



Valley Girls

Sarah Nicole Lemon

Download now

Read Online →

Valley Girls

Sarah Nicole Lemon

Valley Girls Sarah Nicole Lemon

When 17-year-old Rilla is busted for partying 24 hours into arriving in Yosemite National Park to live with her park ranger sister, it's a come-to-Jesus moment.

Determined to make up for her screw-up and create a stable new home for herself, Rilla charms her way into a tight-knit group of climbers. But Rilla can't help but be seduced by experiences she couldn't have imagined back home. She sets her sights on climbing El Capitan, one of the most challenging routes in Yosemite, and her summer becomes one harrowing and ecstatic experience after another: first climb, first fall two thousand feet in the air, first love. But becoming the person Rilla feels she was meant to be jeopardizes the reasons why she came to Yosemite—a bright new future and a second chance at sisterhood. When her family and her future are at odds, what will Rilla choose?

Valley Girls Details

Date : Published May 8th 2018 by Amulet Books

ISBN :

Author : Sarah Nicole Lemon

Format : Hardcover 336 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Fiction

 [Download Valley Girls ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Valley Girls ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Valley Girls Sarah Nicole Lemon

From Reader Review Valley Girls for online ebook

Tova says

Okay, I'm terrified of rock climbing, but I did spend 5 summers living in Yosemite and it's pretty much my second home for the majority for almost half of my life.

Megan (YABookers) says

Disclaimer I received this free from the publisher via NetGalley.

DNF @ 30%

I'm really not feeling this one at all which is a huge shame because I absolutely adored *Done Dirt Cheap*. I, for one, really disliked the main character Rilla. I'm usually all for unlikeable female characters but she really grated on my nerves. Also, there's only so many times I can read that she's called her ex-boyfriend 6 times a day and constantly messages him. Perhaps it's because I can't imagine because that obsessed with a man - especially enough to harass like that and not really see anything wrong with it yikes. Also, while I was intrigued with the rock climbing aspect of this because it seems pretty original but my god was it *boring*. If this book was about Thea, Rilla's half-sister who is a Ranger and in a relationship with a woman, then I probably would have read more but I didn't like Rilla so it's a no from me.

Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

1.5 Stars

DNF @ 49%

I'm doing it. I'm DNFing my first book of 2018. Honestly, **Valley Girls** wasn't egregious or offensive or really even that bad, but I was so utterly bored and indifferent I couldn't continue. My biggest problem was likely my complete annoyance at main character, Rilla, who was forced to leave her home in West Virginia after some relationship problems and live with her park ranger sister in Yosemite valley.

Like I said above, I didn't really like Rilla at all. I'm honestly not entirely clear on why she's in Yosemite to begin with, but we do not mesh. She is very needy and insecure. Obviously, the climbing journey is going to showcase her growth, but I felt like she didn't get into it for herself she just wanted to impress/belong with the older "cooler" people she just met. I also found a few scenes in the beginning to be a little confusing. There were a lot of new characters to keep track of in a wild environment and I did get lost a time or two.

But I did really all the climbing stuff!!!! There's a great group of people and lots of comrodierie, but I just didn't get enough from the story overall the make me want to continue.

I received a copy of the book from Amulet Books via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lindsay says

Rilla is shipped from West Virginia to Yosemite National Park to live with her half-sister Thea because she is the problem maker and partier back in her hometown. Before arriving at the Park, Thea vows to change her awful habits of partying and smoking drugs, claiming that she will enact revenge by turning into a different person than the one that everyone knows her to be. She forgets her vow upon descending into the park and befriends a fellow stoner and proceeds to get drunk and stoned and winds up in park ranger jail.

Once again, this third person narrative was tedious to devour. Rilla was 17/18 and acted like a toddler with tantrums and crying for no reason. I'm positive she was bipolar since she had up and down moments over the course of minutes. She also lived in a false reality where she was obsessed with changing her image so others would approve of the new super cool Rilla that was rock climbing around Yosemite National Park. She developed grand ideas of how to reinvent herself to make others approve of her and make everyone back in her hometown jealous of her new lifestyle. The thing is, she never proceeded to become a fraction of this idolized image. She kept getting into trouble and making bad decisions over and over again when people didn't conform to her standards.

When she wasn't swept away in her imaginary world, she was fighting with her sister, falling in instant love with Walker the moment they meet, acting like a toddler when things don't go her way, always sneaking off to get drunk and stoned when Thea kept warning her that Rilla's irrational behavior could cost Thea her job, going rock climbing with a group of college students/friends, and having bipolar episodes.

Rilla always claimed she would do something (for example: stop smoking and focus on her summer school work), but by the next paragraph it was long forgotten, and she was off doing things she vowed never to do again. It was tiresome to deal with this indecisive narrator and her bad decisions. She judged everybody she meant and always thought she was in the right when she followed through with her bad decisions. Her and Walker somehow fall in love even though they had little interaction and hated each other at the beginning. The ending was abrupt and left multiple questions without answers. Rilla never grew as a character. She was still a bratty adult by the end who only focused on herself.

Plus, "lightning" was spelled incorrectly multiple times as "lightening".

I received an ARC of Valley Girls from NetGalley.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

up for request on Netgalley! I don't know man, I just really love Yosemite

Steve says

Not really a what I expected but a easy fun read anyway. Even though the story takes place in Yosemite it's really about a hormonally challenged teenage girl who ends up in Yosemite. A better read for a teenager

Caro Herrera says

I was initially very excited about this book. However, I quickly became tired of the writing style and also the main character. I was tempted to discontinue reading, but the book actually picked up around the halfway point so I'm glad I finished it. I would maybe give 1 star to the first half of the book and 3 stars to the second half. Thus, my 2-star rating.

The main problem with this book, in my opinion, is that it's overwritten. What I mean by this is that, especially in the first half, everything tries to be a grand sentence or beautiful metaphor. But these metaphors often fall flat and simply give the reader the impression that the book is trying too hard to be something it's not.

The second problem with the book is the main character. She is incredibly frustrating and for most of the book we don't really know why she's being so mean and pushing everyone away. She goes back and forth with her decisions constantly and honestly she is just incredibly annoying.

Thirdly, we eventually learn of a major incident that occurred to this MC. The entire reason she's in the Valley in the first place. And even though it's kind of addressed, it's not really addressed. The issue is addressed in half sentences "Oh, Rilla, no." Or even in non-sentences "Oh." The MC begins to address (in her mind) some of what happened, but it doesn't really seem like she ever gets to truly talk about it with a supportive person (like her sister, perhaps).

Speaking of her sister. This entire relationship frustrates me. There's so many things they start to talk about, but then don't actually have a conversation because one of them (usually Rilla's sister) walks out in a huff. Even at the end of the book we know SOMETHING must have been discussed, but only because we see Rilla doing something we read about earlier. The reader never gets to see what transpired between Rilla and her sister and how (or if) they sorted their problems out. Also, the girls' family is discussed, but only in a "well, that's them and there they are" kind of way. There is so much more that could have been done with this.

Aoife says

I received this book from Abrams&Chronicle in exchange for an honest review.

When Rilla travels to Yosemite National park to live with her sister, she's determined to better - especially when she's busted for partying less than 24 hours after her arrival. Rilla soon falls into a climber crowd, and they begin to teach her the joys and hardships of climbing in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

This was an enjoyable read with some great descriptions and scenery. I officially want to travel to Yosemite and see it in person after reading this book, and I won't lie, I'm very tempted to take up rock climbing as well.

Rilla was a great character and I loved that she seemed really tough at times, and cool, but also very vulnerable and unsure at the same time. She came across as a badass at first but then immediately we saw her

worrying that she was uncool around the climber crowd, and I loved that. Rilla definitely showed a lot of growth in this book, and I loved reading her as she discovered her passion for climbing and did things she never thought she'd be able to. I was definitely confused by her sister's objection to her climbing and did have to wonder what she thought Rilla was going to do the whole time she was in Yosemite - she can't do schoolwork all the time...and she's in Yosemite for god's sake.

The relationship happened, not too fast, but the crush happened really fast for my liking - like literally on the second page. I liked the sex scene in this book - it was positive, and fun as well as sensual and I liked it as an example of having sex but not actually having sex at the same time.

There was a bit too much heavy description in this of climbing for me - like all the different equipment words and conversations just about climbing that meant I got a bit bored at times because I'm not a climber. There is a glossary for the climbing terms and words used at the end but by then I didn't care, I was finished the book.

Atlas says

They looked like they had always been and would always be in Yosemite

* *

2 / 5

I really, really wanted to love Valley Girls - it promised rock climbing adventures featuring a stubborn, ill-advised teen set against the stunning background of Yosemite. Valley Girls delivered in the sense that the rock climbing aspects were detailed and immersive and the scenery sounded breathtaking and filled me with wanderlust. It failed in that the main character, Rilla Skidmore, is exceedingly annoying with barely any redeeming and endearing qualities.

All around her, the air seemed cavernous and wide. You're alone. All alone, it breathed.

Rilla's mother sends her packing from West Virginia to live with her older sister Thea, a park ranger in Yosemite after some incident involving a boyfriend and a punch up in a car park that is never explained. Understandably, Rilla isn't that pleased about leaving her immediate family, friends, and home to go and live on a national park with the sister that left her a few years ago. **I liked Thea:** a young gay woman who struggled with her mother and seemed to have found some peace in Yosemite with her girlfriend, right up until she offers to take on her trouble younger sister who has no motivation to do anything but worry about Instagram and smoke weed.

Then there's Rilla. She's probably the most inconsistent character I've read about in a good few months. Essentially, there's three Rilla's:

Rilla Number One: Skives off school, makes friends with the local weed dealer, calls her ex-boyfriend six times a day, scrolls through Instagram all day thinking about how much better everyone else's life is, is rude to her sister, steals, and is exceedingly petty

Rilla Number Two: Decides that being a rock climber is *literally the most glamorous thing ever* and posting

sexy pics of her climbing is sure to get her old friends running back to her, but simultaneously thinks that all the climber girls she has met hate her for *virtually no reason* and that, despite people telling her she's decent for a newbie, thinks she's a total failure

Rilla Number Three: Ambitious, motivated, works hard at odd jobs to get money for quality climbing gear so that she can tackle tougher climbs and be a good team member, offers to cook group meals and is generally quite a nice girl who you might actually be friends with

Now you would think that there is quite a clear progression her, a satisfying character arc from Rilla One to Two to Three. There's not. One page you are cheering Rilla on as she tackles an impressive route, envying her life a little as she eats sandwiches on top of a mountain range in one of the most beautiful places in the world, and the next she's throwing a literal tantrum, stealing, driving recklessly, and locking herself in her room. **It's bizarre.** If Rilla was someone I knew, I'd be seriously concerned between the delusions of grandeur and the acts of self-destruction.

Mountains do not care who you are, they will kill you all the same

Valley Girls does have a **cool secondary cast** between Thea and the rest of the climber girls, and I loved the climbing scenes - I would have particularly enjoyed it if the book had allocated more time to Rilla's climbing of El Capitan which gets shoehorned in at the end. Overall, Valley Girls drew me in with the premise of climbing but was let down by the unlikeable main character.

My thanks to Netgalley, the publisher, and the author for an ARC of Valley Girls

Read this review and more on my blog: <https://atlasrisingbooks.wordpress.co...>

Kelly says

The character development and pacing were weak -- I never got to know Rilla or any of the other characters, and since Rilla's experiences in West Virginia were why she was in Yosemite with her half sister, I needed more -- but the setting in Yosemite and the climbing were excellent. Those made up for the weaknesses for me, as I loved experiencing those climbs as a reader.

Cristina (Girl in the Pages) says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. **Many thanks to Amulet Books and NetGalley for providing an ARC for review!**

I loved loved loved Sarah Nicole Lemon's debut *Done Dirt Cheap*, which I picked up on a whim, knowing not much about but loving the girl power vibe of the cover and unorthodox name. I loved her ability to write resilient, strong female characters and went into her sophomore novel, *Valley Girls*, with similar expectations. What I encountered was a story that was much, much different than her debut, and that unfortunately failed to compel me the way *Done Dirt Cheap* did. While *Valley Girls* has a stunning setting

and is no doubt a book that was dearly and thoroughly researched, it unfortunately missed the mark for me.

Valley Girls focuses on Rilla, who's been sent to live with her sister, a summer park ranger of sorts, in Yosemite Valley. She's left behind a troubled and tainted past in West Virginia and this summer in Yosemite is a bit of a last chance situation for her. Rilla unfortunately was the main issue for me in this book. As the protagonist, readers spend all of their time in her head, and she's quite frankly irritating and self absorbed and honestly doesn't start showing much growth until the very end of the book. She constantly and consistently makes poor decisions and holds herself back with them, and is insecure beyond belief. Now I know insecurities are a huge part of the teenage experience, but she would lament over the tiniest of mistakes she'd made in social situations for pages upon pages, which was such a change from Lemon's previous protagonists. While the novel is obviously focused on the tale of her growth, I wish I could have seen more progress than I did.

While an unlikable protagonist doesn't completely make or break a novel (sometimes the best novels can have the worst protagonists), I failed to connect with Rilla at all, as I feel I never really got a clear vision of her backstory. There's a lot of really heavy, formative experiences and issues that are hinted at (parents who are polyamorous and in and out of jail, excessive partying, domestic abuse, etc.) which are huge themes but only ever get mentioned in passing. I really wish I had a chance to get to know exactly WHAT happened to get Rilla sent to Yosemite, as then I feel like I could have connected more with her on her journey (I know this is obviously a tale of the protagonist leaving her past behind but I felt let down by the mention of these huge issues that were never addressed fully).

The other element that had me struggling through the book was the rock climbing. Now, this is completely just my personal taste, but I am not an athletic minded person at all, so as soon as a book starts getting too technical for me I tend to get bored. I found this book was super technical and descriptive about the rock climbing process (which is a great thing if you're interested in it! It's evident a lot of care and research went into writing those scenes and I definitely know way more about rock climbing than I ever thought I would- including some of the wild stuff like how climbers literally sleep suspended in midair off of a mountain on a port-a-ledge). However, I did find myself eventually skimming many of the climbing portions.

While many of the main focuses of the book didn't work for me, there were a lot of secondary elements that I liked that I wish had been featured more. I really liked Rilla's sister Thea who had completely turned her life around from her West Virginia upbringing. There were a ton of female rock climber characters who all had their strengths and flaws but who were all incredibly independent, from Caroline, a sponsored, Instagram famous climber to Adeena, a climber from Pakistan who scaled Everest when she was even younger than Rilla, and who used climbing as a way to help finance her education. I wish I had gotten to know these women's backstories even better as well, and I wish their presence had been more motivating to Rilla rather than discouraging.

Overall: Valley Girls is an book that's obviously written with incredible research and care regarding rock climbing, and has a very vivid portrayal of life in Yosemite Valley. However, Rilla's behavior and lack of growth coupled with my disinterest in the technical rock climbing scenes made this one a miss for me. This review was originally posted on Girl in the Pages

Cait says

3.5. The Yosemite setting was done so well - it all felt extremely real. I had some issues with the

relationships - the "Walker is only in this for fun" wasn't really telegraphed well, & the Petra & Adeena stuff at the end sort of came out of nowhere?

Anyway, this was a pretty fun read (if very long!)

Alison says

So this is one of my new favorite books. It was just so well written and important. I originally picked it up because it takes place in Yosemite which is about two hours from where I live. In fact, my hometown, Merced, is mentioned and gone to by the main character twice. I have never read a book that even got close to my town. I recognized everywhere talked about and had pretty much been to all of the places too and it was so awesome. I don't know anything about climbing but I loved learning about it in this book (and there's a lot to learn) and the story honestly made me want to get more active (not climbing necessarily, but in general). The diversity in this book is spectacular and plentiful with characters of almost every race and ethnicity, a lesbian, and polyamory (which I've never seen in a book). The talks in the book about racism and sexism and homophobia were amazing as a result. We even have a discussion on abusive relationships and a victim who comes to realize it was abuse and have to deal with it. The relationships felt real. Nothing was perfect but that's what gave it the realness. There were moments where I disliked every character but then you realize what they did was human and they learn and grow from it and that was beautiful to see for once. It was just young people being young people but still achieving great things and you get to see their doubt too and it was so relatable. I mean I could go on and on, but please read this book if you get the chance. The only thing I can say negatively about it is that the pacing is a little strange sometimes and I wish we got more about what happened with her and her family in the end, but I wouldn't even knock off part of a star for that because it was nothing compared to all of the greatness the rest of the book offered.

TW: abusive relationships, substance abuse, character gets outed, racism

charlotte says

Galley provided by publisher

Rep: wlw side character, non-white side characters

Actual rating 3.5

On the basis of *Done Dirt Cheap*, I kind of expected more of this book. That's not to say it wasn't good, or that my current fantasy/historical kick isn't behind why I didn't enjoy it as much, but it definitely contributed.

Valley Girls tells the story of Rilla Skidmore, who's sent by her mother to live with her half-sister Thea in Yosemite, after a big fight with her boyfriend. There, she falls in with a group of climbers, including Walker, the apparently gorgeous (seriously, every time Walker's name gets mentioned, you get a sentence, minimum, about how gorgeous he is) Search and Rescue worker. Most of the story revolves around the fact that Rilla wants to reinvent herself to all these new people she's met, and plans on doing so through climbing, specifically through climbing El Capitan, a 3000ft vertical rock formation.

One of my favourite things about Sarah Nicole Lemon's debut was the friendship between the two girls. While this book did have some great girl friendships, it never quite reached the level that *Done Dirt Cheap* did. And while the sibling conflict occasionally verged on coming to a head and being fully resolved, it never entirely managed it. Instead, it felt somewhat sidelined compared to the romance particularly, and was one of two plotpoints that seemed like it was left hanging. Similarly, there was conflict between Thea and another Ranger in competition for the same job that appeared to also go unresolved.

In contrast, Sarah Nicole Lemon's romances are one of my least favourite things about her books. They're well-written and for the most part well-developed, but they're always between an 18 or so aged girl (17 to start off with in this book) and a 20 something year old boy (20 in this book, so I'll grant you it's better than the 18 and 28 I dealt with in her other book). I mean, what's authors' problems with romances between people of the same age, especially when one of them isn't even legally an adult yet? It just makes me uncomfortable, no matter how much I like how the characters are individually written, and however well the romance is written, because the fact still remains the relationship is imbalanced. At least in this book (view spoiler).

I think most of what made me not like this so much was the fact that all I want to read right now is fantasy or historical books, so I almost had to force myself through this one. It was one of those where once I got into it it was fine, but finding the motivation to pick it up and get into it was another matter.

Rhoda says

This review was originally posted on StrupagFollowing an incident at home in Rainelle, West Virginia, 17 year old Rilla is sent to stay with her elder sister, Thea, a Ranger in Yosemite, California. She has schoolwork to catch up on over the summer if she wants to graduate high school and Thea is determined to see her achieve it.

It seems she is the only person in Yosemite who doesn't climb or hike. So when she makes friends with a group of climbers, she gets some lessons and catches the climbing bug.

This is probably best described as a 'coming of age' tale. Rilla arrives in Yosemite at the start of summer and is lost and low, but we see her progress as the story evolves.

I wanted to enjoy this book and there were parts I did get caught up in but overall I found it pretty lacklustre. For the first 80 pages or so I was pretty bored, to be honest.

Evidently, the author has a love of climbing and this shines through, but at times I found all the technical jargon a bit too much. Don't get me wrong, I did learn along with Rilla, but at times I couldn't process, or want to process, all the climbing lingo.

I felt that most of this book trundled along, then at the end, when there was finally some action, it was rushed. I'd have liked more of the action at the end and less preamble.

Also, I didn't really care that much about the characters. I wasn't particularly rooting for any of them and I find books like that hard to get into.

This wasn't really the book for me. I learned about Yosemite and (when I wasn't overwhelmed) about

climbing but I was left pretty disappointed by this read.
