

great coming of age alternate reality type book.

Anna says

This novel is a scathing, futuristic perspective of our sex-obsessed, polluted, drug-addicted, unhappy, sexist, beauty-seeking, dissatisfied culture told through the eyes of an adolescent Pageant contestant. At times, crass, compulsive, thoughtful, and staggered, the narration works by assuming the existence of futuristic technology and struggles without explaining the changes, which I believe is the best, most prophetic narration form to use within sci-fi and dystopian literature.

I was most intrigued by the underground suicide group, but I was personally moved by the premise and questions posed by the entire novel although the plot delays were occasionally stilted. The writing had hard-shifting moments and needed fine polishing, but overall, the book was genius.

Crystal Helcel says

The writing is flat and the story is played out. Waste of time.

Melanie says

This is a very odd book. It's one of those books you aren't sure about, but don't want to stop reading because you want to know what happens at the end.

Nicole (Reading Books With Coffee) says

I liked the premise of the novel, but I felt like it started in the middle of the story. There was a lot missing- basic details about how this town got to be so futuristic, what the pageant is really all about, and critical parts of the story weren't explained very well, and that's if they were explained at all. Edie's first love, her relationship with her parents, and why her mother was the way she was weren't really developed.

The book does make you think, and I have all kinds of questions. Why is society is okay with their teenage daughter performing sex acts on a plastic dummy? Why are teen boys allowed to run amok? Why are there people "torching" the girls in the pageant?

It gets a 2 out of 5. She had the wrong kind of details- she went on too long about how futuristic the society was but glossed over the back story of how this town came to be and why things were the way they were.

Pam says

04/17/08 rec via bookmooch

Jill says

Terrible.

Nichole says

this was such an odd book. it did make me think about a lot of the themes, so maybe it deserves better than a 2 rating, but i can't say that i liked it a lot.

Debdanz says

yowza-an odd new dystopia; freaky modern 'handmaid's tale' meets american beauty pageant.

Desiree says

Reminiscent of Atwood's "Handmaid's Tale" and Palahniuk's "Rant" and "Survivor," this is easily the best new fiction I've read in five or ten years; certainly one of the best female-authored novels I've EVER read. It puts all of those "insecure 20-something dates wrong boy, finds better job, finds perfect guy thanks to mom" chick lit novels to SHAME. God, how do they even get published??

Futuristic, but in a way that heavily satirizes the current trajectory of our culture. Gorgeously imagined and brought to life. Just fantastic. This is Lerner's first novel but I know I will certainly be looking out for anything and everything she produces (which will hopefully be prolifically).
