



Beautiful

Cindy Martinusen Coloma

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Her friends once thought she was perfect. Now she must face the mirror--and herself--to discover what true beauty is.

Ellie Summerfield has everything a girl could want--she's beautiful, she's Senior Class President, has a calendar full of social engagements, volunteer commitments, and church activities. In short, she's perfect, according to most of the students at West Redding High School. But something is bothering Ellie, like a loose string on a dress she can feel but can't see. Does she really love her boyfriend, Ryan? Who are her true friends? And is she really happy in her picture-perfect life?

Then in the course of a few minutes, the loose string in Ellie's life completely unravels. Forever changed, she must face herself as she discovers what it really means to be beautiful.

Beautiful Details

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From Reader Review Beautiful for online ebook

Jennifer says

Lots of layers to this book - the big bad thing isn't the only way that the author unveils her themes and relationships.

Amelia says

This book is an amazing, inspiring, heartwarming book about a girl named Ellie Summerfield who was the world's definition of perfect. She is popular, pretty, and volunteers for charities. She has a boyfriend, Ryan, who says he loves her, but she can't say the same to him. To her life this is one small problem in a perfect life until she is driving home with her friend and she gets in a car crash. The car crash kills her friend and burns her badly. She is horribly scarred on her whole left side and she feels like everything that made life worth living for is gone. She isolates herself, starts smoking, and dumps her boyfriend who tries hard to get her back, but she won't talk to him because she thinks that she does not deserve him. Then she and her sister, Megan, started to talk. Megan was the absolute opposite of her. She was negative about almost everything, her mood and how she acted was the absolute opposite of Ellie's which was bright and positive. After the accident they switch. Ellie sees just about everything negatively and Megan tries to help her through it. This book is about the love of God and how he has a solution for everything. You just have to ask and he will help you through whatever you are going through. Throughout this book the bond between Ellie and Megan is fixed after years of being broken, she discovers how much Ryan really loves her, finds out what is really important in life, and most of all Ellie gains a closer relationship with God. One of the things that she didn't have before the crash. This book will make you cry, laugh and want to read it again and again. It is one of my favorite books! You should read it.

Frezanda says

This book surprised me. I've read another book by this author and I don't find it amazing. It's good but not great.

But this book is different. I find the message it conveyed powerful.

Ellie Summerfield was beautiful before the accident. The beauty was not only physical beauty but also inner beauty. She's the kind of person who was just nice. You might want to hate her because of how perfect she was but she was really a nice girl. She was a girl driven by her dreams and she also had a solid relationship with God so she's the kind of person who never put much concern on the pettiness of high school life.

So I just wanted to say that before the accident, Ellie's already been innerly beautiful. However, that beauty was still untried. She also had a deep down insecurity due to verbal abuses by her grandfather when she was a kid. Because of this insecurity, she never opened up her heart to anyone.

That accident destroyed her carefully constructed life. Ellie suffered a burn on half of her face and body. I cringed when I read the treatment she had to suffer.

Considering the unfairness of it all, it was humane for Ellie to be angry at God and the world. Avoiding everyone and becoming a bitter person who hurt others. Like her grandfather...

The Ellie who clawed out of this challenge was different from the original Ellie. She may not have a perfect physical beauty but the inner one shined even brighter and stronger. It's the kind of beauty and strength who has been tested by challenges and not only survived but even grown. It shined and everyone can see it.

Out of all the story chapters, I would have to say I love the Epilogue the most. It's so cool. I don't know whether I should cry or I should applaud.

Michelle says

Beautiful stirred my heart several times. I found my eyes welling with tears of both heartache and joy as Ellie discovered herself for the first time while she healed from the accident. The author did a great job with character development and making them three dimensional. I loved the interaction between the heroine and the guys in her life. There were some amazing heroes and secondary characters in this book. Even the parents were genuine and believable. I didn't see any plastic characters or artificial faith.

This story had depth and heart. It in no way trivialized the trauma this girl went through and did a great job pointing out how sometimes what people say in awkward situations just hurts people more (God has a plan - true, but grieving people don't necessarily want to hear that when they are hurting.) I, too, felt her pain and the grief she went through. Everything she experienced made sense and was totally fitting her situation. In short, I was this girl. I went through the valley with her, which explains its profound impact on my heart.

I can totally see this novel opening the eyes of many girls who have taken the good things in their life for granted. And like Ellie's sister, Megan, this story should change them. After going through something like Ellie experienced, most things do seem awfully petty and stupid. I highly recommend this book.

Veronica T says

Though its a novel typical in many ways of YA, its also unique in that the message within it was put across strongly as the foreground for the entire story.

Ellie, the "perfect" girl, is in a car accident which changes her features. The physical scars that remain cause emotional scars of her past to fully surface, and as she struggles with depression following the accident, she realizes the need to find the real Ellie Summerfield, on her own terms. Instead of relying on her popularity and the facade of perfection that she's maintained at with others, she's able to explore more about herself, for herself.

I really enjoyed reading this book, and couldn't help but love the Christian messages made relevant through out, in an entirely nonpreachy manner. And of course, the fact that inner beauty was so greatly emphasized, something sorely needed to be heard, made this book quite beautiful in itself.

YA Reads Book Reviews says

Ellie is that girl. You know the one I mean: the one with the hot boyfriend; the one with the flawless grades;

the one that everyone admires; the one that is most likely to succeed in life. There's one in every school, and although you'd love to hate her, there just isn't anything about her to hate.

But then something happens, something bad. Ellie and her friend Stasia are involved in a car accident. Ellie suffers a lot of injuries and winds up in the hospital with severe burns to one side of her body.

Stasia doesn't even make it out of the car alive.

The doctors assure Ellie, that after a few years and a whole lot of surgery, that she'll recover and the scarring will almost definitely disappear. But a few years is a long time to walk through life looking like a mutant, and suddenly Ellie decides there is plenty about herself that's worthy of hating.

In a fit of depression, she cuts herself off from her friends. Every single one of them, including her boyfriend, Ryan. She's no longer beautiful, so what's even the point?

Ellie spirals further and further into a pool of depression and self-pity until one day, an old friend from way back in her past, someone that she sees as imperfect and flawed in his own way, walks back into her life.

Will has always had a crush on Ellie, even when they were little kids, and nothing has changed now. Just because her face isn't the same as it used to be, doesn't make her any less beautiful, in his eyes. For Will, beauty isn't something that's just on the outside. For Will, beauty comes from within.

Will he be able to save Ellie before she hits the bottom of the barrel? You'll have to read for yourself to find out.

Although Ellie's horrible self-pity was hard to endure, it was not unrealistic. As a character, I found the way she responded to the events and issues thrown at her to be very believable. I felt sorry for Ryan and her friends when Ellie simply cast them aside, but I never once thought that she was being unfair, or that her character was unrealistic.

Of all the characters within Beautiful, I admired Will and Ryan the most. Although Ellie pushed Ryan away with everything she had, he never stopped loving her, and just like Will, believed that her beauty went far deeper than the scars on her face.

A solid read that I'm sure the girls will love.

Brandi Kosiner (Brandi Breathes Books) says

Beautiful is a heartbreakingly realistic young adult novel. The characters show growth, originality, personality and are easy to relate to.

Ellie is in a horrible accident and we see the transformation not only of her looks but of who she is. She fights for her life and to realize what true beauty is. She doesn't completely lose who she was before the accident, but she realizes a lot of things about herself, and her family and she makes it all into something better. I connected better with Megan though because of her personality type. She is funny, sarcastic and tells it like it is- she also is learning a lot about herself in this book, and walks away from a negative relationship because of it. She is a bit of an outcast, and I relate with that.

There are two quality guys in this book and they both support Ellie through it all. I like that Ellie tries to be selfless about them in her life, and how she handles things. It is not a love triangle per say, because even

though it shows a glimmer of possibility for relationship with one of the guys, he is really just mostly a friend, and I like he keeps it that way to preserve their friendship, knowing that differences would probably tear them apart if they were more. So I really appreciate how that is written because it is not often that you see a quality friendship in YA with opposite sexes without him being gay or being romantically involved. Beautiful is well paced, and has a wonderful driving plot, with supporting and interesting sub-plots. I didn't ever feel like there was too little, or too much going on, it is very well balanced. It explores hope, healing, friendship, and religion. Don't let that turn you off though, it flows very naturally and I never felt like it was preachy. It was brought up at appropriate times and it was always personal opinion and not saying what should be believed.

Though we are taken on Ellie's journey of healing, I really appreciate how nothing is magically fixed- it is planted in reality and there is no magical pill. There is lots of hope, and she grows, changes and heals, but nothing is overnight. It has a great ending but it is not all tied up and handed to her. I would recommend this to my readers who like contemps, realistic ya, or if you want an emotional read that will make you think.

Kate Marie says

ow feels

Lauren Mawson says

I don't know where to start besides this is one of the best books I've ever read and I hate to read so that pretty good right? Well it was about this girl names Ellie that has an awesome boyfriend and is popular with good grades!!! One day on the way home with her friend after a party at her friends house she gets in a car accident and her friend Stasia died on the spot. The doctors thought she wouldn't make it, even though he did she had to spend 5 months in the hospital with a serious burn on the left side of her body, from her face to her leg.

I absolutely loved this book. It made me think about how lucky I am, and that people do have to live with things like burns. It thought to myself that nothing can stop me from doing my best all time and nothing can stop me from doing that. This has been such an inspirational book, and I hope you guys take the time to read it and understand that life has more to it then being popular and "beautiful", it has meaning and don't take advantage of it. Please pick up this book and read it now! I hoped this helped and you get as inspired as I did!! :)

Ember says

Could've possibly been four stars without having all the drinking, smoking, s*x talk, etc. The book was also very boring at points. Overall, it was just okay. I liked it more towards the end when Ellie wasn't as whiney acting as she was through like half the book, but I guess her complaints were legitimate. I'm mainly talking about her boyfriend and school drama whining. Oh, also, because I don't go to public school, I think that could've been part of the meh-ness for me. So, if you go to public school, you may like it better. So, yeah, meh.

Alea says

I could take a guess what Beautiful was about based on the book summary and book cover but I pushed it out of my mind so I could fully enjoy the book and be in the present moment with Ellie as everything happened. And I am sure glad I did because this book was beautiful and heartbreakin.

Ellie never had to work hard to make her life the way she wanted it, unlike her sister Megan, who to most is invisible. When Ellie has to restart her life she knows she can't just go back to the way things used to be, but what can she make of her life now? It's about Ellie finding herself and accepting herself for who she was and who is know is.

One thing I hadn't realized about Beautiful was that it was a sister story! Not only do we hear things from Ellie's point of view we get to know Megan as well, who I rather liked also! It's about them really getting to know each other after having lived in the same house for 17 years and really not actually knowing each other.

I liked and didn't like how everything in the book wasn't clean cut. Sometimes you just want everything to work out exactly how you'd imagine but really we know that's not always true. So I think this book did a great job of portraying this situation with honesty. Maybe you'll never exactly know where you stand with the boys in your life, or maybe for awhile you didn't want to believe in God or maybe your plans for the future had to be completely re-written.

One thing I wanted to address was this is a Young Adult Christian Fiction story (my first actually) but I found it very relatable as someone that is not a Christian. It's a very universal story.

Overall, Beautiful was beautiful and honest and heartbreakin.

Jenna Carter says

This book was amazing and beautiful. I am surprised it is not as popular as what I would have expected it to be. It is definitely an underrated book, and I feel more people should take the time to pick it up and read it. It conveys such a beautiful message of overcoming struggles and discovering what it means to be alive. I love this book and I highly recommend it to everyone.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Me for TeensReadToo.com

Let me start this review by saying that you need to read this book. Go, right now, and pick up a copy. I'll give you my personal guarantee that you'll absolutely love it as much as I did.

Ellie Summerfield is beautiful, popular, smart, and has a great, amazing boyfriend. Her social calendar is always full, she's President of this and in charge of that, and if you asked anyone at West Redding High

School to describe her, they'd probably tell you that she's basically perfect.

To Ellie, perfect is the last word she'd use to describe her life, although she wouldn't be able to tell you exactly why. Why does she love her boyfriend, Ryan, and yet not feel in love with him? Why does her sister, Megan, always make her feel like she's doing something wrong? Why do her parents have all of these plans for her that don't mix with the ones she has for herself?

She may have been able to answer all of those questions on her own, before the accident. But the car crashed, then caught on fire. Her maybe-friend, Stasia, died. And Ellie, well, Ellie doesn't look quite as beautiful as she used to.

When your face is that of a monster, and your faith in God and family and friends and just about everything else has been tested, when the "perfect" of your life is gone, what else is left? As Ellie struggles - through physical pain, emotional distress, and self-pity - it's only by coming out the other side that she'll learn that being beautiful has a whole lot more to do with what's on the inside than what's on the outside.

Let me say again - I absolutely loved this book. The characters, the writing, the pitch, the tone; it's all amazing. There was not one misstep in **BEAUTIFUL**; every word was a joy to read, and I was sad when it was done. Cindy Martinusen-Coloma has a way of writing that lets you live right alongside Ellie, feeling her happiness and heartbreak, dealing with her pain (both physical and emotional), dreaming and hoping and wanting and living.

This is a great book, one that you'll love reading and will be sad to see come to an end. And if you're worried about the fact that it's Christian fiction, please don't be. The message is one of love and acceptance, not one of browbeating you into being a believer. **BEAUTIFUL** is a book for everyone - and everyone will love **BEAUTIFUL**.

Debbie says

"**Beautiful**" is a young adult novel that has some romance. Adults will also enjoy this story. The novel asks the question, "Where does a person's worth come from? What happens when you peel back the trappings of a person's life and expose what's left?"

While mainly about Ellie, the story also revolved around her sister, Megan. Ellie and Megan appear to be exact opposites. Both are forced to face the core of who they are in a way neither expected. (I normally don't like back cover descriptions that refuse to say what the pivotal, life-changing moment is in the story, but the author handled this surprise so well that I'm not even going to hint.)

I cared about the characters. They were complex and faced realistic, tough struggles. I was left feeling like these characters really existed somewhere and had lived through this. The pacing was very good, and I had a hard time putting the book down because I wanted to know what happened next. The wording used in the story seemed a bit formal compared to what I'm used to in YA novels, but it fit Ellie.

I wouldn't really call this a Christian novel as there was very little "God talk," but God was mentioned here and there. In fact, I felt it could have used a bit more explanation. It was clear why Ellie began to doubt that God cared about or even paid attention to the details in each person's life, but I didn't quite follow why she changed her stance to what it was on page 258. Anyway, I think most Christians and non-Christians would

enjoy the book.

There was no sex. There was minimal bad language of the "she cursed" style. While many of the teen characters drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes, and smoked pot, Ellie didn't drink or do drugs. Overall, I'd recommend this novel as well-written, clean reading.

I received this book as a review copy from the publisher.

Uyenmy says

“Truth Found When Beauty is Lost.....”

Ellie Summerfield is beautiful, popular, smart, and has a great, amazing boyfriend everyone wants. She has everything a girl could want-- she's Senior Class President, she has a calendar full of social engagements, volunteer commitments, and church activities...If you asked anyone at West Redding High School to describe her, they'd probably tell you that she's basically “PERFECT”...

The definition for the word PERFECT here describe Ellie is that; she has flawless grades, she is attractive to everyone around her...and she is the person that is mostly to succeed in life. But to Ellie, perfect is the last word she'd use to describe her life...Since childhood, Ellie has fought to overcome her grandfather's painful words that push her to be driven, determined, and successful to the detriment of those around her. She always strives to do more, be more, help more. But when a tragedy stops her world short, Ellie is confronted with her deepest fears and many question about her life: Why does she love her boyfriend, Ryan Blasin, and yet not feel in love with him?..Why does her sister, Megan Summerfield, always make her feel like she's doing something wrong?..Why do her parents have all of these plans for her that don't mix with the ones she has for herself?... What is her life really worth..?

She may have been able to answer all of those questions on her own, before the accident. But the car crashed, then caught on fire. Her maybe-friend, Stasia couldn't make out of the car. And Ellie doesn't look quite as beautiful as she used to.(she was burned badly on her left side of the body). When her face is that of a monster, and her faith in God and family and friends and just about everything else has been tested, when the “perfect” of her life is gone, Ellie struggles through physical pain, emotional distress, and self-pity. It's only by coming out the other side that she'll learn that being beautiful has a whole lot more to do with what's on the inside than what's on the outside. While mainly about Ellie, the story revolved around her sister, Megan. Ellie and Megan appear to be exact opposites. Both are forced to face the core of who they are in a way neither expected. Ellie never had to work hard to make her life the way she wanted it, unlike her sister Megan, who to most is invisible. When Ellie has to restart her life she know she can't just go back to the way things used to be, but Ellie finding herself and accepting herself for who she was and what she is now....

My recommendations: I love this book.. The characters, the writing, the pitch, the tone, it's all amazing..Every word was a joy to read, and I was sad when it was done. Cindy Martinusen- Coloma has a way of writing that lets you live right alongside Ellie, feeling her happiness and heartbreak, dealing her pain (both physical and emotional), dreaming and hoping and wanting and living.. There was no sex in this book..but there was minimal bad language of the “she cursed” style. While many of the teen characters drank alcohol, smoked cigarettes, and smoked pot, Ellie didn't drink or do drugs. Overall, I'd recommend this novel as well-written, and clean reading. I liked and didn't like how everything in the book wasn't clean up. Sometimes you just want everything to work out exactly how you'd imagine but really we know that's not always true. So I think this book did a great job of portraying this situation with honesty...I wouldn't really

call this a Christian novel as there was very little “God talk,” but God was mentioned here and there in the novel...But I think Christians and non- Christians would enjoy this book...
