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*Ann Lee Miller*

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Kallie shares her classically trained singing voice only with lead vocalist Jesse and fights to keep her heart safe. Jesse feeds on fame and hides more than insecurity beneath his guitar.

The friends surf ego, betrayal, and ambition and head for wipe-out. But somehow, when they're not looking, Avra's God changes them all.

## Avra's God Details

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Author : Ann Lee Miller

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## From Reader Review Avra's God for online ebook

### Helen Wakefield says

Avra's God is Ann Lee Miller's third book release and if you've read her first two books, you'll enjoy the glimpses of some of the characters from them.

Avra's is a story that many women - young and old - can relate to. Falling for that bad boy, and wrestling between what you know is right and the runaway emotions that you feel. By clinging to her trust in God, Avra's faith impacts her friends and sets up a catalyst for change and healing.

Cisco, Kallie and Jesse have a boat load of issues between them. They all have a varying knowledge and experience of God, and each must come to Him in their own way. Most readers would find they identify with one or more of the character's issues.

I'm a big fan of Ann's novels. Somehow she completely understands the lives and minds of early twenty-somethings and brings them to life with such clarity. My skin was crawling with some of the things her male characters said - it was so accurate and typical of boys in that age group, I was instantly transported back to a similar period in my life.

This is such an exciting age group to read about, and Ann captures the emotions and drama so well that it's easy to completely lose yourself in the story. The characters' journey towards God is natural, touching and refreshing.

In terms of degree of "edginess", Avra's God sits between the sweetness of Kicking Eternity and the drama of The Art of My Life. If you haven't read Ann's books before, I'd recommend starting here - or Kicking Eternity.

Another great book by Ann :)

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### Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says

#### RF's Review: Avra's God by Ann Lee Miller

I started this book without knowing anything about it. I was immediately drawn to Cisco's character. The strong, good looking party boy that every girl wants. There was just something sweet about him that you knew he really wasn't everything he was pretending to be on the outside. I also love his Spanish phrases, I think he should be Boyfriend Monday candidate! From the minute he sees Avra he knows there is something different about her and he wants her, but she is a good, Christian, church going girl. I love the way he weaves himself into her family by inviting himself over to bake cookies and by playing football with her brothers. I also think it is really sweet that he asks Avra's Dad if it is ok if he asks her out.

Avra is another great character in the book. She is a strong women who thinks with her head, not just her heart and she doesn't make rash decisions. She writes down her feelings and prays about things before making her choice. She lives her life in a way that makes the other characters, Cisco, Jesse, and Kallie, wonder what is different about her and why she can react so well to bad situations. By living her faith she

inspires her friends to start coming to church and become Christians as well.

Jesse is not my favorite character. I got kind of annoyed about his indecisiveness and his refusal to see what was right in front of him. But I guess like most young men it takes them a while to figure things out! I do like the songs he writes though, it was cool how he gets all his emotions out in a song. Kallie says she won't be the girl that waits around for Jesse, she really does try to move on but her heart really is stuck on him.

This was a good read, you got to know the character more in depth than in most teen romance books. I enjoyed the character development and that was a unique story and not predictable. I am so glad that we get to see Cisco and Avra's relationship come full circle, Jesse and Kallie's too I guess!

4 out of 5 stars

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### **deb says**

This was a wonderful book and I loved every minute of it. I especially loved when Cisco decided to turn his life over to Christ; it reminded me of the song Jessica Reedy sings "Moving Forward".

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### **Wall-to-wall books - wendy says**

By now I know I am always going to enjoy a story from Ann. She is really establishing herself as an author. I thought this book was pretty good. Although I didn't quite like it as much as the other two. I can see where some people might actually like it better. I think it does have more teen appeal. So it would be better as a YA novel, where the other two I thought were more for adults or college students.

This story was all about dating, choosing the right guy, making good choices, being faithful (to each other, to God and to your personal choices).

This story was a little hard for me to get into at first and I was a little confused at times, but as the story went on it did get much better! And the ending was actually very good.

The character development was very good as it always is in Ann's books. I just did not really like the male characters, Cisco and Jesse. I liked Avra and Kallie, but thought they could choose better men! Towards the end I did get to like Jesse but never really did warm up to Cisco. But that is what character development is all about - some characters you like and some you do not! If I liked all the characters all the time then I would think something was wrong, they are not all supposed to be likable. And it wasn't my decision who she should date, it was Avra's! LOL

"Who'd a thunk it?" Ha! I love that this line is in the book! I say that all the time! When I read that I just laughed and thought - wow, someone else says that besides me.

"Are you going to ask me out again?"

"Do you want me to?"

She stared at the clouds, unseeing. She didn't hear his breathing. "Not yet."

Cisco let his breath out. "So I should ask in five minutes? Half an hour? Next week? Next month? If it's anything less than not in this lifetime, I'm in. I'm not going anywhere. I'm patient. Now," - my favorite lines in the book.

"I got God. I didn't show up at your church for half the summer just to get my cheeks pinched by old ladies."

- heehee

### THE ALL-IN-ALL -

All in all this is a good teen read. It is pretty clean, but realistic. There is talk of sex (but nothing graphic) there is no swearing, and the female characters make good choices and have good values and stick to their decisions, but it does show how they are tempted. I think this book has good morals for a teen without being preachy and boring and too "goody-goody".

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### Literati Literature Lovers says

Title: Avra's God

Author: Ann Lee Miller

Rating: 4/5 Stars

Genre: Christian Inspirational

Sub Genre: Young Adult

Publisher: Flawed People Press

Published: 13 Nov 2012

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### SYNOPSIS

In the tradition of The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, four friends navigate college and the drama churned up by their Florida beach band to cement friendship and more.

Avra wants love, but drummer Cisco—self-medicating from his parents' divorce with sex and intoxicants—is a poor choice. Cisco hungers for fresh-baked cookies and the scent of family he finds at Avra's.

Kallie shares her classically trained singing voice only with lead vocalist Jesse and fights to keep her heart safe. Jesse feeds on fame and hides more than insecurity beneath his guitar.

The friends surf ego, betrayal, and ambition and head for wipe-out. But somehow, when they're not looking, Avra's God changes them all.

### REVIEW

Avra's God by Ann Lee Miller, is an inspirational coming of age tale of four young adults Avra, Kallie, Jesse and Cisco. I know some would classify this as Christian literature, but just because it mentions a divine power, doesn't mean only a certain class of reader will enjoy it. Author Miller writes a compelling story about life changes and the rocky path all of us have to adulthood. Please don't shy away from this book because it may not be your regular genre. It isn't my normal genre either; but I utterly enjoyed it.

The first young adult the reader meets is Avra, the oldest child in a house built by Norman Rockwell. She is invisible to the opposite sex or so she thinks. Too tall, too athletic – too everything the male population doesn't like. Avra believes in God; a God of forgiveness, brightness and hope. No, she is not a follow me because I preach it character. She is a follow me because I live it character. Avra is far from perfect; but she is the person we should all strive to be in life, flaws and all.

The second young adult is Kallie, described as a beauty with long white blond hair. She has looks and is admired by the male student body of State of Daytona. What possible problems could she have? Avra ponders a similar questions about Kallie. Well, I first met Kallie in Miller's book The Art of My Life, she was the older sister to the main female character Aly. In that book Kallie is a young married mother. Here Kallie is a twenty year old college junior with daddy issues. Those issues being her father is a horrible man, who abandoned his first family when he started a new one. The impact his actions have on Kallie and her inability to trust in love has damaged this wonderful girl. How will Kallie as damaged as she is grow into a well rounded adult?

Third you have Cisco, handsome, charming and a player. He comes from a recent broken home, and has a deep need for normalcy in his life. His home life is depicted in the book is hectic and scattered. That normalcy that he craves, steps in front of him in the guise of Avra and her family. Being a player and him being attracted to Avra with her moral convictions, makes for an interesting relationship. These two characters come from totally different worlds, both socially and morally. Can two people from totally different worlds survive in a relationship?

Lastly, Jesse, the preacher's son, who would rather have God and his father ignore him; as he has had a falling out with both his earthly and heavenly fathers. Jesse doesn't want to be tied down. He wants a big life. A rock star life with all the trappings. He loves the adoration of the crowd and the love he feels from the many girls who flock to him. His major problem is that despite him not wanting to settle down, he has met his soul mate in Kallie. How far can a young man run from his destiny? Only he know?

All of Miller's characters are flawed, real, and engaging. This is not a fairy tale where the knight is there to slay the dragon and rescue the princess. A higher power is needed to see these friends into an adulthood as they deal with their demons. Their path to adulthood isn't what they thought it might be, as the road to adulthood is never easy. I remember being young and trying to find my own way, it's that time when some lives balance on the a knife edge, one wrong move can change a life forever. For these four young friends they will be tested and what choices they make for ill or good will strengthen their mettle. Ann Lee Millers book was a very enjoyable read.

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### **Annabell says**

Funnily enough, even as a Christian, I don't read much Christian fiction. I just haven't found anything in the genre that's really struck a chord with me or comes off believable. There have been a few books but not many. Although there were elements to Avra's God I could appreciate and enjoy, I didn't fall in love with the book.

Avra's God follows a group of four friends: Avra, Cisco, Jesse, and Kallie. They each have their own personal demons to face and their stories are intertwined with one another. Avra has had a crush on Cisco, so when he starts spending time with her and her family, she's fighting to keep from getting her hopes too high. But soon her dreams come true when Cisco asks her to be his girlfriend. Jesse is Cisco's best friend and is known for dating around and never really taking anything serious. Kallie becomes close friends with Avra and falls hardcore for Jesse, against her better judgment.

The characters I liked the most were Jesse and Kallie. Jesse's resentment and anger against his father, who is a preacher and has high expectations which Jesse seems to fail at meeting, felt real and relatable. He has trust issues because he doesn't feel like anyone really cares about him and assumes everyone expects him to fail,

which is what he does most of the time. Jesse's afraid to love anyone because he's afraid he can't live up to the expectation or change. He struggles a lot through the book to find his way and forgiveness toward himself and his dad. I liked the way his character was portrayed.

Kallie's family life is broken. Her father left and married someone else and doesn't come around much. She doesn't know how to love the right way and is terrified of loving anyone. She closes herself off from the world because she figures it's easier than feeling. I think a lot of young girls (and women) can relate to Kallie's story and what she faces. She finds the courage and strength to overcome her fears and I liked that about her.

Cisco is cliché bad boy. He doesn't have a job. He has a crappy family life. He drinks and gets high. He sleeps around. There just didn't seem to be anything beyond that. Even when Cisco felt bad about what he did to Avra or his relationship with his family or dad, he just seemed to have a 'whatever' attitude about it. Avra, although she was a decent character, just felt too dry. She was always offering advice or coming off too bland. She was just a boring character.

The main issues with the book were how it was written and executed. The entire book is TOLD to the reader and never really experienced by the reader. The quoting of Bible verses always seemed cliché and preachy. They just never felt like they came in at the right time or in the best way. The characters, all of them minus the parents, sound like they're in high school. If I hadn't read in the synopsis which states that they were college students there is no way I would have known that. The dialogue and actions portray them as sixteen-year-olds. There wasn't much to depth to the characters. Even though I could relate to their story and appreciate what the author was trying to accomplish through the message, there wasn't much dimension to them or the plot. Everything came off to bland or too uncomfortable because the dialogue came off unrealistic for how a college student would speak. The ending was okay. It's a happily ever after type of ending which is nice, but much of it seemed really rushed.

Despite how roughly written Avra's God is, the struggles the characters face both outwardly and inwardly, the way they handle some of those situations, and the lessons they learn are very much relatable and understandable.

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### **Reading is my Time Out says**

Ann Lee Miller does it again!!! 5 stars for Avra's God!! Avra's God is such an uplifting, inspiring story about college aged students who love and serve God. I love everything about this book! It has devotion, romance, turmoil, skepticism, and happy endings! I love how descriptive Ann Lee Miller is with her writing when describing scenes. I feel like I am right there with the characters sucked into their world and emotions. I fell into every emotional scene in this book because of descriptions like this one...

"Kallie tilted her head toward him, looking at him for the first time since the song ended. He took a deep breath and leaned toward her. Kallie's eyes widened. His fingers tightened on hers. Her lips were soft, motionless under his. He pulled away and grinned, tasting triumph and strawberry. Behind her the ducks splashed through a clumsy takeoff"

Avra is the constant, the rock, the level headed in her group of friends. At least that is how they see her. In reality Avra second guesses every decision she makes and is constantly seeking reassurance from God. I love

how strong Avra is even when she wants to so badly fall prey to life's curve balls that are thrown her way. Then there is Cisco... Oh Cisco... Heads turn everywhere he goes. He is charismatic, funny, good looking, athletic.. And did I mention he is in a band. A drummer at that!! That is another thing I love about this story. It has a rock band with "good boys." Of course the good boys aren't always good... They have their own demons they are working through. Cisco is no exception. He is the personification of life of the party. Outsiders see him as always playing around, laughing, and seems to exudes confidence... But inside he is a insecure boy who doesn't think he is good enough for anyone. All of these issues stem from his home life and his parents divorce.

"No, Avra was class—and she didn't have a clue. What would it be like to kiss class like that? It had to be different from the girls he usually made out with. He wasn't stupid. He went after those girls because they dished a whole lot more than kisses."

A love story about college kids and rock band mates wouldn't be the same without best friends. Lead singer and preacher's kid Jesse is the true skeptic if the group. He feels like he cannot enjoy his life, play rock and roll, and live the rock god lifestyle if God is in charge of his destiny. His dad has high hopes of him taking after his old man and leading the church one day. Jesse, however has different plans that take him down a different road than his dad planned. Then along comes Kallie. Kallie is every boys' dream but is cold as ice on the inside. So much so she is known as the ice queen and a song is written about her iciness. Behind every bitter female is a story, and Kallie has one of her own. Jesse and Kallie have a love/hate relationship for most part of the book. Will they end up as friends, enemies, or lovers??? That was the question I pondered majority of the story!

Life happens, twists and turns pull the young lovers apart and tough decisions must be made. Avra's God has it all!! The characters go from being devoted to each other regardless of what type of relationship they have, being devoted to God, questioning everything from each other to their faith, and a little in between! Readers will fall in love with these characters and will find themselves connecting to one or more of them from time to time in the book. Ann Lee Miller did a spectacular job of capturing that questioning nature that young adults have and touched right down to my heart!

"Like your God would care about someone like me. He'd whoop my tail like my old man did."

I love how the author writes a book centered around faith without making it sound higher than thou or preachy. What a way to reach out to a large audience of believers and possibly non-believers! Great job Ann Lee Miller!! Keep these inspiring stories coming ... PLEASE!!!

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### **Tracey (Life and Literature) says**

***"You're my best friend," Cisco said. "I mean that. Everybody in my life has issues. You're my sanity. I like the whole package-your smarts, your family. You listen to me. I like the electric blue in your eyes, the way you fit in my arms, your lips- " He coughed, "Uh, let's just say I really like the package"***

Avra's God weaves together the story of Avra, Cisco, Kallie and Jessie. Four college age friends trying to find their place in the world. Dealing with love, faith, temptations and jealousy among other things. Each of them are dealing with their own separate issues and while the book is titled Avra's God, for me the character that I felt stood out the most was Cisco. He had so much growth throughout the book that I just found myself drawn to him the most. But ultimately it is the paths that they all take in their journey and discovery of

Avra's God.

Avra is a strong character. She is very level headed but she also seeks the guidance of God in the decisions that she makes. She is attracted to bad boy Cisco who does not share the same beliefs as she does. Cisco dabbles in drugs and sex, but when he looks at Avra and her family he sees something that he wants to be a part of. Avra makes him want to be a better man. And when he kisses her, the lines between what she feels in the moment and her beliefs make her question Cisco. But Avra's belief is almost unwavering, even in her lowest moments. And I suppose it's in those times that you really need to hold onto that belief the most.

Jessie is the son of a preacher. He loves being in a band and the attention that he gets from girls. Despite his attraction to Kallie, he doesn't want to give up the adoration of the girls and settle down. Kallie has her own set of issues to deal with. She sees how Jessie is always surrounded by girls and she is afraid of being hurt by him.

***Kallie wasn't a piece of fluff you blew off when you tired of her. She wound her tentacles around your soul.***

What I loved most about Avra's God was that the characters were all so relatable. They could have easily been me or you. We could have very easily been dealing with any of the same issues that they were each dealing with. Although at times I did feel that besides Cisco, the other characters appeared younger than what they actually were.

Not really being one to read books that are overly religious, I have to say that I was a bit apprehensive about the connection that I would feel while I was reading it. The presence of God and the characters faith are very prominent throughout, but I can't say that I ever thought it was too much. It was just a part of the story as any other aspect of the book would be.

Ann Lee Miller's writing is very easy to read. I admit to being slightly confused at the start of the book but once I got a few chapters in everything fell into place and the story flowed incredibly smoothly and before I knew it I had finished.

All in all, Avra's God was a really enjoyable read!! I will definitely be checking out other books by Ann Lee Miller.

4.5/5 Stars!!

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### **Ginger Solomon says**

I've reviewed all of Ann's books and each one amazes me. She isn't afraid to tackle tough subjects, and she does it with such grace.

Avra's God is about one college girl living her life for Jesus with an unashamed devotion to His will for her life. It is about the change ONE person can make in those around them if they live a life choosing to please the ONE who gave life. Her friends make some unfortunate choices, but she remains steadfast despite her own self-doubt.

I highly recommend you read Avra's God. It would be a wonderful gift for a college student near you who is

struggling with peer pressure or making their way in the world.

Warning: There are a few curse words (less than five) in this book. While I don't care for their use in Christian fiction, it was easy enough to skip over them and continue with the story.

\*\*\*I received this book free for the purpose of review.\*\*\*

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### **Katie says**

When Ann asked me to review this book I wasn't sure if I'd like it. I'm not what you would call religious. However, combined with a good story line and a nice writing style this story was enjoyable.

The story line is realistic and easy to relate. 'Avra's God' tells the tale of Avra and Kallie, two girls in their late teens/early twenties, and their journey to finding love. The girls rely on God to tell them what to do and only then do they find their 'happy ever after.' The only thing I dislike about this book is that it jumps around quite a lot to tell the tale from many peoples perspective which makes the characters hard to connect to. Other than that this is a great read.

This book leaves you thinking and I'd recommend it to a teenage/young adult audience.

I received "Avra's God" from the author for my honest review.

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### **Sherry Fritz says**

Avra's God is another wonderful novel by Ann Lee Miller. Her stories are heart warming to read. She takes a great stand on Christianity. Her main characters are endearing and pull you into the story.

This novel is about 4 young college students who are also in a band. The setting is Florida beach. Follow Avra who had a great upbringing and is a believer in God as she meets Cisco a heart throb who is a non-believer. Cisco longs for the close family life Avra has and even though he is the typical bad boy, he tries to respect Avra. Both are ruled by their beliefs.

Jesse is a preacher's son trying to run from God and searching for happiness. Jesse is drawn to Kallie but she has built a wall around her heart because of early rejection from her father when her parents split.

See how these situations lead you on an emotional roller coaster.

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### **Katie says**

This was a book I was lucky to critique a few years back, and it's probably my favorite of Ann's books. There's just something so tangible about the characters she's created, and I loved watching them all unravel, to be built back up again.

I'm also quoted in the endorsements and thanked in the acknowledgements, so how could I NOT love it, am I right? ;)

This is the perfect read for people looking for a fun contemporary read with a hopefulness that runs through

all the pain and grief.

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### **Virginia Carmichael says**

- 1) I've never read anything for pleasure on a screen. That's just wrong.
- 2) I'd never heard of it before.
- 3) I'd never read the tag-line reference book of the 'Traveling Pants'... Or maybe I tried and put it down.

Recipe for disaster, right?

But I downloaded it.

OH MY GOODNESS.

DO NOT MISS THIS BOOK.

DO NOT PASS UP ANN MILLER'S BOOKS.

I read a lot. (A lot.) And enjoy most things, with a side of reservation. Usually something a bit off. Editing issues, maybe. Or plot holes. Or goes too long.

Not this book. I read it in two days. Sitting at my computer, too, which killed my back.

You can't fake this kind of writing and you can't be editing into this kind of story line. It's all hard work and talent.

I'd be jealous if I wasn't still laughing at myself for losing sleep over a bunch of college kids on the beach.

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### **Dianne says**

Avra's God was my first read by author Ann Lee Miller! Her ability to bring the characters to life, with all of their strengths, flaws and insecurities exposed while keeping the story going shows her true gift as an author!

Four college age students face life head on, but only Avra's faith in God kept her on HER correct path, no matter how hard it was. She is smitten over Cisco, the proverbial bad boy who is lost in his own personal torments. Meanwhile their friends, Jesse and Kallie dance around their feelings, hiding behind the barriers they have built. Can they all find happiness while living as they feel God wants them to?

Avra's feelings for Cisco almost made her fall away from her beliefs because Cisco doesn't believe in God. Her strength and convictions for one so young under the pressures of today proved how strong she was and makes her an ideal role model for girls, in particular.

Cisco is bitter with the life his family has led since his father left them. He longs for the structure and support

of a family like Avra's. To him, she is a lifeline to grab onto, but, he struggles to follow the path she has, after all, it's easier to just give in to temptation and live in the moment. On his path to self-destruction, he tends to give in too easily.

Jessie is a disillusioned son of a strict minister and is rebelling against the roll he is expected to play in life. He cares for Kallie, even looks for ways to be near her, but knows he isn't ready to commit to an exclusive relationship with her when he can't even find himself.

Kallie, thanks to her father's rejection, is insecure and although she wants Jesse with all of her heart, what she wants is total control, that way, she can't be 'left behind' again. She has hardened her heart against his attempts to tell her how he feels through his songs.

All four of these characters are facing real life challenges, some know where God fits in and use that strength in their day to day lives, even when they might falter. This is a beautifully colored story, well-written and a wonderful read! Ann Miller has blended faith and contemporary issues well!

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### **Anne Campbell says**

Ann Lee Miller has an amazing talent for putting words together to keep a person on the edge of their seats and holding their breath, and Avra's God is no exception. She can put you right into the scenes and characters without any trouble at all.

Avra is a college student with two rowdy younger brothers. She also has a crush on this dreamy guy, Cisco. She has always felt a little gawky--tall and athletic, but definitely non-gorgeous. That's why she's amazed when Cisco flirts with her and practically invites himself to her house for home-baked cookies.

Cisco recognizes that Avra is one high-class young woman, not his typical easy conquests. He treats her with respect. For eight months, and then he wants more than either of them are comfortable with. Abstinence wears thin, and he goes off the edge with another girl. How can Avra forgive that, let alone ever trust him again?

And then there's Kallie, whose father deserted her and her little sister Aly a few years before, leaving her mother for a younger woman. How can she trust her heart to Jesse, a young man who thrives on the adulation of a fan club of teen girls who swoon over his music?

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