



Amazing Grace

Megan Shull

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Gorgeous teen superstar Grace Kincaid has it all--an electric smile, million-dollar endorsement deals, and blond cover-girl looks. But what happens when America's "It" girl doesn't want "It" anymore? With the paparazzi stalking her every move, Grace quietly slips out of a TEEN PEOPLE photo shoot, ducks the press, and calls her mom from the boiler room of the fabled USTA National Tennis Center. And right there, in her custom-made Nike warm-ups, tears streaming down her face, Grace says the three magic words that her mom told her she could say anytime, anytime this whole crazy life wasn't fun anymore. Three simple words—and her new life begins. For the hottest girl on the planet, life's about to change. Grace gets a make-under, a new identity, and a new life in a rugged little town on the edge of nowhere, population 813 (including one cute boy: one very cute boy). Megan Shull's AMAZING GRACE will grab you from the first paragraph (go ahead, read it!) and keep you reading till its satisfying, transporting--shhhh--happy ending. A sparkling new voice in teen fiction.

Amazing Grace Details

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Author : Megan Shull

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From Reader Review Amazing Grace for online ebook

Ginny says

This just not feel like a complete book. It could've used fifty more pages, as well as a lot more character development. It just didn't work for me.

Andrea says

It's amazing what can be called a book these days. This "book" was nothing more than short, simple sentences I would expect from an elementary school kid trying to write a story; they can't even be called sentences.

Ex.

And the air.

God.

I can breathe. It's like--

Green.

Green air.

I open my eyes and stare straight up and—

Wow.

The stars.

I've never seen anything like it.

A gazillion of them, glittering over me—

This is a cabin.

A cabin-y cabin.

Think RUSTIC.

Think logs.

Think Little House on the Prairie.

It's unlocked.

Is she going on sixteen or six? I can't tell.

And then we have these awkward moments where I'm seriously questioning the ability of the characters to speak and form normal, functional conversations. I'm wondering if they lose their train of thoughts easily due to some disorder, or if they're just scatterbrained.

She smiles at me.

I smile at her.

She exhales.

I exhale.

It's like Simon Says without Simon.

Finally, she speaks.

"So," she says.

"So," I repeat, still hoarse.

We both giggle.

“Well, let me welcome you properly to Medicine Hat!”

“Thanks.” I nod and smile shyly.

“Grace, I have a feeling—” Ava rises and returns to the stove. “I have a feeling that you—”

She stops, fills my plate with eggs, bacon, and fresh buttered bread.

“What I mean is—” Ava hands me a plate.

“Juice?” (And why would you put that on another line like someone else is speaking when Ava is still talking? I kept getting confused as to who was talking cuz she kept going to a new line when it should have stayed with the rest that person’s conversation. I think the author got a little crazy with the Enter key.)

“Sure, yes, thank you.” It looks so good.

“What I mean is, you’re going to love it here.”

I didn’t think an FBI agent would be so addlebrained.

And let me just say that reading about someone puking, salivating, drooling, bleeding through their pants and dirtying their panties up because they’re on their period, snorting back snot, having snot hang out of their nose, and having to clean up vomit that’s consisting of chunks of dinner mixed with alcohol is disgusting to read about. She was puking every time I turned around, and bawling like a baby all the time, and I really don’t wanna read about that crap.

Then she cuts her hair so short she’s basically bald, which I absolutely cannot stand for a character to do, and she gets a nose ring, which I do not go for. The first time she goes to a real teenage party she gets plastered from drinking four alcoholic drinks her first time drinking, and I really don’t like reading about people that get drunk and act like total losers. Not my kind of people at all.

The character came off as being very flippant, self-centered and basically a baby, what with saying “whatever” to every thought she was having instead of pursuing it, and always wanting her mom.

Ex.

Maybe she can’t hear me.

“Um, Ava?” I try again.

But it’s like I’m not even there.

Whatever. I shrug. I’ve been up for twenty-four hours, and I have never been this exhausted in my life.

“The outhouse is back there.” She waves in the direction of the window. “There’s a flashlight on the kitchen counter.”

Outhouse”

Whatever.

I’m too tired to even go to the bathroom.

I’m wondering if the author read this through after she wrote it, or if she realized what was happening as she was typing it out. Who thinks like this? Whose thoughts run so stop and go like this?

It obviously didn’t take much skill to produce such work.

Everyone was grinning and smiling and giggling and staring like a bunch of mindless fools.

The main character, Grace Kincaid, the “Superstar” and “America’s IT girl, who goes on photo shoots and has her own fragrance line, sounds worldly and graceful from the author’s description, and yet I find myself not believing it. She thought she was being daring by putting her head out of the window in the rain, doing a war cry before she chopped wood and jumping on rocks in the creek with Teague. It was pathetic.

Teague calls the dog baby and sweetheart, which was kind of girly for a guy to say to a dog, and just plain

wrong, since the dog was male.

I have to admit that the encounters with Teague were cute. The first time they met and the whole thing about the moose, and then the second time they hung out when he's showing her his secret hideout and showing concern over her safety when he's warning her not to go in the woods alone was sweet.

I just wish I would have gotten a better description of the characters. I really couldn't visualize anyone clearly. The author didn't put too much effort into making sure we could envision the characters.

We almost got to find out what Grace looks like, but she's holding up a hunk of snow in front of her face....nice cover by the way.

Calling someone cute and gorgeous and saying they're carved like a sculpture, and looking like a warrior really isn't doing anything for me.

And then this really shows her skills as a writer:

Maybe it's the sun, but his eyes—

They're, like.

Liquid.

Liquid eyes.

I've actually decided

that I'm going to

write

a

book

and put

the sentences

like this.

And then

I'm going to charge

\$15.99 to people

in the U.S

and \$21.99 for

people in Canada.

I'm going to

rip them off

like Megan Shull did.

They're going

to think

they're getting a full

book—when in actuality

there's going to be a lot

of blank space and

very short,

sentence fragments.

The joke will be on them,

because they'll soon

realize the book was more suited

to middle school kids instead of

high school kids like the main character

is supposed to be.

Jennifer says

This book was completely unbelievable and everything happened way too fast. There was no plot or character development. The story was interesting, but it never developed. There was so much potential to be good, but with no character or plot development it didn't have a chance. The only thing I really liked was the setting. Alaska and the green living could have been used a lot better. Overall, I was not impressed with this book.

Carly Loomis says

My opinion of this book was, it was really good and the book makes the readers really feel like they are involved in Teague and Grace's relationship. For example, "'You're heading out.' Teague looks sad. I look sad. I am sad. Teague looks at Ava and back at me. 'If it's okay with Ava--' He pauses and loops his fingers around mine. 'I would love the pleasure of your company for one last night.' We both turn toward Ava like two love-starved teenagers." pg. 228. This makes the reader sad that Grace has to leave because they want Teague and Grace to be together because they were meant to be. The theme was also very powerful. I thought the theme was money doesn't buy happiness. "Ava sighs and rolls over, and I run for the back door. Before I wake her with my laughing. Deep, belly laughing. Something I've noticed I've been doing a lot of these days." pg. 113. This example shows that she is a lot happier in Medicine Hat than she was in Malibu. Obviously Medicine hat isn't as luxurious as Malibu but Grace is happier there than she was in Malibu. However it could have been a little more dramatic and descriptive, but all in all, this was a really good read and I totally recommend it!

Janelle Hammonds says

I love it because I can relate to it with dad's pushing you to do something you love but then stop loving but they keep pushing you.

Shelly says

Honestly, I could not get over how unrealistic this book is. Even for a YA book, everything about this is so unbelievable. A young girl who is used to a life of lavish then gets thrown into unfamiliar situations and she handles it with such "grace"? She describes every person in the book as ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL or Gorgeous, which is also again so unrealistic. It is a very quick read, but I would not read it again or honestly recommend it.

Kricket says

grace 'ace' kincaid burns out at 15. she's a tennis champion and spokesmodel with 30 M, but she's had

enough. cue the makeover scene, and undercover grace ('emily o'brian') heads to alaska to live with a friend of her mother's in a tiny cabin with no indoor plumbing. mere hours into her visit, she has a run-in with a moose and meets a cute boy (teague). who is conveniently her age. conveniently, he likes her on the spot, and takes her to his kindly aunt, who bandages her moose injuries. cute boy conveniently has a cousin (fisher), who immediately and conveniently becomes emily's BFF. everything is immediately and conveniently perfect, so the plot kind of skips a couple of months, in which nothing happens between emily & teague despite their love at first sight. unrealistically, emily has no complaints about this.

but she does go to a party with fisher where she drinks four sex on the beaches, gets pawed at by an old perv, and throws up. she is immediately bundled off to therapy, and vows never to drink again. and goes on a date with teague. lalalalalala.

in short: boring, sunshiny plot, boring sunshiny characters. but i did like the alaska setting and the ending was pretty ok. still, i think this would be pretty appealing to some of my teens who enjoy light fiction, and i'll definitely recommend it.

Dawn says

Teen chic lit--a fun, quick read. Light romance. A teenage tennis star wants out. She is sick of all the glitz, glamour, and pressure. She wants to have a real, normal life. So she flees to a small town in Alaska to hide from the paparazzi. There she discovers friendship, love, healing, and decides who she really wants to be. I think the author's writing style works very well for her subject matter. I also like the voice of the main character. Her life is incredibly charmed, but hey, it's fiction. It also makes me want to visit Alaska...in the summer!

Missy says

Very cute, *very* light. I'd like to know more about the supporting characters, but the main character was fine.

Lesley says

Why?

Did it seem. Like. The whole thing... was written...

Like this?!

Aspen Sophia says

This book was just okay. It was kind of weirdly written and the "chapters" were odd also. Overall plot and storyline was good but I thought it wasn't well executed. Three stars.

Elena says

One of my favorite quick, short YA reads.

Grace "Ace" Kincaid is a fifteen year old teenage tennis phenom, until she decides right before the US Open that she's done. She is spirited away to the wilds of Alaska to hide, recover and find herself.

Is this book a masterpiece? No. Is this book awesome? Yes. It's quick, fun and touching.

Stephanie says

I really couldn't stomach this book. Every night when I finished reading for the evening, I'd throw it on the floor. I know it's written for teens, but it's still SO totally unbelievable that I couldn't find the motivation to keep turning the pages (especially since I was turning a page every 20 seconds.)

It would have been better as a movie. It moved WAY too fast and everything ended up just WAY too perfect. Not just in the ending, but all throughout the whole book. I would have liked to get to know Grace a little better before she quit tennis so I could see how much she really changed.

The little mystery about Ava wasn't mentioned until the last two pages of the book... that was really annoying. I did enjoy the setting and the cabin in which Ava and Grace lived. I loved the thought of living in an eco-friendly cabin in Alaska the way it was described. Of course, I'd have an eco-friendly way to take hot showers...

I imagined Teague as cute in a 16-year-old's way of being cute, but there was never much description of him besides dimples and how CUTE he was. It was mentioned that he WAS Eskimo. Didn't tell me much!

I really would have enjoyed a LONGER book about the same story. More background on the characters, more believable BAD things happening. I think this story lacked a PROBLEM. Like a set-in-stone, main PROBLEM. I teach 2nd grade... EVERY story has to have a PROBLEM!!!

Veronica says

Ratings:1.5 (generous) stars

Amazing Grace is one of those books with an interesting cover I saw once at the library when my arms were already heavily laden with books, so it ended up on my to-read list for years because it was passed up by other, more appealing books. So I finally borrowed it and I'm reading along, when, 20 pages in, I realize: *I've read this before*. Now this can really mean one of two things: 1)it's so predictable and full of cliches that you can easily find a dozen or so books that are essential the same OR 2)I've actually read it before, but it failed to leave a lasting impression because it's so forgettable.

After breezing through 256 pages of a lot of white paper (seriously the line spacing and font size is kind of ridiculous), I logged onto Goodreads, tried to add *Amazing Grace* to my shelf...and realized, it was already

there. Apparently I read it on December 28, 2011 and forgot to cross it off my to-read list. Opps. (I do have to say, I was probably more surprised by the fact that 2011 Veronica originally gave this 3 stars than anything else. As you can see, that has since been rectified.)

So, all this to say, *Amazing Grace* is, in my opinion, not worth a read. It's a story that's been written countless times before: Hollywood it-girl goes into hiding in the middle of nowhere, experiences real life, falls in love, yay normalcy. Granted, it's not *totally* like the other reverse transformation stories out there. Instead of being an actress or model or singer, GrAce is an athlete turned spokesperson. Instead of getting shipped off to a small town in the Midwest, she gets to go to a small town in Alaska. And there's no hiding behind mousy brown hair and glasses for her; instead, she gets cropped red hair and a ruby nose piercing to match. How *original*.

Obviously these types of stories require an extra dose of suspended disbelief to be enjoyable, but *Amazing Grace* is so ridiculous it requires suspended common sense. **NOTHING IN THIS BOOK MAKES SENSE.** For example, do you seriously expect me to believe a 15 year-old girl endorses so much her life consists of limos, the paparazzi, designer bags, bling'ed out pink cellphones, stalkers who jump out of bushes, magazine covers that cover her chest more than her face (pseudo-verbatim from the book), and enough makeup to open a mini-Sephora? All this while still managing to be an elite, no I'm sorry, *the* pro-athlete (she is ranked #1, after all) with a 107 mph serve and an impending match against Venus Williams in the US Open?

Then, when she does decide to give up everything and run for the hills, her mom orchestrates this elaborate hide-away scheme (in the matter of a few hours, mind you) and sends her off with a "let's not talk for the next 3 months because it'll be *too hard*" Excuse me? 1. That's possibly the dumbest excuse ever. At least try, we don't want the paparazzi to find you or something. 2. What kind of mother says that to her daughter?

Like, it'll be too hard to not see each other (which, by the way, is what's been happening the whole time Grace has been Miss tennis superstar), so let's not talk to each other too?

Then, when she's in Alaska, she supposedly goes to school like a normal child, but mostly just spends her days chopping wood and bowling and making goo-goo eyes at the cutest boy ever.

(view spoiler)

Adrian says

This book is good!!!! I actually liked it a lot when... BAM!!!! Bad scene!!! The author does a good job showing how the character internally changes though. I like the plot- not crazy about the language I was and still am disappointed with the inappropriateness the book showed.
