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Changes In Latitudes



Synopsis

Jen Malone, author of teen novels *Wanderlost* and *Map to the Stars*, will take readers to the high seas—literally—in this contemporary YA novel about a girl facing the dissolution of her parents’ marriage, a new romance, and self-discovery while sailing down the Pacific coast. After concluding that her is to blame for her parents’ recent divorce, Cassandra McClure is hoping to stay as far away from her as possible. With a summer of freedom right around the corner, it shouldn’t be too hard. But when a forty-foot sailboat appears in her driveway and her mom announces that Cassie and her brother Drew will be accompanying her on a four-month sailing trip down to Mexico, Cassie’s plans for the summer go, quite literally, overboard. Once the three set sail, tensions quickly rise. So meeting Jonah—a gorgeous, whip-smart deckhand—is an unexpected bright spot on an otherwise dim horizon. Though she tries to keep him at a distance—considering the upheaval of her home life—their chemistry is impossible to ignore, and Cassie soon finds herself questioning everything: Should she go for it with Jonah? Can she forgive her mom? Will home ever feel the same? With life’s unpredictable tides working against her, Cassie must decide whether to swim against them, or dive right in.

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Customer Reviews

“Cassie’s voice and feelings about the divorce are realistic. The story’s strength lies in Cassie’s realization of the impact her anger has on her happiness. A recommended purchase for coming-of-age romance shelves.” (School Library

Journal) – “[The] narration crackles with a wit and intensity sure to pull readers in. Solid plotting and a unique scenario keep this journey nicely on course.” (Booklist Online)

Jen Malone once spent a year traveling the world solo, met her husband on the highway (literally), and went into labor with her identical twins while on Stevie Nicks’s tour bus. These days she saves the drama for her books. She is a former Hollywood film publicist and current college professor who lives in the Boston area with her husband and three children and (someday, when she wears her husband down) a pet hedgehog.

Imagine being stuck on a sailboat for four months. Now imagine being a teenager stuck on the boat with your mom, who cheated on your dad and caused their recent divorce. That sums up the basic premise of *Changes in Latitudes*, but there’s so much more. We see the world through the point of view of Cassie, who has a lot of issues swirling around in her adolescent brain, but we also have a swoony romantic interest to keep things fun. Jen perfectly captured the complexities of being a child of divorce, while also taking us on yet another great adventure.

"Changes In Lattitudes" is an amazing romance novel that kept me reading all night. The main character, Cassie, has to sail on a boat with her mother and her younger brother, Drew, for 4 months. Cassie wants nothing to do with her mother after she found out that the reason her parents got a divorce was because her mother cheated on her dad! but when a new boy shows up on the trip down to Mexico with her, suddenly things don't seem so bad. This book was an exciting emotional rollercoaster that I would 100% recommend.

I loved this twist on the typical YA road trip summer novel. It was a great way for this book to stand out in a sea of contemporaries with similar storylines. I love Jonah. He's everything you want out of a book boyfriend. He was charismatic, funny and so sweet. He's laid back charmed matched Cassie's upright mood perfectly. This was everything you could want from a summer contemporary.

This year had already taken its toll on Cassie due to her parents' divorce, which seemed to come out of nowhere, and she had been having difficulty dealing with the changes in her family dynamic. Her father moved overseas and, she was no longer on good terms with her mother. Cassie was just counting down the days until she would be away from it all on a road trip with her two besties. Then her mother informed her that they would be embarking on a trip of their own, aboard a small

sailboat, for four months! Cassie needed space, but her mother had other ideas. This is the second book I have recently read, that dealt with a broken family in need of healing. I loved that Cassie's mom made such a bold choice to trap them in close quarters for such long period of time. It was a good choice, because Cassie was very angry, and something drastic had to be done in order to try and mend that relationship. The added bonus of this taking place on a sailboat, is that we got to go on a pretty awesome trip along with the characters. I really felt like I was right there sight-seeing with Cassie and her caravan, and I was delighted by the sights and sounds of the west coast. I also liked that I wasn't really there, because there were some close calls, and those parts must have been written well, because I was scared for all the people aboard the boat. I previously mentioned that Cassie was pretty angsty, and normally I struggle with this type of character, but Malone fleshed her out and gave her more than one speed. We were shown the angry Cassie, but we also got to see the fun Cassie, the generous Cassie, and the sweet Cassie. Malone also did a good job of putting us in Cassie's head, so I understood where the angst was coming from, and was also privy to the inner battles she was having with all her emotions. You know how they say it takes a village? Well, it took quite a few people to help Cassie see her way out of this state. She was not accustomed to so many disappointments, nor was she used to them being this major. This was a HUGE thing she had to work through, and it took a while for her to face it all and do the growing up that was necessary to maybe not be at peace with all the changes, but rather to accept that they happened and try to keep moving forward. I was really feeling all the evolving relationships in this one. This trip was such a plus for so many of the characters. It gave Cassie a chance to bond with her brother, and the whole experience really opened her eyes to how much he had grown up. It gave her a chance to mend her relationship with her mother. The loss that both mother and daughter were experiencing due to this rift was palpable. My heart went out to both of them, and I was really rooting for them, for the whole family to get to a better place, together. Cassie also got to build a relationship with Jonah. Jonah won me over from his first time on the page. There was just something so special about him, and my goodness, he made me swoon, and swoon, and swoon. I loved the exchanges between him and Cassie. They talked, like really talked, and their connection was so obvious and real. He was a little damaged, but as with almost all our main characters, this trip was beneficial for him too. I would love to say I got all the closure I needed from the ending, but I did not. *Sad face*. For those of you who have read my reviews before, you know this is a thorn in my side, because I need loose ends tied off. The ending definitely had things going in the right direction, but it was so open, and with this being a stand-alone, I am forced to imagine the perfect ending in my head. Overall: A lovely story about accepting the hand the universe dealt you and learning how to sail in.

“Marooned at sea with my mother? For four months? This is not real life. This is not my life.” What’s the Good news? I manage, subtly squeezing my eyes shut, then open, shut, then open, to see if that tilts the world back on its axis. That was the good news sweetie. Yeah, I was kind of afraid of that. A road trip romance that takes place during a sailing trip from Oregon to Mexico. Changes in Latitude is really the PERFECT summer read! Cassie is still reeling from the shock of her parents divorce, so she’s devastated - and angry - when her mom plans for a 4 month sailing trip with her little brother, the summer before her senior year. Along the way, Cassie must learn to deal with her loss of control, her strained relationship with her mom, and maybe even get a little romance with a deckhand in their convoy south. Changes in Latitude is high on drama and entertainment as Cassie learned to let go on the open waters. Things I Liked: This book had a really high entertainment factor for me. I can’t say the it was really engaging or gripping, but I did really like the characters and how the relationships all develop made for a fun read. This book so perfectly summery! There’s sailing and summer romance, what more could you really want? I love that Cassie’s hobby/passion was botany. It was such a unique hobby for a YA character and I loved that we got to see her be passionate about something, especially a scientific field! I also really loved that Cassie recognized she was had a bad attitude about the whole sailing trip and her parents divorce. Cassie could be bratty and whiny at times, nothing outside the norm for an angsty teen upset at the world (and her mom specifically), but I like that she realized she was being unfair and holding back just to keep that control over her anger. Things I Didn’t Like: Cassie and Jonah were actually really cute and had pretty fantastic banter, I just didn’t really love their age difference. He’s 20 and she’s 17, so it’s not the biggest age difference in the world, it just always made me a little uncomfortable. Changes in Latitude is a great beach read. You can really knock it out in one go. It’s one of those perfect summer stories that keeps you turning the pages and wanting more. I received a copy of the book from HarperTeen in exchange for an honest review.

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