



The Lonesome Young

Lucy Connors

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Get swept away in the first book of the sensational romantic drama that is Romeo & Juliet meets Justified.

WHAT HAPPENS when the teenage heirs of two bitterly FEUDING FAMILIES can't stay away from each other?

The Rhodales and the Whitfields have been sworn enemies for close on a hundred years, with a whole slew of adulterous affairs, financial backstabbing, and blackmailing that's escalated the rivalry to its current state of tense ceasefire.

IT'S TIME TO LIGHT THE FUSE . . .

And now a meth lab explosion in rural Whitfield County is set to reignite the feud more viciously than ever before. Especially when the toxic fire that results throws together two unlikely spectators—proper good girl Victoria Whitfield, exiled from boarding school after her father's real estate business melts down in disgrace, and town motorcycle rebel Mickey Rhodale, too late as always to thwart his older brothers' dangerous drug deals.

Victoria and Mickey are about to find out the most passionate romances are the forbidden ones.

. . . ON A POWDER KEG FULL OF PENT-UP DESIRE, risk-taking daredevilry, and the desperate actions that erupt when a generation of teens inherits nothing but hate.

The Lonesome Young Details

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From Reader Review *The Lonesome Young* for online ebook

Sara Grochowski says

2.5 stars. Victoria Whitfield is just returning home when a meth lab explodes. Mickey Rhodale's older brother is just returning home as well... from jail. Both teens are pulled to the scene of the explosion, where they meet by chance. A relationship between good girl Victoria and bad boy Mickey should never work, but, for better or worse, the two are pulled towards one another. But there's more than just class and status against the Victoria and Mickey: their families have hated one another for decades and the feud is no where near dead. Will blood or love prevail in this story of starcrossed love?

Okay, I admit it, it was the cover that first drew me to *THE LONESOME YOUNG*. It shows bad boy Mickey with Victoria in his arms. I was itching for a good romance and Simone Elkeles blurb made me hopeful that Connors' YA debut would fulfill this craving. Unfortunately, the romance in *THE LONESOME YOUNG* was just too... predictable? contrived? boring? It just didn't make my heart speed up or leave me with a goofy smile on my face. In fact, I would have been much happier with this novel if there was less romance and more of a focus on the action and family drama.

In addition to a comparison to *Romeo and Juliet*, *THE LONESOME YOUNG* has been pitched at Justified for YA readers, which also pulled me in. And I definitely saw - and approved of - the similarities. There's drugs, guns, crazy drug-running families headed by scary women, corrupt cops... I loved this side of the novel! Which is why I was disappointed each time it was brushed over for more Victoria and Mickey and their agonizingly ridiculous should-we-or-shouldn't-we fights. I think it's fairly obvious that our starcrossed lovers are going to be together, no matter the consequences, so the back and forth got pretty frustrating (and pointless) after the second time.

Overall, not a horrible novel, but lacking the depth it could have had. There was so much potential here, but the romance squashed it! 2.5 stars.

Kassiah says

2-1/2 stars.

A modified version of this book is also posted on Swoony Boys Podcast.

I didn't realize that this wasn't a standalone when I picked it up, and I definitely wish I had waited to read it. Actually, I'm not even sure if I'm glad I read it at all.

Seventeen year old Victoria Whitfield has been plucked out of her posh boarding school life and is on her way to her family's estate when she lays eyes on bad boy Mickey Rhodale for the first time.

He was gorgeous: tall, dark, and definitely dangerous. The gleam in his bright blue eyes told me he wasn't used to anybody defying him, and his sculpted cheekbones and long, lean body told me that most girls wouldn't even want to try.

They run into each other a few times and sparks fly. The trouble is that their families are embroiled in a bitter battle, and they're not allowed to even look at each other, much less fall in love. So, we have the comparison to *Romeo and Juliet*, and I guess I can see it--she's rich and a good girl and he's from the total wrong side of the tracks. Small town politics plays a huge roll here and it seems that everyone is on one side or the other. But that's pretty much where the similarity ends, and I wouldn't categorize every story with a forbidden love aspect as *Romeo and Juliet*-esque, even if their families are fighting. But maybe that's just me.

The Justified angle is definitely there with guns and drugs and drama. Mickey's half-brother, Ethan, has just gotten out of jail and has big plans that he can't afford to allow anyone to thwart. There's also the issue of Victoria's father trying to rule all the land around him, as well as all of the other adults in this story acting batshit crazy. At the heart of it all, Mickey and Victoria can't stay away from each other.

"The best thing for both of us would be if we forgot we'd ever met, wouldn't it?"

They go back and forth--a *lot*--and realize they can't *not* be together.

"I can't make that decision for you, Victoria. I can't tell you what to do, and I wouldn't even try. But I can tell you that the only thing in the world that makes sense to me right now is you and me."

There's a lot of crazy drama and back and forth and then...the book ends and we get to wait for the next one.

I liked Mickey and felt bad so bad for him. His parents are pretty awesome, but he's definitely in a town that no matter how great he is, he'll never be good enough to be better than his family name. When he meets Victoria, he just has to go for it.

"I don't know how to be myself around you," I muttered. The lame-ass confession made me wince even as I said it. "You don't make sense. I barely know you, but I want to know everything about you. You're smart and gorgeous, and you make my skin too tight."

He's a good guy with a bad boy persona. He rides a motorcycle *and* he writes poetry.

"The face of an angel, the soul of a poet, and the fists of a fighter. I don't know how to understand you, Mickey."

I love that he calls her "Princess" and makes their first date so sweet. He says he's "allergic to ruffles" and he's loyal to his family and wants to be protective of everyone he loves. He's fairly awesome and sometimes swoony:

"You knew I wasn't a virgin, Princess. I can't rewrite history just because I finally found you."

Victoria is sassy, and I liked that about her. She's okay through most of the book, but then at the end she does something--or rather, reacts a certain way that makes me hate her. She's so ridiculous, I seriously wanted Mickey to just be done with her.

The idea for this story is pretty good, but I feel like it got caught up in all the drama. I wonder if this was originally pitched as one book and stretched out into a series. There is *so much* back and forth, so much drama, so much "let's figure out a way to be together." It's too much! This would actually make a great TV show because it is so drawn out.

Also, most of the other characters in this story are a total joke. Victoria's parents are worse than ridiculous. The character who I think Connors wanted to come off as borderline crazy was actually the most interesting to me: Ethan. He's loyal and protective and caught between a rock and a hard place for sure.

With crazy drama and a couple who seems to be all talk, *The Lonesome Young* wasn't the action packed loved story that I expected. Unless the next book is featuring Ethan, I'm not sure if I'll stick around for the sequel.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Review also posted at Young Adult Hollywood.

If I looked back at the mediocre rating of this book. **I honestly didn't expect I would consume it in one sitting down.**

The Lonesome Young is the Young Adult modern retelling of *Romeo & Juliet meets Justified*.

The Rhodales and the Whitfields have been mortal enemies from the very beginning. And even though that has been the case for years, both of the families had managed to keep their ceasefire. Until one day, Victoria Whitfield arrived in the county, exiled from her boarding school. It seems like the fate is playing a very cruel game when the proper and rich girl Victoria met Mickey Rhodale, the guy from the troublesome family.

Soon sparks are flying and what make the best kind of romance are the forbidden ones and once again the family feud erupted, but this time it could be the start of a war.

I love books that are consistent:

The Lonesome Young grabbed my pique interest from the very start. The plot flows smoothly, it never faltered. Although I admit the first meeting of the protagonist and the hero made me cringe a little, but aside from that, the rest is almost perfection.

"That's always been your problem, hasn't it? You let the women wear the pants in your marriages."

"And you let your mommy tell you what to do,"

Another thing I wholly love and appreciate in a book:

Unpretentious snark and sass. There is nothing more irritating than reading a book with a dry and phony "humour". The Lonesome Young on the other hand is filled with unfiltered remarks and comebacks. I almost died laughing throughout the book and I love every single bit of it.

Dear Lucy Connors,

You did a lot of awesome in this book and one of that is the complex and extraordinary characterization of women.

I easily fall in love with a book that illustrates an interesting and *fascinating* woman.

In *The Lonesome Young*, we have a complex representation of women. There's a fierce grandmother, an addict sister, a gentle and loving mom, an irresponsible mom, another immoral drug dealer mom, and a tough and capable heroine. YOU CAN'T NEVER GO WRONG WITH THIS LIST.

I will always treasure a book that doesn't demean and devalue women, but instead recognize our worth and capabilities.

Even though it was said *The Lonesome Young* is the modern retelling of *Romeo and Juliet*. It is still different in some aspects. It certainly brought some new flavors and twists to the table.

The plot essentially centers the perplexing topic of loving your problematic family and the burden that came along with it. The characters struggled with the blurred juxtaposition of good and bad. I am sure a lot of readers could greatly empathize and relate to that and because of the profound family drama and the focal point of the familial angle of both clans. I think fans of the US, television series *The Shameless* and *Breaking Bad* would find *The Lonesome Young* immensely appealing.

There's a drug subplot in the story. Don't fear my loves because thankfully, the whole book didn't revolve around it, *not really*.

There is plenty of romance. I love a fantastic story about love and I am not ashamed to admit it. Victoria and Mickey are so cute, I love their banter and they are always on fire. It's also great to see that they have a healthy relationship and that have love and respect as its foundation. I had so much fun reading their story.

Though this book is **not** necessarily explicit, I'm surprised Penguin Teen did not publish it as New Adult because it could definitely pass as one.

The Lonesome Young is sexy and gritty; the classical Young Adult Contemporary novel that explores the obstacles in making a forbidden relationship work.

Tina says

Sometimes a girl just needs a sappy romance book to read, and this one delivers. The characters are all pretty stereotypical ones from this genre, but that just adds to the pleasure of curling up on a weekend and settling in for a fun ride. This one lives up to the Harlequin-esque cover, and is one I'd definitely rec to romance lovers. It would also make a great beach read.

Colleen Houck says

I am a huge fan of horses. I've read all the *Black Stallion* books and have always dreamed of owning a horse ranch. This is probably the only YA book I've read with thoroughbreds. Love the bad boy on his motorcycle

and the good girl on horseback. The drug running stuff scares me. I'd get as far away from that as I could. I'm really hoping these two make a run for it.

ALM188 says

The first quarter started off a bit slow, but once Mickey and Victoria got together, the feud was laid out, the drugs, the family issues; everything was a bunch of chaotic pieces that came together in the very end. This book was so up and down and the reader never got a chance to recover. Sometimes that annoys me a bit, but in this book it just kept pushing me further and helped progress the story. This is truly a modern-day Romeo and Juliet in the least-cliché sense of the comparison. A family feud in a rarely talked about landscape and setting; and characters that were so utterly flawed and Mickey as our hero that gets locked into all types of bad situations.

Also, the potential for Ethan to become an anti-hero is interesting, and is the only thing I felt came out of left field, but I am extremely curious to see where that goes. Instead of the main characters having a drug problem and a tale of romance leading to recovery, it was an entire business that just kept festering and growing, devouring everyone's lives in its path. A feud based all the way back to land grants and early pioneer wars all the way up to adultery, a woman scorned, and everyone straddling the fine line of the law made for an emotional cocktail laced with a greatly written YA-romance. You wanted to hit, kick, hug, kiss, and stomp on all of these characters on every page. People surprised you, people let you down. I really enjoyed it and I hope this does big things.

All I want is MORE. And I want to know what happens next. This is so different, and really pushes the boundaries of a YA contemporary romance. You don't know if you are back in the Wild West or in Shakespearean Italy, but all the while reminding us we are in the heartland of America where hard work and family values all come at a price.

Amy says

[the ending was not tragic (hide spoiler)]

Rose says

The plot for this one sounds kind of ridiculous but I'm kinda sold? Hearing books (or their love stories) being compared to *Romeo & Julia* (that's not a compliment, in my opinion) makes me cringe but this one sounds like something that might be able to entertain me. (Hopefully not with its ridiculousness, though.)

Stacee says

I was really excited at the idea of this, but it just didn't play out the way I was expecting. Loved the duel narrative and the [very few] times that Mickey and Victoria were able to be normal teenagers, but that's about it.

Too dramatic, too much of the "I love you, I hate you" push and pull and a very abrupt ending all made for an unsatisfying read.

Justine says

J'ai finalement décidé d'arrêter de le lire à la 100e page. Ce n'est juste pas possible. D'un côté, j'aurais aimé savoir comment le livre allait évoluer mais bon 100 pages et rien ne se passe à part des répétitions incessantes de "lui c'est un délinquant, sa famille aussi, blablabla" et "Princesse par-ci, ne t'approche pas d'elle par-là"

Je n'ai pas envie d'y passer 10 jours donc next !

Christina (Confessions of a Book Addict) says

Victoria Whitfield moves back home to her family's Kentucky ranch after her father's business takes a turn for the worse and he can no longer afford her expensive boarding school. The Whitfields are the richest family in town (the county is named after them!) and everyone knows them. Victoria now has to go to the public school, but she makes the best of it, especially since she gets to see her little brother everyday now. On her first day back in town, she finds herself at the scene of a meth lab fire and runs into Mickey Rhodale, resident bad boy and son of the sheriff. Mickey isn't like the usual boys that Victoria comes across. He's a bad boy, rides a motorcycle and it's a well-known fact that the Rhodale family is usually up to no good. You see, the Whitfield vs. Rhodale rivalry has been going on for a hundred years and the feud is still alive and well today. Mickey and Victoria don't know the details of their family's history with one another and despite warnings from family members, they form an unlikely connection. The Lonesome Young by Lucy Connors is the quintessential bad-boy meets good-girl story along with a side of of Romeo and Juliet thrown in.

Read my full review here: <http://www.confessionsofabookaddict.c...>

Paige says

Check out my review here: <https://thepaigeturnerblog.wordpress....>

Madison Warner Fairbanks says

The Lonesome Young by Lucy Connors

A young adult novel where two teens are on opposing sides in a violent multi-generational family feud. Fortunately it doesn't end with them killing themselves!

Victoria Whitfield and Mickey Rhodale are strong characters and by far, the strongest emotionally in their own families as well. Complex writing includes a depth of self destruction by many of the secondary characters.

I really liked this romance drama but it seemed to end a bit abruptly.

Jessica (Step Into Fiction) says

This book was recommended to me by Katie McGarry so clearly I knew I had to add it to my TBR pile. She raved about it and now I really can't wait to read this! It sounds great plus Katie's heavy support absolutely makes it a must read for me!

Jacquelynne says

I can't wait to see what's next to come with Mickey & Victoria! That can't just be the end of them! This book was everything I thought it would be! I adore the different point of views from each character and the way the chapters aren't too long either; enough to get the right amount of emotion and even urgency at certain points for climatic results.

I don't know where a second book would take us but I'll definitely be on board when it arrives!!

FULL REVIEW TO COME.
