



We Thought We Were Invincible

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California “Callie” McCoy feels most alive when her feet are planted firmly on her surfboard on a big swell. And one day, she dreams of riding that wave out of her small town. Away from everyone.

Her plan is simple: graduate high school. With Callie's best friend gone away to college, she plans on spending her senior year skating by. She isn't looking for friends, and especially not for love - all she needs are her waves and her twin brother. Even if he comes with an annoying best friend, Jamie Daniels, who she can't stand.

Jamie is a care-free, easy-going surfer who has everything. On the surface, his life appears perfect, but reality is far from it. He has his share of secrets, including one that burns deeper than any other. It's a good thing Callie hates him because if she didn't, Jamie knows there's no way he'd be able to stay away.

And then, one night, everything changes. And nothing will ever be the same.

We Thought We Were Invincible Details

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From Reader Review We Thought We Were Invincible for online ebook

Goth Gone Grey says

Teen drama? No, teen real life.

If you want one of those stories where the biggest issue is whether or not Buffi (with a heart dotting the i) scores the head cheerleader spot, this is not the book for you.

This is real teens, with real problems, trying their best to find real solutions. (There's also a real cliffhanger, but the second book is available - I'll be downloading it next). Twin siblings Callie and Colby, and their best friends are late in high school. They have a slew of family drama between all of them, and yet it feels genuine, not contrived or too much. There's romance, heartbreak, secrets, surfing, and healing, balanced with sarcastic humor where needed.

The dual POV writing is mainly solid, but can use better editing - my main objection for this is that it jars the reader out of An otherwise compelling narrative. An example of the writing:

"None of us said it, but the real reason we were there was because we couldn't bear to be alone.

Colby flipped through channels, settling on an old John Wayne movie on TMC and the three of us sat together all night, knowing full well that although one night stole away our peace, it'd take a lot more to bring it back - if that was even possible."

Beth Rodgers says

'We Thought We Were Invincible' by Michelle Lynn engages readers with twisting plotlines and searingly romantic scenes. Main characters Callie and Jamie have a lot going on in their lives, from their relationships with their family members, to the losses they've sustained in their lives, to the day-to-day issues that plague them as they plod through their senior year of high school in Gulf City, Florida.

Callie, who has never been particularly popular, finds herself thrust into that world, thanks to her twin brother, Colby, who is dating the popular Morgan. Callie and Morgan become fast friends, despite Callie's wonder at just how that happened when she's never been noticed before. All the while, Callie finds herself bothered by her old friend, Jamie, with whom she doesn't get along so well, but to whom she finds herself attracted. Adding to the uncertainty she feels over these feelings is her relationship with Jamie's brother Jay, whom she considers her best friend and with whom she had a slightly more than platonic relationship before he left for college. It also doesn't help that both Colby and Jay have made it abundantly clear that they dislike the prospect of Callie and Jamie being together.

In addition to all of their relationship issues, there are also parental troubles, from dealing with the grief over Callie's mother's death years before, to Jamie being the black sheep in his father's eyes, and never being given the chance to prove his worth. There is also mention of higher-level troubles, including the toll that bullying can take on an individual. Even though the individual being bullied - in this case a boy named Matthew - is a part of the story, readers never really get to know that character beyond mentions of him,

since his character is not given the spotlight in the book. However, his story is more than adequately told, through the eyes of those who know him, or at least know of him, including his grandfather, who comes into the diner where Callie and Colby work with their Aunt Kat.

Sometimes beautifully endearing and sometimes heart-wrenching, 'We Thought We Were Invincible' showcases Lynn's ability to write purposeful, emotional, lovely words about the way in which young adults cope with life and love. There is never only one answer to anything, and this is a theme in the story as they all focus on making decisions that will shape their lives in ways they never could have imagined.

Beth Rodgers, Author of 'Freshman Fourteen' and 'Sweet Fifteen,' Young Adult Novels

Review originally posted at YABooksCentral.com

John Hennessy says

"Sweet dreams always end too abruptly, ripping the dreamer from a world that was infinitely better than their own."

- *We Thought We Were Invincible.*

You know a book is great when I quote directly from it.

This book from Michelle Lynn gives readers more highs, lows, rides and splashes much like the surfing in the story.

I can't say it was a quick read for me. The changing character perspective demanded I keep attention to what was happening in the story. Fortunately, the author showed in her earlier books how well she can command the required pace and narrative, and it is evermore present in her latest offering.

There are a strong cast of characters. It's hard not to like Callie, but I think the book works because of a great supporting cast of her beau - or not - Jamie. Then there's Jay, plus Republic leaning senator Jamie's father, and my personal favourite, Morgan.

Each has a pivotal role in this superb coming of age story. At the story's close, there is clearly more to come, and it's fair to say that the second half is far stronger than the first. But this is an author who has got her groove, knows what her audience expects, and she delivers.

I think there's a real maturity to the author's writing here. Her other contemporary series, the New Beginnings series worked well because the romance was realistic and never smaltzy, sickly-sweet. But I can see an honest depiction of a relationship here between Callie and Jamie. I also loved the ending of the book which shows where the characters may be headed.

It sets up the second book in the series beautifully, but this book totally works on its own.

Dianne says

Growing up is hard to do and for one group of teens, it was the end of their innocence about life, love and the invincibility of youth. Get ready to feel the angst, the confusion, the love and the intensity of youth with Michelle Lynn's **WE THOUGHT WE WERE INVINCIBLE**. I promise you, you will find something you can identify with in this group of friends who find that life is not all laughter and fun as they learn the value of loyalty, the strength to make daring moves and face some hard truths about life and how each path can converge, split and re-converge, but will never be the same as the times of innocence.

I have never experienced a story quite like Michelle Lynn's tale of teens in crisis. Callie is a loner with a sharp tongue and a wise countenance sometimes far beyond her years, but there is a blank in her life that needs to be filled, she is determined to know who her father was and why he wasn't in her life. She also wants and needs someone in her life to be more than a friend. Enter her twin brother's best friend, Jamie, the boy she has never gotten on with, with his cocky attitude, his mutual dislike and something dark that brews within him. What she discovers is a boy who has never known a loving home, a touch that didn't bring pain and a kindred soul who understands her need to be in the water, riding the crest of a wave, to feel the world through her surfboard, the one her late mother owned.

Jamie gets her, period, but that is because he, too needs to feel free from a guilt he never earned, self-loathing he didn't deserve and a life that has brought him nothing but pain. Together they almost complete each other. And then it happened, a nightmare of death and destruction that will forever scar their youth and their lives.

Wonderfully flawed characters, misunderstandings and vows made that may never be kept. As the world awaits, these teens must choose their own paths, but will they bring more heartache or will they realize the joy of what awaits them together? Incredible reading, astounding writing that came straight from the author's very soul and it shows.

I received this copy from Michelle Lynn in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Tenille Berezay says

This book was one of those stories that took me by surprise. I knew it would be emotional from the cover, but never expected in what ways. This wasn't all angst and romance. Yes, there was romance, but also great depth. Lynn never allows this story to become about one problem, but the overarching problems in life. Which makes this book real, because rarely do we face only one obstacle at a time. The author touches on so many intense situation and issues with beautiful grace and realism.

The main character, Callie, isn't likeable. At least not originally. But I don't think she's meant to be super likeable, she doesn't even like herself much. But I came to like her as I she learned to love herself and let people in. Jamie seems shallow at the beginning, but shows a lot of depth as the story moves on.

There were a few situations or dialogue that seemed unlikely. I thought Callie would be more determined to discover the truth about her father earlier and a minor character, Morgan confused me at the end. I just didn't understand how her and Callie became so tight again....it felt like they just suddenly were. Don't get me wrong, I was glad for it, I just didn't see how it happened. The ending of this book was realistic and I think it really brings to light the tough choices teens are forced to make concerning their futures. Essentially this book is high-school drama...the real, gritty drama of high school.

Lis Carey says

In Gulf City, Florida, a group of high school friends are starting their last year of high school. The two viewpoint characters are Callie (California) McCoy, and Jamie Daniels. Callie and her twin brother Colby live with their Aunt Kat, working in the diner they inherited from their mother, Allison, when she died six years ago. They know nothing about their father. Callie, like her mother, is an enthusiastic and very good surfer. She is not otherwise either very social, or very interested in school.

Jamie Daniels is the younger son of a state senator with higher ambitions. The older brother, Jayden, is the apple of his father's eye, and also Callie's boyfriend, or so it appears to everyone except Callie and Jay. Jamie has a bad relationship with his father for reasons that no one outside the family knows. Jamie is also rather a troublemaker.

With the end of the summer, Jay is going off for his first year of college. Callie, Colby, Jamie, Colby's girlfriend Morgan and her sister Parker are going through their momentous final year of high school together.

There are unsuspected, explosive secrets in the McCoy family. There are explosive secrets in the Daniels family.

And there's an ordinary boy, Matthew Franklin, who is the target of endless bullying at school. Callie is troubled by it, and Matthew's grandfather, Seth, is a regular at the diner, but she has no idea what to do that would make a difference.

All three families are heading toward a shocking climax to the school year.

These kids are intelligent, flawed, basically good kids, going through what's always a challenging time, with some extra challenges thrown at them.

This feels very real to my own memories of that time in my life. While I was more like Colby in my love of schoolwork, I completely relate to Callie's feelings of social disconnection--and while it didn't end the same way, I remember when the bullied kids was not Matthew, but me.

An excellent read for young adults and for people who remember that time in their lives. Recommended.

I received a free electronic galley of this book, and am reviewing it voluntarily.

Al says

This was a solid start to what could and what I hope will be an intriguing series. I really loved the opening chapters. The story took off at a quick pace and got right down to business - no setting the scene with excessive backstory - which I really liked. We meet California McCoy, Callie for short, who can't wait to get through her senior year at Gulf City High, even though she has no idea what she wants to do after graduation. As a matter of fact, the only thing on Callie's mind is hitting the waves on her surfboard and leaving the weight of the world behind her. Aside from her twin brother, Colby, her aunt, Kat, and her best friend, Jayden, Callie doesn't have much of a social life, so when Jayden goes off to college, she finds herself becoming close to his troublesome brother, Jamie Daniels, who also happens to be her brother's best friend. Tall, dark and brooding, Jamie might just be the distraction Callie has longed for since the death of her mother. But, they have to try and get along first.

We Thought We Were Invincible was definitely an enjoyable story for the most part. I especially liked how distinct the characters were. It was easy to remember each and every one of them. Good use of dialogue that made me laugh out loud at times. I loved the banter between Callie and Jamie, though I still didn't get why she disliked him so much. There were never any concrete reasons given, and apart from him mocking her at times, her attitude towards him wasn't justified. Even Jamie had no idea why she detested him. Still, I liked these two characters. Not sure I was convinced by their chemistry, but as individual characters they were well portrayed.

There's a lot that goes on in this book, from the budding love story between Callie and Jamie to Callie trying to overcome the loss of her dear mother. I don't mind a story with many layers, but the subplots have to be well connected, which wasn't always the case with this book. The transition between events weren't always smooth. At times, the book felt as though it contained many stories, an anthology of sorts, as opposed to one whole story. One minute you're focused on the rollercoaster relationship between Jamie and Callie, the next you're thinking about who Callie's dad could be, then you find yourself facing a tragedy that sees lives lost. At times, there were no build-up to upcoming events or any indication whatsoever of what could potentially be around the corner, so when these events cropped up, I found it jarring, which made me disconnect from the story, oftentimes wondering what the actual core of the story was.

Yes, Callie was a fun character, but I found myself not really caring much about her journey - well, she didn't seem to care much herself. Having no direct goal or direction, it became a point where her story seemed less significant. She didn't have much of a drive, and largely because of this, the story seemed repetitive, particularly by the time you get midway into the story. We experience the same events over and over again. It became a little tiresome and a little less enjoyable. The story felt a little rushed about three quarters of the way through, spanning a good decade by the time it ended - an ending which was an unexpected surprise. I hadn't expected this cliffhanger, and it did leave me pondering. Let's just say I'm curious as to how the second book will unfold.

Overall, this was a good start to the series.

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Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

2.5 Stars

I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

The waves roses up to shake our solid ground. Our peace torn away. What was once still raged like an angry storm. Destroying. Drowning. Dragging our refuge to the depths. Then all was calm once again, and we knew. We were never invincible.

We Thought We Were Invincible tells the story of Callie McCoy as she struggles with finding herself and navigating relationships and moving forward in life, when you don't know where you want to go.

PROS:

-Callie. I loved seeing Callie grow as a character. We are introduced to a young girl who is withdrawn and isolates herself after losing her mom at a young age. Through the story and challenges she faces, Callie grows more confident in herself and begins to rely on herself and overcomes her own fears.

-Creative Writing Class. I loved the creative writing class and the project was so fun. It was a great was to get the characters to do something they normally wouldn't and connect to themselves and examine their own lives. I wished we got more time there.

CONS:

-Cliches. I felt like the story moved from one cliché point to the next. We see a loner girl, a popular jock, an abusive father, a bullied teen, a school shooting, a family secret, a breakup, a military enlisting, and a secret child. It seemed like none of these serious issues were given the weight they deserved because there were so many and we needed to get to the next plot reveal in the story.

-Flow. I felt like we were often TOLD what was happening in a scene and didn't get to EXPERIENCE it alongside the characters. This could have been because I found the writing moved fairly fast without taking the time to address what was happening and let the character have moments of reflection or pause in the story. I feel like more detail would have immersed me into the story and helped me connect.

-Weak Reveals. I found some of the reveals (view spoiler) to be weak. They didn't carry much weight to me - I want to feel what the characters and follow them as they process and grow. Because if found the story to move from one difficult topic to the next without fully fleshing them out, their initial reveals didn't have an impact because we moved to the next issue too soon.

Overall the story is not bad, just underdeveloped. I want MORE in the story and I want to care.

G.K. DeRosa says

Michelle Lynn is one of my favorite authors out there and she should be yours too. I've read quite a few of her books through diverse genres and her writing style is just so beautiful and compelling, I can't get enough! Ok I'll stop gushing now. I loved the story of California McCoy and Jamie Daniels and I'm so excited that there's a second book. The author made me fall in love with both characters within seconds. I really liked the

alternating point of view between the two main characters as it really drew me into their story. I don't like giving away too much in my reviews so I won't go into the plot other than to say it's a beautiful coming of age/love story. It'll make you laugh and cry and keep turning the pages. Stop reading reviews and go buy the book already!

Dawn says

Wow. This book.

This author drew me in with her New Beginnings Series. After reading the last book, I was definitely left waiting for her next release. I just didn't know when or what the book would be about. I only knew more than likely I would like it. And I was right. I loved it!

This book was just so good.

The heroine, Callie feels somewhat disconnected from everyone and at a crossroads. Her best friend is leaving, she's starting her senior year, and she really doesn't know what she wants to do with her life.

Then we have Jamie. I loved Jamie. He's carefree with a side of cockiness. But there's more to his character that meets the eye. He holds secrets that shape who he is as a person.

The trials and tribulations these characters go through will have you flipping the pages. I smiled, I cried, and I cried some more. And when the book ended, I was left with a book hangover but wanting more. Seriously. I need book two like yesterday.

Rumor has it; the wait will not be long. I'll be patient because I know I'll be rewarded with another great read. Michelle's flawless writing style and her ability to produce wholehearted stories are worth the wait.

Nicole Campbell says

I loved these characters so much. I actually wish this book was longer because I felt like we didn't get to delve far enough into the Matthew storyline and there was so much there. I heart Jaime and Callie and Colby and Jay and all of them. the second book is already on my Kindle.

Sarah says

(I received an advance copy of this book for free. Thanks to author Michelle Lynn.)

"I didn't even like her in that moment, but something drew me to her. That mouth. So sweet. It wasn't the first time my lips acted independently of my mind. In fact, that was how I usually operated. But not with her. Now with my best friend's sister, the girl my brother loved."

This was a YA contemporary story about a girl called California.

Callie was an okay character, and I felt quite sorry for her in the way she had lost her mother at such a young age. It was nice that she had a twin brother and best friend for support though, especially when things got tough. Jamie was a bit of a tormented character at times, and I liked that we got to see things from his point of view as well as Callie's.

The storyline in this was about Callie's life working at her dead mother's cafe, and we got a romance developing between Callie and Jamie - her best friend's brother, and her brother's best friend. To start off they weren't really friends, but things changed, and it became clear how they felt about each other, and they did make a really cute couple, even if it did look like there'd be trouble because of their siblings and their feelings.

We did get quite a shocking storyline in here though, which could be a bit of a sensitive subject for some people (view spoiler) The story was enjoyable overall though, although the pace did seem a little slow in places.

The ending to this was not really a happily ever after, but it was an interesting end to the story. The author's note does promise a sequel though!

6.5 out of 10

Kayla Howarth says

Love, love, loved it!

Callie: Loner. Has one friend who moves away to college. Is facing her last year of high school on her own. What I loved about Callie was even though she was a loner, she didn't whine about it. She preferred it, even. No woe is me self-pity like so many other books of this genre. She was just waiting for her chance to get out into the real world and leave her small town behind her.
Enter best friend's brother, Jamie.

Jamie: OMG Jamie. I ... I don't even know what to say. You just remain you, okay? Because I love you.

Plot: Jamie and Callie, who've known each other their whole lives but basically hate each other (although, you find out how one-sided that hate really is not far into the book) make a pact to have their last year of high school count. To make it epic.

Only, the thing that makes it epic is not so great. Spoiler free review here so I'm not going to go into it.

This book had everything: humour, angst, love, tragedy, and a promise of redemption that will have to wait for book 2. Which I demand be released at once!

Great read.

Michelle Bryan says

I am a true fan of Michelle Lynn as I have read every single one of her books, but this book takes top honors on my favorites list.

Callie and Jamie are written beautifully. I fell in love with their characters and relationship. They come across as real teens with all the angst associated with those turbulent years, yet they are much more complex than that. This book tackles a lot of dark issues, and Lynn does it with tact and perfection.

I laughed, I cried, and I was left wanting more. I can't wait for the next book. Amazing job!

I received an Arc version of this book. This is my honest review

Kelly Clare says

Vivid characters, vivid setting, and vivid emotions.

Read my full review at YA Books Central: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/yaindie...>
