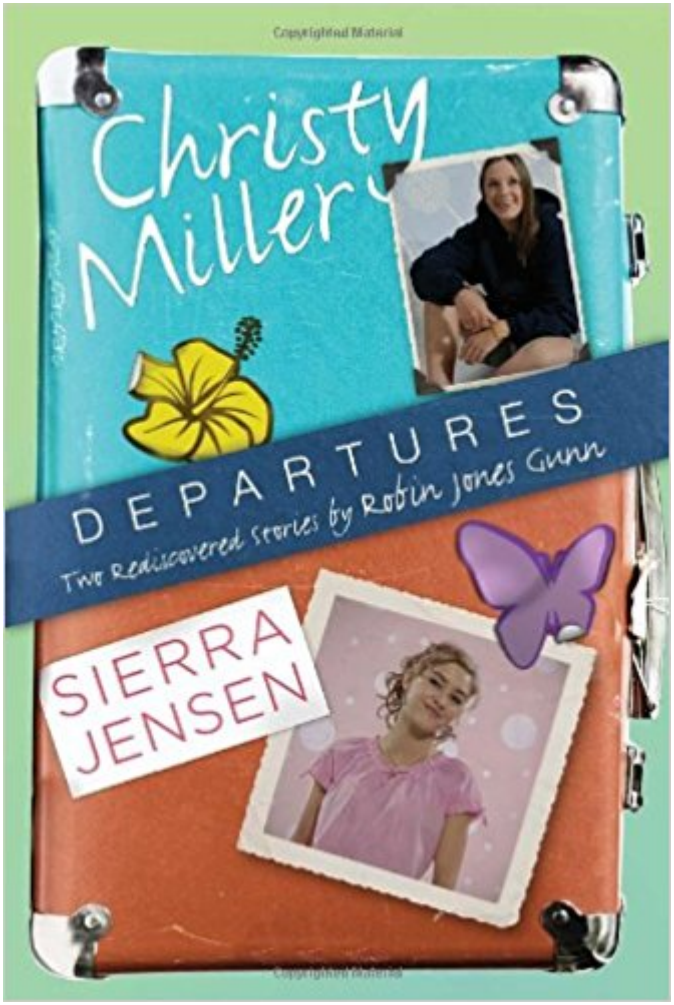
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Departures: Two Rediscovered Stories Of Christy Miller And Sierra Jensen (The Christy Miller Collection)



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Synopsis

Christy Miller and Sierra Jensen cross paths on their way to summer vacations that reveal what a gift it is to have a true Forever Friend.Now Boarding at Gate 10After her high school graduation, still aching from ToddÃ¢â ¬â„¢s departure, Christy joins her family on a trip to Wisconsin to visit relatives. While there, she reunites with Matthew, an old friend from junior high. When Matthew starts to show a romantic interest in Christy, she realizes this summer vacation could change everything she thought her future would be.Ã Â In the Event of a Water LandingFifteen-year-old Sierra Jensen canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t wait to spend her summer vacation with her friend Jana at a pristine lake in Montana. But when they arrive, it becomes clear that JanaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s only interest is acquiring a boyfriend. Sierra just wants to hang out with the guys as friends, but Jana turns every encounter into a possible romantic relationship. As their friendship begins to suffer, Sierra wonders if itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s possible to find a Forever Friend who will listen to you, laugh with you, and keep your confidences.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

ROBIN JONES GUNN is the best-selling and award-winning author of more than seventy books, with over 4 million copies of her titles sold worldwide. Best known among them are the Christy

Miller, Sierra Jensen, and Christy and Todd: College Years teen series. A Christy Award winner and a two-time finalist for excellence in fiction, Robin has also been a Gold Medallion finalist. She and her husband have a grown son and daughter and live in Hawaii.

As beads of perspiration dripped down her back, Christy Miller lifted her long, nutmeg brown hair to try to get some air on her neck. She didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know why her parents had dashed so quickly off the plane when it landed at the MinneapolisÃ¢â ¬â œSt. Paul International Airport. They had more than an hour before their connecting flight left for Madison, Wisconsin.Ã¢â ¬Å“Would it be okay if I went to the snack bar for something to drink?Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy asked her dad.Ã¢â ¬Å“Sure,Ã¢â ¬Â• Dad said, reaching into his pocket for some money. Ã¢â ¬Å“Buy something for your mother and meÃ¢â ¬â •and take your brother with you.Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy tried to hide her lack of enthusiasm over thirteen-year-old DavidÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tagging along. This was the first vacation her family had taken in a long time, and she didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t want to be the one to start an argument.Ã¢â ¬Å“Can we play one of those video games?Ã¢â ¬Â• David asked, pushing up his glasses. He was big for his age, just as Christy had been, and he resembled their red-haired father more every day.Ã¢â ¬Å“No. WeÃ¢â ¬â„¢re only getting something to drink.Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy led her brother through a maze of small round tables. The two of them were almost to the counter when David tripped over a girlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s foot that was sticking out from under a table. She was wearing large clunky boots and had her dark hair up in a clip. David stumbled and bumped into her chair, causing the girlÃ¢â ¬â„¢s backpack, which had been slung over the chairÃ¢â ¬â„¢s back, to fall to the floor.Ã¢â ¬Å“Sorry,Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy said, apologizing for her brother and urging him to move on quickly.The girl and her friend, who was sitting next to her, were probably a year or two younger than Christy was, yet they appeared to be traveling by themselves. At that moment Christy wished she were traveling with her best friend, Katie. A summer adventure would be so much more fun with a friend than with her family.When Christy had graduated from high school two weeks ago, several classmates went on senior trips to exotic locations like Mexico and Hawaii. This was ChristyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s exotic tripÃ¢â ¬â •a family weekend in Brightwater, Wisconsin, population 832.Two days ago Katie had told Christy, Ã¢â ¬Å“You shouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t complain. At least youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re going somewhereÃ¢â ¬â •unlike some people we know.Ã¢â ¬Â• Katie then had flopped onto her bed and let out a sigh. Ã¢â ¬Å“If you come home on Monday and find me here, in this same position, call the Guinness Book of World Records.Ã¢â ¬Â•Even though Christy knew better, she asked why.Ã¢â ¬Å“Because I will be the first person in history who will have died from boredom.Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy had argued that her grandparentsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ fiftieth wedding anniversary in

Brightwater, the town Christy had grown up in, would be twice as boring, but Katie didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t buy it. She reminded Christy that more than once mystery, romance, and adventure had found her when she had least expected it.Then Katie had lifted her head and added, Ã¢â ¬Å“And donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t forget. You happen to be very available at the moment.Ã¢â ¬Â•Yes, Christy thought while handing David his drink, this would have been a much more exciting trip with Katie along. Christy directed her brother to a nearby exit she had spotted where he would have less human traffic to navigate through. With each of them holding two full drinks, Christy knew the chances of disaster with David were pretty high.They had just made it through the cafÃƒÂ© when Christy caught sight of a flash of sandy blond hair that looked so familiar. She held her breath and watched a guy enter the bookshop next to the cafÃƒÂ©.Ã¢â ¬Å“David,Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy said, Ã¢â ¬Å“stay right beside me. I want to check on something in that bookstore.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“ThatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not fair. You wouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t let me play video games.Ã¢â ¬Â•ChristyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heart pounded wildly as she caught another glimpse of the broad shoulders and a tan neck. He wore a white T-shirt with a familiar surfing logo on the back.Ã¢â ¬Å“Hurry up, David,Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy said, walking faster.Ã¢â ¬Å“Where are we going?Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t answer her brother. She was too absorbed in not screaming out Ã¢â ¬Å“Todd!Ã¢â ¬Â• at the top of her voice and running to the guy who was now standing with his back to her, looking at a magazine.With cautious steps and protecting the drinks she held, Christyblinked away sudden tears from her blue-green eyes. She now stoodonly a few feet from the person who had held a special place in herheart. Only two months ago, as they watched the sunset at the beach,Christy had said good-bye to Todd. She never dreamed she would besaying hello to him so soon.Ã¢â ¬Å“Hello,Ã¢â ¬Â• she said aloud before she had a chance to think of a better greeting.When he didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t turn around, she stepped closer, her heart pounding loudly in her ears, and said,
Ã¢â ¬Å“Hi.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“Christy?Ã¢â ¬Â• David said. Ã¢â ¬Å“What are you doing? Who are you talking to?Ã¢â ¬Â•The guy turned to face both of them, and Christy nearly dropped her drinks. This guy, who stood only inches from her, was definitely not Todd Spencer. He was good-looking, but he wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t Todd.Ã¢â ¬Å“Oh, sorry,Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy mumbled. She turned before her crimson cheeks painted her whole face a bright red.Ã¢â ¬Å“What were you doing?Ã¢â ¬Â• David asked, following her fast stride out of the bookstore. Ã¢â ¬Å“Who did you think that was?Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy ignored David, trying to calm her emotions. How could she have made such a fool of herself?Ã¢â ¬Å“Did you think he was someone you knew?Ã¢â ¬Â• David asked, trotting to keep up with Christy.Ã¢â ¬Å“Yes,Ã¢â ¬Â• she answered. Ã¢â ¬Å“From the back, he kind of looked like Todd.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“Todd?! He didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t look like Todd at all. You should have

asked me before you went up to him. I could have told you it wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t Todd.Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy was about to turn and tell David to just drop the whole thing, when a voice over the loudspeaker announced, Ã¢â ¬Å“Flight 73 to Madison, Wisconsin, is now boarding at gate 10.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“Come on, David, thatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s us.Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy strode through the terminal, leading the way to gate 10. When they entered the waiting area, their parents were anxiously looking for them.Ã¢â ¬Å“Where have you been?Ã¢â ¬Â• Mom asked, taking her drink from Christy.Ã¢â ¬Å“Christy thought she saw Todd,Ã¢â ¬Â• David announced for the whole world to hear. Ã¢â ¬Å“She followed this guy into a bookstore and started to talk to him.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“David!Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy scolded.Ã¢â ¬Å“Well, you did.Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy grabbed her backpack and started for the line of passengers boarding the plane. Mom stopped her. Ã¢â ¬Å“We have to wait. TheyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re only boarding rows 15 and higher. WeÃ¢â ¬â„¢re row 14.Ã¢â ¬Â•David tugged on the strap of ChristyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s backpack and said, Ã¢â ¬Å“Hey, look! There he is.Ã¢â ¬Â•The guy from the bookstore had entered their waiting area and stood in line to board the same plane. Christy tucked her chin and turned her head so he wouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t see her.Ã¢â ¬Å“He doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t look at all like Todd, does he?Ã¢â ¬Â• David said.Ã¢â ¬Å“David, lower your voice!Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy pleaded.Ã¢â ¬Å“Come on,Ã¢â ¬Â• Dad said. Ã¢â ¬Å“They just called our row.Ã¢â ¬Â•Christy slowly followed as her family stood in line. The guy was only two people ahead of her mom.Ã¢â ¬Å“HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s looking at you,Ã¢â ¬Â• David announced, punching Christy in the side.Ã¢â ¬Å“David,Ã¢â ¬Â• Christy threatened through clenched teeth. Ã¢â ¬Å“DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t you dare say another word. I mean it!Ã¢â ¬Â•David pretended to lock his lips with an invisible key. He stood with his shoulders back, playing the role of the model child. Christy moved along behind him with her head down, avoiding eye contact with any of the passengers, especially the tall blond surfer who was definitely boarding the same plane.

I love Robin Jones Gunn books, but this one was not my favorite! I only read it after getting all they way through the Christy Miller Series, the College Years, Sierra Jensen series, and the Katie Weldon series. Maybe if I had read it in order I would have appreciated it more, but the storylines seemed insignificant to the series to me. This one would be better to read from the library than to own.

I didn't like the Christy Miller story as much. It seemed a little forced to fit the storyline from the Katie Weldon books. But the Sierra Jensen story seemed like it fit very well with all the other Sierra books. Both are fun reads though!

My teen tells me that every girl should read these books! These books can show young girls how to deal with all kinds of situations that they will probably face in their lives, very encouraging!!

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“DeparturesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a really fun summery book with two novellas in it. One is about Christy Miller and the other is about Sierra Jensen. The first story, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Now Boarding at Gate 10ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, is about Christy. She has just graduated from high school and she and her family take a trip to visit her grandparents. This story takes place between ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Sweet DreamsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, book 11, and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A Promise is ForeverÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, book 12, in the 12 book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Christy MillerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• series.The next story, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“In the Event of a Water LandingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, is Sierra's story. She is 15 in this story and it takes place about six months before the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Sierra JensenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• series starts. Christy and Sierra unknowingly cross paths on their way to their summer vacations. These stories take place on and around the 4th of July, which makes this a really fun summer book!

Author Robin Jones Gunn was sifting through some old boxes at home when she came across two novellas which has been out of print for a while. It has since been published as one book called Departures: Christy Miller and Sierra Jensen's story of their summer break (Gunn, 2011, Departures: 2011).In Christy's story called "Boarding at Gate 10", Christy's heart is still aching after Todd left and now she is on her way to Wisconsin for a family vacation after graduating highschool. What she finds in Wisconsin is an old friend, Matthew Kingsley, and he has surely grown up in the past few years. When he shows Christy some romantic interest however, the interaction with him and the trips down memory lane makes her uncomfortable and she must confront what life may have in store for her: Intimacy, commitment, forever? What do these mean to her? More importantly, what do they mean to God?In Sierra Jensen's story, "In the Event of a Water Landing", 15 year Sierra is going away to spend her summer with best friend Jana at a pristine lake in Montana. However when Jana begins to act weird and not very nice towards her and instead turn her affections to every available boy in the vicinity, Sierra questions what a true friend really is. She also must deal with the conflicting feelings of being a girl but having feelings a young woman may at this stage in life.At this stage of my life, I have been thinking back on my own teenage years and finding old photos of myself and I see in the background a bookshelf fille with books and the Bible. Just like Sierra and Christy, God was my raft in times of emotional disaster and I enjoyed how Gunn created

the girls to be believable in a time where teens are quick to become jealous and hurt one another instead of forgive each other.Thanks, Robin!*Book received for my unbiased review from Multnomah.

This book appeals to my love of all things Robin Jones Gunn.Departures is a book with two novellas in it, one about our beloved Christy Miller (Now Boarding at Gate 10) and one about her friend Sierra Jensen (In the Event of a Water Landing.) The Christy Miller story is set between the final two books of the Christy Miller series, right after Christy graduates from high school. Christy and her family (yes, even Aunt Marti and Uncle Bob) are in Wisconsin celebrating her grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary. There she reunites with her grade-school crush, Matthew, who appears to be showing romantic interest in her. Christy then dares to dream that her future might look very different that she thought it would. In Sierra's story, Sierra is vacationing with her friend at a lake in Montana. It becomes clear to the 15-year-old that her friend is only interested in acquiring a boyfriend, while Sierra just wants to hang out as a group. Sierra begins to question her relationship with her friend, wondering if she'll ever find a Forever Friend who is on the same page as she is.These two stories satisfy a desire to read "just one more" story about these two girls. If you've read the other series, then these fit right in. If you haven't, then these actually are a pretty good introduction to the other two. I cannot stress enough how much I think you should be reading Robin Jones Gunn. If you have teenage girls in your life, they should be reading the Christy Miller and Sierra Jensen stories. If you aren't a teenager, while I think you'd enjoy them too, then you should be reading Mrs. Gunn's Glenbrooke and Sisterchick series.Robin Jones Gunn is a delightful writer, who not only entertains, but encourages your walk with the Lord through the delightful lives of her fictional characters. I want to be just like her when I grow up.This book was sent to me by WaterBrook Multnomah Press as a part of their Blogging for Books program.

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