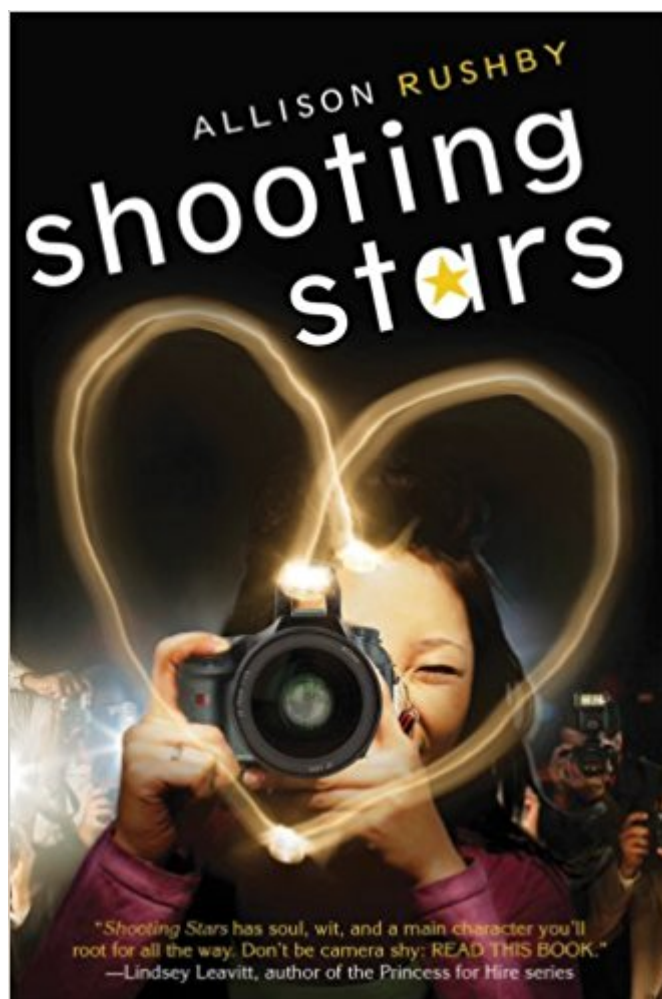


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Shooting Stars



Synopsis

Everyone agrees that the paparazzi are the scourge of the earth. They're low. They're despicable. They'll do anything for that perfect shot. And yet...how long could you go without your Us Weekly fix? Meet Josephine Foster, or 'Zo Jo as she's called in the biz. The best pint-sized photographer of them all, Jo knows that the public-and the stars-have a symbiotic relationship with the paparazzi. She doesn't mind doing what it takes to get that perfect shot, until she's sent on a major undercover assignment to shoot Ned Hartnett-teen superstar and the only celebrity who's ever been kind to her-at an exclusive rehabilitation retreat. The money will be enough to pay for Jo's dream: fine portrait photography classes, and maybe even quitting her 'zo gig for good. Everyone at the retreat wants to know: what Ned's in for? But Jo certainly doesn't know what she's in for: falling in love with Ned was never supposed to be part of her assignment . . .

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (38 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

After reading the synopsis for this book, I knew I had to read it. For sure, this book did not disappoint me. What I loved most about this book is the plot line. You have a great character who life is about to change through simply seeing things from a whole other view. I really adore how with each new chapter, Jo view is changed from what she thought she knew. She gains so much knowledge not only about herself but about others around her. I adored the characters. The main

character Jo, did so much growing up before the readers eyes. I admire her selflessness in what she had to do. Even if it meant giving up the one thing she wanted. The minor characters played a bigger part than what I thought. I am very happy that even the minor characters played a big role in the end. The love interest is one that will surprise the readers. The switch that caught me by surprised was a very good idea! I did not see that coming at me at ALL! Totally made me gasp, but nicely done. Once I settled into the book again, I was taken away by the love that grew between them. Shooting Stars provides a wonderful story with true love. Capturing the romantic essence mixed with great writing, the reader can fall into the book easily. Shooting Stars is a light-hearted story that anyone can read.

There wasn't essentially anything wrong with this book. The writing was good, the plot was interesting enough, the characters were likeable. I just didn't love it. The premise seems like a good idea, but the surprise twist at the end made me shake my head. The big secret feels like a grasping attempt at conflict.

My Thoughts: One word to sum this novel up? Cute...We are introduced to Jo who is a photographer. Not just any kind of photographer but basically she is a paparazzi. She takes pictures of celebrities mostly. Her Dad is also a famous photographer who does the same. Jo has one big advantage. She's small and looks young. She can easily sneak into a place pretending to be a young kid, people wouldn't give her a second thought thinking she might be filming them. She gets the ultimate gig. To go on a retreat to take pictures of popular heartthrob Ned Hartnett. This retreat consists of group meetings, individual meetings, and fun things. It's so people can deal with their problems. She makes a few friends and things don't go as planned. She has gotten paid a lot of money (and will get paid the rest when she's done) for these pictures of Ned. It's her job. And she must do her job right and perfectly. Of course things don't work out that way when she starts to have feelings for her target. With the help of her friend Mannie and her new friend Katrina she must figure out what is right and wrong, what she can do and not do with her guilty conscious. Let's just say this, it's a cute debut. It has a few lessons in the story. Things aren't always cookie cutter perfect for Jo, and she has tough decisions to make. I also wanted to point out, I did not see that twist coming in regards to Ned. What the heck? That caught me off guard and totally surprised me and that is what reading is all about! I loved the romance in this one! It was so sweet! Overall: Shooting Stars is a cute fun read. A perfect book for a late Friday night when your home alone while your parents are out on a date or there is nothing on tv. Shooting Stars was fun! There isn't a whole lot of depth to it (there is

some) so its more of a fun sunny read. I really enjoyed it.Cover: It's neat. I love how the girl is holding her camera and all the people are in the background doing the same.What I'd Give It: 4/5 Cupcakes_____Review Based On Softcover EditionTaken From Princess Bookie (blog)

I saw a couple of reviews for this around the blogosphere and was promised a cute, fast read with a sweet romance. This made me eager for a weekend to curl up with this and just leisurely flip through the pages, taken away into a world of paparazzi and stars (I kind of love Hollywood gossip so this was right up my alley).Jo is almost ready to enroll in photography classes for portraiture but she needs to pap until that enough money has been earned. As the daughter of a paparazzo and with a youthful face, she has some advantages, getting the pictures that no one else can. This generally works in her favor, landing her an exclusive offer to enroll in a facility with hot reclusive star Ned Hartnett and get undercover pictures of him. Although this makes her uncomfortable, the money is just too good. This last job and then she can leave the game to follow her photographic interests. Complicating her decision is that Ned is actually a celebrity who was nice to her, even giving her a tip for her paparazzi work. Once there though, Jo's conscience continues to pain her and she learns some secrets about Ned as well as confronting some of her emotional baggage. Together they turn the tables on those who want to exploit Ned's problems for gain.Due to those reviews, I had some idea of what to expect. But the emotional terrain covered in the books was actually deeper than I had anticipated especially as we learn about Ned's phobia and Jo faces family hurts. I also thought Jo's struggles with conscience over this assignment were intense, perhaps a bit too whiny for me. She was not forced to take this job (there was no blackmail hanging over her; there was just focus on the photography course goal without consideration of other money-making opportunities).But don't worry, there are still lots of humorous little bits and the overall tone is pretty upbeat especially the ending, which is of course happy with Jo reevaluating her personal and professional life and preparing for great things in addition to a romance.Overall: A fun, quick contemporary read with a different kind of life.

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