



Life Without Summer

Lynne Griffin

Download now

Read Online →

Life Without Summer

Lynne Griffin

Life Without Summer Lynne Griffin

Life Without Summer tells the story of Tessa, a mother who has just lost her four-year-old daughter in a hit-and-run accident and the grief counselor, Celia, who tries to help her to put her life back together. When their lives begin to intersect in powerful and unexpected ways, they discover that the answers one needs might be the other's only chance for peace. Each woman's intensely personal journey reverberates with universal themes about the connections between love, marriage, truth, and forgiveness that no reader will forget.

Life Without Summer Details

Date : Published April 14th 2009 by St. Martin's Press

ISBN : 9780312383886

Author : Lynne Griffin

Format : Hardcover 320 pages

Genre : Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Realistic Fiction

 [Download Life Without Summer ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Life Without Summer ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Life Without Summer Lynne Griffin

From Reader Review Life Without Summer for online ebook

Rhonda says

Tessa's four-year-old daughter is killed in a hit-and-run accident outside her preschool. She is devastated and unable to cope, so she goes to a therapist at the suggestion of her husband.

Celia, the therapist, is having her own difficulties---she has an alcoholic ex-husband, a new husband, and a teenage son with his own share of attitudes and problems.

This is written in journal style, alternating between the two women. It is a wonderful story, woven together very well, yet is unpredictable and interesting, keeps you turning the pages. Even the title has new meaning by the end of the story. Very good, recommended reading.

one quote:

"I can't think of one way in which Alden resembles Harry, and yet, there I sat on the furniture of both marriages feeling as diminished in one man's company as I had in the other's."

Jo (Bloomin'Chick) says

I won't go into a summary since there's one posted for the book and others have also done so in their reviews.

I was immediately drawn to this book at the library 2 weeks ago while browsing through the 'new arrivals' section. I didn't even finish reading the jacket when I clutched it to my chest and decided it was coming home with me, knowing it would most likely be a painful read at times. This was an absorbing novel. I felt much as I read it. Also, I thought I knew fairly early on what was going to happen with respect to one aspect of the plot and the suspense of waiting for it to happen was incredible! Then I thought I had been wrong, thinking something else would happen instead. What actually happened threw me for a loop!

Painful, gut wrenching, heart breaking, tearful, it was. But it was also comforting sharing in the kind of grief you feel no one else in the world understands or feels (because unfortunately there are those who do). Wonderful achievement for a first novel and I look forward to more from Lynne.

Christine says

Primary cast of characters: Tessa [grieving mother]; Ethan [grieving father]; Celia [therapist]; Alden [Celia's priggish second husband]; Harry [Celia's alcoholic ex-husband]; Ian [Celia & Harry's teenage son]; and Caufield [policeman preparing for retirement].

I did not like this book. It is laden with grief. There is Tessa and Ethan who are grieving the loss of their

daughter. It appears as if Tessa is the one who openly bears this loss while Ethan quietly grieves. [This couple is most sympathetic.] Abby, their 4-year-old is the victim of a 'hit and run' driving accident. The reader is lead to believe that this was a DUI accident. Tessa seeks therapy. It is through Tessa's journaling that her story unveils. We also met Celia, a therapist, and her story unveils through her notes. At first, this seems to be a clever writing device. However, as time passed and pages flew by, this reader became increasingly frustrated.

Olundrezzah says

Life Without Summer, is an amazing book about a mother who loses her, four year old daughter, Abby, in a hit in run accident. As the mother, Tessa goes through her grieving process she finds that she can't get over it. She want to hold on to every last memory she has of Abby. Her husband, Ethan, Talks Tessa into seeing a therapist.

Celia, Tessa's therapist is a very proper woman who is going through a hard time but won't let anyone know about it, because she doesn't want her personal life to interfere with her work life, and vice versa. Celia is divorced and her son doesn't like her new husband, after going to the mountains for Thanksgiving, her son declares that he's moving in with his alcoholic father. This breaks Celia's heart and she start to let her feelings interfere with her work life.

I haven't finished the book yet, but I'm hoping that Tessa ends up getting pregnant with another child to help her out of her grieving, and that Celia relizes that her new husband is not the best for her and her son. I think in the end that both women will end up helping each other out.

Missi Stockwell says

Although I was a little concerned regarding the storyline of Life Without Summer where a mother has to deal with the hit and run death of her 4-year old daughter, I was still intrigued. Not only do you see the viewpoint from the grieving mother but you also see the side of the counselor that she enlists to help her with her difficult situation. Along with the counselor's narrative dialect you get pulled into her dysfunctional family life. While reading the book you will see the mother become a very strong protective and confident woman that the counselor ends up learning so much. You will be extremely surprised and total captivated when you get to the end of the book. I am looking forward to reading more of Lynne Griffin's books.

Teresa Gamble says

I got very caught up in this book and had hard time putting it down, it was a really good book with tragic storylines and I thought it was written very well. I look forward to other books by this author.

Ann says

I slogged through the first 50 pages and decided to finish the book to give it a chance. What I'd felt in those first pages still resonated after I read the last word. The characters are unsympathetic and one-dimensional. The plot is predictable and like much of Dickens, involves a lot of coincidence as the author tries to parallel

the stories of a young mother whose 4-year-old daughter is killed by a hit-and-run driver, and the therapist who is supposed to help her through the trauma. The writing is maudlin and, as someone who has worked with numerous grieving parents, not realistic to most parents' experience in losing a child. Despite an occasional insight, the book fails to engage.

Charity says

I am drawn to and really enjoy books whose characters wind in and out of one another's lives without revealing too early on how they are actually connected. This book deals with some heavy issues (addiction, fatal accidents, childhood illnesses, divorce, blended families, infertility, etc.) and does so in an engaging way without being so heavy that it's hard to wade through.

Pamela Houlton says

Once I realized the book was written with two people telling their stories, everything else fell into place.

Tessa had lost her 4 yr. old child in a hit-and-run accident and Celia was her grief counselor. Tessa is stuck in finding the driver who hit her daughter and Celia is in denial about the loss of her own daughter. It is very interesting how the writer brings them together to heal and how their lives actually affect one another to bring peace to both of them.

It was well written, made me want to keep reading, and I could actually feel the pain of the women in the story.

Stefanie says

There were a few slow parts in the first half of the book, but it could have been slow to me and not to others.

There are a few mysteries in this book. The main one I had figured out early on (or thought I did. (I was correct.)), but there were other things the author chose to keep from us for some time. We were calmly led to assume/feel one way, then she'd drop in the facts and you'd see that the way you were passively led was a dead end.

It was a solid read for me. I will look for more from this author.

Ellen says

"Life Without Summer tells the story of two women: Tessa, who's daughter was killed by a hit-and-run driver, and Celia, a therapist, who is struggling to make her new marriage to Alden work while trying to keep her teenage son Ian from feeling excluded. These two lives intersect as Tessa seeks counseling from Celia.

The beginning of this book was so intense that I didn't think I could finish reading it. The devastation of a

child's death in one family along with the single-handed struggle of Celia holding her family together was close to unbearable. Author Lynne Griffin, provides detailed insight to the feelings and struggles of these two women.

Getting past the first 20 pages, a subplot involving possible police corruption allows the reader to breathe a bit, getting away from the intense emotions of the two women.

At that point the plot takes over, and the search for the driver balances the intensity of the emotions. Griffin throws a few red herrings in for good measure, and even the title takes on new meaning by the end of the book. My only complaint was that the ending tied things up a bit too neatly: these people and their lives were much more complicated to end so "happily ever after".

This was a great first effort by this author. The characters were believable and the story compelling.

??? Shelley ??? says

This book had me at the first page. Both love story and mystery, my favourite genres. Lynne Griffin's writing captivated me until the end and her characters had feelings anyone could relate to. The best part of the book is how real it is, which shows she's a pro about the human condition. I love that she shows life isn't tied up in a big pretty bow.

Sarah says

Some books are just so stinking sad. Tessa's world shatters when her young daughter is hit and killed by a driver outside the girl's preschool. She's obsessed with finding out who killed her little girl--was he drunk? high? What other excuse would someone have for hitting a little girl and not stopping? In the meantime, though, her marriage is falling apart, too.

Tessa begins seeing a therapist, Celia, and about half the book is from her point-of-view. Celia is remarried after divorcing a drunk, but her new husband and teenage son don't get along. Celia needs a therapist herself--she's not handling her teenager well, she doesn't tell her new husband some of her secrets, and she focuses so much on solving the problems of others that she ignores herself.

The two women become close through therapy and eventually their personal lives intermingle, too. But, oh, prepare to cry. Any book about a mother losing a child chokes me up. :(

Amy says

It took me reading over 100 pages (and other books in between) to finally commit to finishing this book. The only reason why I continued to give it a chance was due to the numerous four and five stars it received on goodreads....thinking, it had to get better, right? Not really. The characters in this book are extremely flat and not likeable. I found the two main characters' interactions with their family members to be frustrating, and particularly found the therapist to be weak as a mother, wife and professional.

Lisa says

What a great book. It was definitely a tough subject to read about being a mother and I can't imagine how one would go through life after dealing with such a tragic accident but it's written so beautifully and poignant. There are some bright spots amidst the dark and troubled relationships which makes it all the more touching. I felt optimistic for the characters and how things were going to work out in some way. It really is a testament to the strength of the human spirit. I couldn't put this down! I read it through within a days time. You'll cry through it but somehow the author does such an amazing job at weaving the cast of characters and each persons dilemma that you become so engrossed in each one. I love how it's told in a diary format going back and forth between each of the two main storytellers. So many things are going on but it was told in a fluid way that I got so quickly absorbed in each character and couldn't wait to see what else was going to happen. What a great first book for this author. I look forward to reading her next one!
