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Melt (The Rough Romance Trilogy)



Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of The Wizard of Oz, this tale is both a chilling story of abuse and a timeless romance. Sixteen-year-old good girl Dorothy just blew into the small town of Highland Park where the social headquarters is Munchkinland (Dunkin' Donuts). There, she meets Joey a bad boy who tells no one about the catastrophic domestic violence he witnesses at home. Can these two lovers survive peer pressure, Joey's reputation, and his alcoholism? And then there's his family secret which is about to be unleashed. Joey's words are scattered on the page reflecting his broken state. Dorothy is the voice of reason until something so shattering happens that she, too, may lose her grip. Can their love endure, or will it melt away? Drawing from true events, this brutal love story will hit like a punch in the face and is sure to reach into the soul of every reader.

Book Information

Series: The Rough Romance Trilogy (Book 1)

Paperback: 278 pages

Publisher: Last Syllable Books; First edition (November 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0991626109

ISBN-13: 978-0991626106

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #839,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #235 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #252 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

A fresh, emotionally complex bildungsroman of young American love that looks long and hard at violence, and at what can overcome it. "Kirkus Reviews" Poignant, moving, and riveting, the narrative switches seamlessly between both of their perspectives, capturing the angst of adolescence and young adulthood, while handling a heavy thematic element with incredible

verisimilitude. • "IndieReader"[Selene Castrovilla] is a writer to watch." • "Jacqueline Woodson, author, *Brown Girl Dreaming* Raw, lyrical, and darkly humorous "and uncompromisingly honest" Selene Castrovilla's work is poetry and prose combined to the utmost. This is a writer to watch out for. • "Daniel Ehrenhaft, author, *The Last Dog on Earth* Melt is evocative, emotional, vivid, and powerful. Beautiful, painful, and ultimately healing, *Melt* is a gripping read that will make you feel and care about the characters. • "Cheryl Rainfield, author, *Scars*

Based on true events, *MELT* is both a chilling tale of abuse, and a timeless romance. *MELT* will hit you like a punch in the face, and also seep through the cracks in your soul. *MELT*, though not a retelling, is a brutal love story set against the backdrop of *The Wizard of Oz*. When sixteen year old Dorothy moves to the small town of Highland Park, she meets, and falls for Joey - a "bad boy" who tell no one about the catastrophic domestic violence he witnesses at home. Can these two lovers survive peer pressure, Joey's reputation, and his alcoholism? Joey's words are scattered on the page - reflecting his broken state. Dorothy is the voice of reason - until something so shattering happens that she, too, may lose her grip. Can their love endure, or will it melt away?

There are times when I read a book that it is gripping and moving and so satisfying that I don't know what to say and I'm having that experience right now. I read *Melt* twice and reread several parts of it more than a few times and I'm still searching for the words to express why it is a must read. This is truly meant to be a compliment because it was that good. What I liked most was that I was in the moment with the characters - in the room with them, by the river, at that same Dunkin' Donuts. The writing transported me to where Dorothy and Joey were. Through the good and the bad. I wasn't just reading a book, I was witness to this story and this was quite a different experience from many books that I read. Joey and Dorothy's relationship is immediate, yet it isn't romanticized. They are instantly drawn to one another in a way that I could honestly believe. Sometimes you can feel a person's presence and you are convinced that this is someone that you need to know. That's how it was for Joey and Dorothy. I loved the stylistic writing used to distinguish Joey and Dorothy's perspectives. Joey's voice is clipped, almost staccato as we learn the horrors that he has to deal with at home. It is like he needs to tell his story fast, to get it out, get it over with. Dorothy's perspective is more narrative, descriptive, she takes the time to tell what she's thinking. The styles shift and change as their perspectives and situations change and this was completely organic to the story. Here are some notable quotes that stuck with me: "I couldn't help him. I could hold him, hold

space for him -- but I couldn't save him. He had to find his own way through." (Dorothy, page 57)"In the dark you know things can't get worse so you can finally rest some." (Joey, pages 95-96)"Apparently an open mind closes real fast when your sixteen year old daughter's involved." (Dorothy, page 101)"And the ironic thing is, I'd love to talk to them. I'd love to tell them how things have been, to get their advice on everything that's been happening, good and bad. It's all been so new, so much . . ." (Dorothy, page 103)Melt is a moving book that I couldn't stop reading until the very end. And when I did finish those last pages, all I could think was - Wow, that happened. And it was powerful.I hope this book makes it in the hands of many readers.

Can love save you? That's the question Selene Castrovilla explores in Melt. But it also asks about the costs. How much will we surrender of ourselves to be the person we need to be to love the person we love?Selene's use of broken phrases to show her character's state helps make this a fast read, but they also provide a unique visual experience in the reading, creating a visceral sense of the male main character.The ties to The Wizard of Oz give this romance a more literary bent.I finished the book in October and have been meaning to write since then. The fact that I haven't forgotten alone says something about the power of the story. It doesn't contain an extra moment, character, or word. Everything is as the story needs it to be.The dark themes lead to light and hope for the characters although their journey is just beginning.

Melt was our book club selection for May. When I heard it was written as a "young adult" selection I prepared myself for an easy read, something a high school teen might be reading. Boy was I ever mistaken. The writing was excellent. I loved how Selene chose to write Doll's story (actually Dorothy's story) in complete sentences and paragraphs while Joey's story was in prose. I loved how the main character's told their own stories with their own voices. It was hard to believe that the events portrayed could actually happen! At times this page turner would make me cry, cringe and become angry. The contrast in their lives, the roller coaster ride that their relationship takes, the pain (both emotionally and physically) that is described and the love that prevails made this a truly great reading experience. I would highly recommend it. If you have someone to discuss it with then so much the better.

The cover of Melt promises a reader she/he will be taken on a haunting journey. Selene Castrovilla keeps that promise. Told in two viewpoints, emotionally damaged, violence-prone, Joey and kind, loving Dorothy, melt together in an exquisite yet painful love story. The stunning contrast between

Joey and Dorothy's voices kept me turning pages quickly as trust began to build between them. These teens experience passion, pain, fear, helplessness and ultimately love which truly drives the incredible novel. This author, as in her previous novels, *Saved by the Music* and *The Girl Next Door*, does an exceptional job of mining deep into the heart of the teen experience addressing such issues as alcoholism and domestic violence (in *Melt*) while creating vivid characters you genuinely care about.

Melt takes you on an emotional roller-coaster ride in the middle of a hail storm. Blindfolded. This clearly is a story that had to be told and should be talked about. It's raw and real and deals with issues that make everyone uncomfortable, but when has abuse ever been? In an unexpected format, Selene captures Joey's voice using uncluttered, poetic verse. I thought this was incredibly refreshing and effective. Not only did she bring a very buried topic to light, Selene keeps hope alive and reminds both parent and teen alike of our responsibility to one another. I would highly, highly recommend this story.

This is an extraordinary book. It explores sensitively and intelligently the life of a boy damaged by violence throughout his youth, and a girl with intelligence, faith and love who believes she can make him whole. Will they succeed? We cannot as readers know their future, but by skillfully alternating the voices of the two main characters, the author has succeeded in capturing every nuance of their story, all the intensity and purity of first love, as well as the paralyzing fear of violent abuse. I feel young readers will definitely relate to Ms. Castrovilla's writing. Julia Noonan Author, and LMSW

A good read with well developed characters. A sad but good story, well written it move along nicely.

Riviting read.....I couldn't put it down.....could relate to the story personally...

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