



## Someone Like You

*Victoria Bylin (Preface)*

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## **Someone Like You** Victoria Bylin (Preface)

Julia Dare is trying to run her own business, raise her young son, Max, and help her widowed mother. Her biggest worry, though, is keeping Max's father from being a bad influence while still allowing the boy to spend time with his dad. When an account from her event-planning business sends her to Caliente Springs resort, she's shocked to encounter Zeke Monroe, her college sweetheart.

Zeke is determined to keep Caliente Springs running despite financial trouble. When Julia walks back into his life, he's surprised at the feelings she stirs up. As they work together on an important client's wedding, the fate of the resort soon depends on their success. With Zeke and Julia both pushed to their limits, will their history put up walls between them or bring them together?

## **Someone Like You Details**

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Author : Victoria Bylin (Preface)

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## **From Reader Review Someone Like You for online ebook**

### **Caitlyn Santi says**

I really enjoyed Victoria Bylin's contemporary debut, *Until I Found You*, when I read it a while back! But I must admit that the cover of this book is what first attracted me to it, I know, I know, never judge a book by its cover but isn't that cover just so gorgeous?! And I am delighted to say that the story inside was every bit as beautiful as the cover!

I LOVED THIS BOOK! It was sooooo good, where do I even begin? I loved Zeke and Julia's romance, I have found that I really enjoy storylines where the hero and heroine dated sometime prior to the start of the book, things didn't work out and they parted ways only to be brought back together during the course of the story! Such was the case with Zeke and Julia, I loved watching them rekindle their romance! And then there was Hunter, oh how I detested him, (But I was clearly supposed to!)

I don't want to risk spoiling anything but I just have to say that I absolutely adored the sub-plot romance between George and Ellen, theirs was a totally unique story of true love finding you when and where you least expect it, I loved them as much if not even more than Zeke and Julia, I had the biggest smile on my face when I read about the two of them!

Many times my favorite books are those in which the setting is described so vividly that it really becomes another character in the story, I loved *Caliente Springs*, and I felt like I was really there! One of the things I loved the most about this book was the faith story, it was so good, I found myself relating to Zeke and Julia in many ways. I was totally pulling for them and the ending just made me so happy! I can't end this review without mentioning Ladybug, the goat, oh my gosh she took this story to a whole other level, every single time this troublemaking goat made an appearance on the page I ended up laughing so hard my face hurt at all of her antics, while this book would have been every bit as wonderful without her, she totally MADE the story! I loved this book so much, as evidenced by the fact that I read it in under twenty-four hours! *Someone Like You* definitely has a permanent spot on my keeper shelf and will be on my favorite reads of 2016 list! Highly recommend!

I was honored to receive a complimentary copy of this amazing book from the author and publisher to help promote it!

All thoughts and opinions are one hundred percent my own!

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### **Laura says**

*SOMEONE LIKE YOU* is a totally wonderful story of faith, forgiveness and family relationships. A stand-alone, it is a story that gripped my attention from page one and didn't release me until I closed the ending pages.

*SOMEONE LIKE YOU* is not at all predictable. I figured how I thought it would end, but the author released that bombshell a third of the way in and I'm like, okay... What will be the black moment?

I loved Zeke. Oh my word, he is the stuff book-crushes are made of. I also loved Julia and felt for her as she tried to balance being a single mom, a career, and an overbearing, self-important jerk of an ex-boyfriend who was determined to be in his son's life. (And that is actually a good thing.)

The only thing I really didn't like is that the characters drank a beer or two (or stronger drinks) but it wasn't a major thing in this book. More conservative readers are fore-warned. Those who don't have a problem with it won't find it worth mentioning.

The characters -- including the goat -- in **SOMEONE LIKE YOU** became real, living, breathing people, and I was sorry to see this book end. I loved the faith message and how everything played out for the message to be heard.

This is the first book I've read by this author, but I will definitely be on the lookout for her other books.

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### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

I have mixed feelings about this one. The characters are well-developed and the setting well-described, but there was an intense feeling of anxiety that I felt as I read about Julia's conflicts with her ex, Zeke's struggles with his faith, and the precarious state of the resort. The highlights for me were the rekindling romance between Julia and Zeke as well as some humorous moments involving Ladybug, the resident goat with attitude problems. A secondary romance involving Julia's mother felt distracting and I found myself skimming through those sections. There is a strong theme of God's love getting us through hard times, but I was disappointed that with Zeke's issues of the shame of falling short of perfection, the healing power of repentance and forgiveness through Christ's atonement wasn't brought into the narrative.

(Thank you to Litfuse Publicity and Bethany House Publishing for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

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### **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

Like Victoria Bylin's other contemporaries, *Someone Like You* really looks at the nitty gritty struggles of following Jesus, especially for new or disillusioned believers., and I love it! Sometimes it's nice to read about people who never struggle ... or who only struggle with "safe sins" like getting angry or saying something you shouldn't. But honestly? Sometimes that gets boring. Sometimes, I for one need to see people battling with the tough stuff and coming out on the other side in one piece. Maybe not unscarred or unscathed. But they've survived and are stronger for it. These are my heroes. And these are the kind of people Victoria Bylin writes about in her contemporary novels.

But *Someone Like You* is not an angsty book, by any means! It's full of hope that makes you smile and romance that makes you hold your breath and some kisses that might make you reach for your fan. Zeke with Julia's son Max will melt your heart. Julia's ex Hunter with their son Max will make you want to hit something... probably Hunter (who reminds me so much of my friend's ex-husband that I wonder if Victoria knows them lol). The secondary romance involving Julia's mom is just adorably sweet, and Zeke and Julia are absolutely swoonworthy together!

It also has a goat. Ladybug. Don't let that sweet name fool you. She's a reprobate of the highest order. A resort terrorizer. A phone eater. A wedding crasher. LOL.

Just as an unopened quartz hides its greatest beauty deep within, so it is with us. In our brokenness, Jesus

reveals our true beauty and strength. Victoria Bylin wraps this message beautifully and honestly around her latest novel, *Someone Like You*. The romance between Zeke and Julia – their second chance at loving each other – settled in my heart with a dreamy sigh and a sappy grin, and I even enjoyed the goat lol. A host of secondary characters that add humor and heart, a vivid setting that will make you want to go on vacation ASAP, and one character in particular who will make you grit your teeth against the urge to reach inside the book and strangle him (maybe that was just me?) ensures that all of your emotions will be fully engaged as you read *Someone Like You*!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Read my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

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## **Judy says**

*Someone Like You* by Victoria Bylin

In college, Zeke Monroe had a strong faith. He'd been raised in a Christian home and his father expected Zeke to follow in his steps and become a pastor. Only he got a little bit shaky on that pedestal and fell.

In college, Julia Dare believed in living life where you were. Love today could be gone tomorrow. She liked Zeke and even joined the campus Bible group. When her dad died, she no longer wanted to hear about God. And she was done with Zeke preaching at her.

Six years later. Julia is a Christian, thanks to seeds Zeke planted. Zeke has lost his faith. They find each other unexpectedly when Julia is looking at the resort he runs for a client in her business *Dare to Dream*. Old embers are still there, but their secrets could douse them out for good.

This story is so real life and a real page turner. As with all of this author's books, I really loved it. There are some really great secondary characters. And Ladybug...

**\*\*Received through Bethany House on behalf of the author for an honest review**

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

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## **Suzie Waltner says**

*Someone Like You* by Victoria Bylin

About a year ago, I read my first book by Victoria Bylin (a contemporary, sweet romance that I enjoyed), so when I saw she's got another book coming out this Tuesday (May 3, 2016 release), I was more than happy to agree to review it. Especially after I read the description of the book.

You see, one of my favorite romance tropes is reuniting lost loves. Second chances. I mean, hey, my favorite Jane Austen book is *Persuasion* which is probably the earliest one of these tropes, right?

What was different about this book is the complete 180 each of the characters made since their initial relations, putting Zeke and Julia in each other's shoes years later. In college, Zeke was a strong Christian with a clear picture of what God had in store for him while Julia was cynical, even more so after her dad's

heart attack.

Six years later, Zeke is weighed down with the poor choices he made in college and how he disappointed his father. How could he live up to the perfection God expected of him? Julia is a new Christian, holding tightly to her faith to sustain her through the tumultuous relationship with her four-year-old son's father (who, by the way, was Zeke's nemesis in college).

As Zeke and Julia spend time together, memories of their relationship sneak into almost everything. They once believed they were in love before Julia crushed Zeke's heart. Is it possible to rekindle the relationship? Are they stronger people today than they were in college?

Bylin handles some tough subjects well, especially the relationship between Julia's son and his father—a man who wants his son to be a miniature version of himself (self-serving and narcissistic)—and Julia's mother's foray into a possible relationship after the death of Julia's father (a man Ellen loved with her whole heart).

If you're looking for something modern day filled with hope, family, friends, and a cantankerous goat to add some humor, pick up *Someone like You*.

\*\*\*Bethany House provided me with a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest and fair review. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Brittany says**

I found that when I started *Someone Like You*, I had a hard time setting it down! The author did such a good job of writing a story containing main characters who felt so very real. Zeke and Julia were characters who I immediately connected with. They had a rough history full of love, loss, and pain. Seeing them come together through their work, and Zeke's caring attitude for Julia and her son, was heartwarming. Things were not simple for these two. There were some major issues and complications that Zeke and Julia had to work through. I was impressed with the way the author handled Zeke's crisis of faith which he had been living through for years. It was raw and real and not sugar-coated.

The setting of the Caliente Springs resort was a wonderful place. It felt vivid and like an actual place to me. And I loved the storyline that Julia's mother, Ellen, was part of. The beautiful setting, complex characters, and new chance at love was tied up in a beautiful bow in the epilogue, which actually gave me a chill as I read it. I absolutely loved this story!

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review on my blog and enter Victoria Bylin's 5 book giveaway (through 5/31/16):  
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

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### **Carole Jarvis says**

Reviewed at The Power of Words: <http://bit.ly/1UsKs3f>

Someone Like You is everything Christian fiction should be ... It has an engrossing storyline, picturesque setting, engaging characters who struggle with serious life issues, and relevant spiritual themes. The cover hints at a charming contemporary romance, but don't be deceived because there is so much more – as is the case with all of Victoria's books. I can't explain what it is about Victoria's writing, but her novels have that indefinable "something" which creates an emotional pull that captures my heart.

"A compelling Christian romance that tackles tough topics head-on" ... a description all too rare in Christian fiction. And that is exactly what Victoria does so beautifully in this story by reflecting real life where Christians struggle, not just "comfortable" sins, but with serious ones. They fall, and fall hard. As Julia points out to Zeke, "Getting up takes a lot more time than falling down."

Someone Like You takes place in the idyllic setting of a California resort, Caliente Springs, and from the lead characters all the way to the stable manager, everyone feels real. Several social issues come into play – narcissism, premarital sex, guilt, loss of faith, burnout, manipulation and control.

I don't believe I've seen a narcissist featured before and found Hunter's character fascinating, even though he got under my skin and I hated to see him enter a scene. I even felt an underlying theme about the need to examine our motives and be very careful in choosing who to date. Julia lived with something that we all know very well – that although our sins are freely forgiven, their results can be long lasting.

Zeke is such an appealing character, easy to connect with. He's a servant leader who cares about people, carrying the responsibility for turning the resort around, yet his background complicates his spiritual side. Raised by his preacher father to play the hero, he had "tried his best to be a model Christian in college, but somehow he could never work hard enough or love God enough" – and the result was one of failure, giving in to temptation, burnout and loss of faith. His crisis of faith is moving and leads to a place that I can totally identify with: "I'm not where I want to be, but I'm not where I was either. God's working on me."

And then there's the incredibly delightful brown goat, Ladybug! Comic relief, yes, but more than that, I think she's symbolic of the wild, lost and lonely parts of us ... the internal battle between the godly desires and the flesh-and-blood humanness. Someone Like You is full of spiritual insight, one of the most meaningful being that God's grace is abundant in the midst of our failures – for we serve a God of new beginnings, who can fix that which is broken, who makes all things new. I think this beautiful passage that Victoria quoted at the beginning reflects the story's overall theme ...

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

- Ezekiel 36:26

Highly recommended.

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## **Madison says**

I have come to really enjoy Victoria Bylin's writing. Realistic, flawed characters facing relatable challenges come together to confront everything that life throws at them. Someone Like You also celebrates second chances, family, and those special moments in life (even if they sometimes don't go quite as planned).

Julia Dare is slowly rebuilding her life. She has started her own event planning business, has left her emotionally abusive partner, and is enjoying spending time with her delightful four-year-old, Max. An event planning opportunity leads her to Caliente Springs resort and into the path of old friend and boyfriend, Zeke Monroe. For Zeke, Julia is the bright spot in an otherwise challenge point in his life. The resort is in serious trouble, along with his job, his faith is on the rocks, and he is uncertain about what his future will hold. As Julia and Zeke reconnect, reminisce over their history, and face their current challenges together, they have a chance to rebuild a truly special relationship.

I very much enjoyed Julia and Zeke reconnecting. They have experienced so many trials - some of their own making, while others that are completely out of their hands. They struggle with their faith, grief and guilt. I particularly enjoyed Zeke's journey through his emotional burnout and thought this was a poignant and often-ignored issue that many Christians might face.

The secondary characters were particularly vibrant in *Someone Like You*. Julia relies heavily on the support of her mother, so it was lovely that Ellen's story is shared alongside Julia's - along with a little extra romance. Zeke's boss and mentor, George, also plays an important part in the story, and the employees of Caliente Springs seem more like a colourful, extended family. And then there is Julia's ex, Hunter. I marvel at Julia's patience. I think I would have punched him- multiple times, but Julia shows continual restraint and understanding, despite her anger.

Set against beautiful scenery and the excitement of a big wedding that needs to be planned in a short time, *Someone Like You* explores the importance of faith, family, and support for one another.

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## Rissi says

It seems only yesterday I was having all the swoony gushing thoughts (and would later review) for the cover art *Until I Found You* sported. (All of which was most likely chronicled in one of my "Cover Candy" posts.) It is then impossibly difficult to believe that *Someone Like You* is Victoria Bylin's third novel with Bethany House. Charming in the sweetest of ways, the story waiting to be discovered inside its pages is one of hope, a bit of adversity, love, and working in the laughs, there's plenty of unexpected chaos. Before I get into a few more details of the book's quirks, here's a more detailed look at the story.

College sweethearts Zeke Monroe and Julia Dare never expected to meet again let alone someday work together. But some five years later, fate has other ideas. In the years they've been apart, both Zeke and Julia have changed, and both of them are surprised to find the spark that once drew them towards each other is still simmering. As they find themselves working together (she in her capacity as an event planner, and he as a resort manager), what neither one of them realize is the choices they made in those five years may cause too many obstacles to permit them a second chance...

*Someone Like You* has an infectious joy I didn't expect as I read this novel. As I began reading, it became clear that there were going to be tearful moments full of emotionally charged spiritual issues facing these characters. Add in a troublesome ex on the verge of being emotionally abusive and a young boy in need of a strong male figure, and this novel was certainly in for its share of "tough" subjects. Julia and Zeke have to learn not only how to again trust in their love for one another, they also have to learn to become strong people as individuals because of their statuses as a new Christian and a Christian fallen out of step and sync in their Christian walk, respectively.



As I read this, I was constantly reminded of the Hallmark film *All of My Heart*. Why I don't know since the storyline was completely different though I suspect the likening had something to do with Ladybug. If you're considering what that ambiguous statement is in reference to, well, you'll simply have to read this one. Until then, *Someone Like You* is a sweet little romance that's an easy (pleasant to read) novel to enjoy. The epilogue gives the novel an unexpected sense of completion and the characters keep the novel grounded in realism, which is a must, something anyone who likes contemporary fiction will tell you.

Sincere thanks to Litfuse for a complimentary review (galley) copy of this novel.

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## **Jalynn Patterson says**

### About the Book:

#### Realistic Characters Shine in Bylin's Latest Romance

Julia Dare is trying to run her own business, raise her young son, Max, and help her widowed mother. Her biggest worry, though, is keeping Max's father from being a bad influence while still allowing the boy to spend time with his dad. When an account from her event-planning business sends her to Caliente Springs resort, she's shocked to encounter Zeke Monroe, her college sweetheart.

Zeke is determined to keep Caliente Springs running despite financial trouble. When Julia walks back into his life, he's surprised at the feelings she stirs up. As they work together on an important client's wedding, the fate of the resort soon depends on their success. With Zeke and Julia both pushed to their limits, will their history put up walls between them or bring them together?

### My Review:

Julia Dare has made many mistakes, but her son, Max will never be considered one of them. She busies herself running her own business with the help of her widowed mother. And as if her life isn't busy enough, she must deal with Max's arrogant father. Soon she finds herself at Caliente Springs resort for a business meeting, which turns out to be a catch up with her college sweetheart.

Zeke Monroe has grown up, but after what happened many years ago, his faith has been altered severely. Trying not to focus on the past, he keeps himself focused on keeping the Caliente Springs up and running. But when Julia Dare walks back into his life, he knows the feelings he has tried so hard to hide, are back and stronger than ever.

When an important wedding pops up, Julia and Zeke must find some solid ground and begin working together. But will their past and a few secrets tear them apart before they ever get started?

*Someone Like You* is a wonderful book, full of excitement. I would have to say one of my favorite character's would have to be Ladybug! I really loved the story and had a real hard time putting this book down. If you are looking for an inspiring romance, this is the book for you!

**\*\*Disclosure\*\*** This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author.

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## **Maureen Timerman says**

The setting of this book, made me want to live there, Caliente Springs resort, even the name sounds wonderful. After leaving Berkley and trying to be what his Dad wanted him to be Zeke Monroe is at a high point in his career, but a low point with God. Now being a preacher's son and trying to live in his father's shoes and being the best Christian ever, has been a hard roll for Zeke, and making him take a 50 degree turn. He has stopped relying on God, but God sure hasn't given up on him.

A young single mom that used to be a couple with Zeke, comes to check out Caliente Springs, coincidence? I think not, she has made a 50 degree turn in her life and is now a Christian, after all the years of Zeke trying to show her the way, now maybe she can show him? Julia Dare has a new job, and with her mom's help is raising her 4 year old son Max, and she now has a new event-planning job.

We also meet Max's dad Hunter, and don't know about you, but I sure didn't like that "Me" person. Little Max is a reflection on him, as is everyone and everything.

I could feel that maybe there would be a bit of romance here, but we find more than that, but who will be the ones who end up together? Even Julia's mom Ellen is in for a surprise.

I felt myself page turning and hoping for everything to be ok, even the horse, but watch out for the goat!

I received this book through Litfuse Publicity Book Tours, and was not required to give a positive review

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## **Kav says**

Be prepared for an emotional sucker punch...or two...or three...or....well, let's just say my heart hasn't quite recovered yet. Bylin has an astonishing talent for drawing a reader in with the depth of feeling she manages to convey on every page.

There are so many things that clicked for me with this novel. The most intriguing one is how Julia and Zeke have done a complete 180 since college. Now she's the Christian trying to put her life to rights while he's forsaken his faith. The juxtaposition between the two makes for a compelling read. And a doomed romance. There's so much history between them -- both good and bad. And now, unexpectedly, they have a chance to bridge their differences and make something lasting. Intense, frustrating, heartbreaking -- the kind of love story you can really sink your teeth into.

And oh, goodness, Julia's ex is...shudder....all too 'narcissisticly' real. He is responsible for my sudden onslaught of high blood pressure. I fumed and railed and gnashed my teeth every time he waltzed into a scene. Julia taught me a lot about grace in her interactions with that...poor excuse for a father. Gah!

A deep and abiding faith thread tackles the very real issue of Christians striving for a perfection that is impossible to achieve. It is only in our brokenness that we can find our place as a son or daughter of our Father in Heaven.

Add in the bonus of an oh-so-sweet secondary romance that thrilled me to my toes and a reprobate goat named Ladybug and, well, you end up with a stunning read guaranteed to hold you captive until the blissful sigh you utter over that very last word.

Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc. in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Beth Erin says**

Julia Dare is a single mom, entrepreneur, and new Christian. I admire Julia for her determination and commitment in every area of her life. She takes responsibility for her past mistakes and moves forward in God's grace with her head held high. Julia has a close relationship with her mother and is devoted to her young son.

Zeke Monroe is a hard working resort manager with a natural gift for service. He refuses to give up hope even when he's running out of time and money to revive the rundown resort and protect the livelihood of the 200 employees. Zeke's most endearing characteristic is the way he goes the extra mile to do those little things that make people feel special.

Someone Like You is a wonderfully true-to-life romance and I am very excited to read more Victoria Bylin titles!

I requested the opportunity to read and review this book from Bethany House. The opinions expressed are my own.

Full review at <http://www.faithfullybookish.com/revi...>

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### **Michelle says**

First of all, isn't that cover gorgeous? Who doesn't want to kick back in that hammock for a couple of hours? I sure do! This was a great story that completely drew me in and was difficult to put down. It was so easy to connect with the main characters as we go through their struggles. With all the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in the way, I couldn't wait to find out how things would end up. As an added bonus, an unexpected second romance blossomed in the book. I'll let you be surprised by this extra couple, which I found to be adorable together.

Plot: As manager of the Caliente Springs Resort, Zeke Monroe is working hard to restore it to a successful business. One big step would be securing a large company's business for their retreats and vacations. Zeke meets with an event planner from Dare To Dream Events, hoping to make that happen, and is surprised when the contact is his old college sweetheart, Julia Dare. Six years ago, Zeke, the son of a missionary, was strong in his faith while Julia was not a believer. Now their positions have reversed, and to complicate matters, Julia's ex, Hunter, doesn't want to let her and their son Max go easily. As much as Julia and Zeke would like a second chance at love, Hunter will do everything he can to keep that from happening, leaving Max caught in the middle.

Characters: The author did an excellent job on every one of the characters in this story. There were some I just loved and a few I didn't like at all, but that was the point. They were so true to life. Zeke and Julia were both immediately likeable as I could understand both their journeys. Zeke's going through a dry period and Juila's made mistakes but found forgiveness. Hunter was a formidable foe and I found myself getting annoyed along with Julia every time he acted like a jerk. I was glad to see four-year-old Max had very age

appropriate behaviors and dialog. I don't like books where the young kids sound like adults. Of course, I must also mention one of the best characters, a quirky goat named Ladybug who provides plenty of comic relief.

Recommendation: I'd highly recommend this book to those who enjoy stories of great relationships. Victoria Bylin is quickly moving up on my list of favorite authors. I can't wait to see what she has coming up next.

Rating: 5/5 stars

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

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