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Burn Before Reading



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Synopsis

A girl meets a wolf.And a wolf meets his match.Beatrix Cruz - Bee for short - has exactly one goal; kick her dad’s severe depression in the ass. She’s got a foolproof plan; 1. Get into the elite high school Lakecrest Preparatory on a scholarship 2. Study like crazy3. Graduate into NYU and become a shrinkNothing can stand in her way - not even Lakecrest’s rich, hot, and notorious Blackthorn brothers. Not Fitz Blackthorn, with his flirting and his elite computer hacking, not Burn Blackthorn, with his intimidating height and emotionless face, and certainly not sinfully handsome Wolf Blackthorn, who hands out ’red cards’ to students who displease him, and expels the ones who keep doing it. But when Bee stands up for a student, she pisses off Wolf, and he’s suddenly itching to pull her scholarship from underneath her. To keep it, Bee strikes a deal with the devil - father Blackthorn himself; spy on Mr. Blackthorn’s sons, become friends with them, and learn their secrets in exchange for staying at Lakecrest.Betraying the Blackthorn brothers’ trust is supposed to be easy. Becoming friends with the Blackthorn boys makes it hard.And falling in love with Wolf makes it impossible.((This book contains language and situations that may be inappropriate for younger readers.))

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As in past books by Sara Wolf, the teenage characters in BBR are dealing with heavy situations. The book is a first-person narrative, mostly from the POV of the heroine. Beatrix (Bee) lives in a rental apartment with her absentee mother and her housebound, mentally ill father. Her mother is avoiding her terrible marriage by picking up every available nursing shift at the hospital, and going out alone after work with friends; she is possibly the worst -- most selfish, most neglectful, most damaging -- mother Sara Wolf has ever written. Bee's father, a former writer, locks himself in their bedroom day after day. His health deteriorates to a frightening point. Bee comes home from school and heats cans of soup for him and leaves them outside his door. Her own nutritional situation seems dire.The hero, Wolf, lives with his two older brothers and father in a big house. Wolf, his brother and Bee go to the same private school in a suburb of Seattle. Bee has won a scholarship to Lakecrest which she will keep if she makes top grades and does not make waves. She meets Wolf one afternoon when she sees him mistreating another student, and she interferes. By stepping in she draws attention to herself; Wolf informs her that she has put her new scholarship, paid for by his father, in jeopardy.Bee dedicates her life to helping her father get well. It is beyond her ability to achieve, which any adult in her life might be kind enough to tell her. (Adults in Sara Wolf books are rarely helpful. Her teenage characters are go-it-alone loners). Bee studies psychology textbooks and stays true to her futile mission, avoiding friendships and denying herself happiness (which might distract her). The plot quickly starts to feel hopeless and unrelentingly dark.Wolf has his own bundle of life challenges. At age 7? 10?, he lost his mother to either her own reckless driving or suicide-by-car; he was a passenger in the car with her. His father, devastated by his loss, is absent, distant and non-accepting. His two brothers find other coping mechanisms for being motherless, but Wolf chooses to isolate himself at parties, sit in judgement of his peers and never touch anyone. Years before the book begins, his first relationship (with a boy) is a long, violent misery.I don't know what it means when Bee, a hetero-normative girl, chooses as her first romantic partner a teenage boy who self-identifies as bisexual. I am not familiar with this plot or what might be in store for Bee, and the author does not explore it (at all). Bee, who needs to understand the meaning of everything, racing to read about the human condition in her psychology textbooks, accepts it unquestioningly. (Doesn't she want to know what she might expect from a relationship with a bisexual boy? I do.)The meaning of the title appears in the epilogue. I think it's just a catchy phrase, it does not reflect anything that happens in the book. The stylized cover, a girl wearing shiny patent leather Mary

Janes, does not reflect the disheveled state of the outfits Bee wears to school. The scene in which Bee leaves the house in frumpy pajamas is particularly . . .depressing.

This book just didn't do it for me. Maybe I wasn't in the right mood. I struggled to get through it after about half way. I kept waiting for her reveal to happen but it didn't until chapter 15. After, the book wraps up pretty quickly. I would have preferred more time after the reveal and less before.I didn't feel this book was surprising. It is pretty standard for a YA coming of age story with romance. The only thing I felt was different was that the male lead had been abused in a previous relationship; usually these stories the woman is abused. I appreciated this deviation from tropes.In the end, I found this book slow-moving (started skimming halfway through), the romance typical of the genre, and the plot standard.

I liked Beatrix. The books ending felt a little bit rushed considering all the subplots going on and I still don't know how they tied up because it was never written. Wolf is still a confusing person for me to truly love. I still don't know the essence of him as much as I do Fitz and Burn. I'm glad Beatrix's dad decided to leave because depression is something that affects everybody and he saw it so that means he wants to get better if possible. I think the writing of this book should have either tied things up a little bit better or segued into a book 2. I don't think I would have purchased this book had I known how the ending was going to be. It's a decent read but it's very convoluted at the same time. Happy reading!

Beatrix Cruz isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like all of the other students at Lakecrest. SheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not one of the precious moneyed students that crowd the campus. SheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s known as a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ScholarshipperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and no one likes to remind her of that fact more than the Blackthorns.Bernard, Fitzwilliam and Wolfgang Blackthorn haunt the halls with their beauty and their arrogance. But itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the one that everyone calls ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“WolfÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• that makes her heart race and her blood boil.Wolfgang Alexander Blackthorn is just as pompous as his name. With his dark hair and ever knowing gaze, heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s out to make BeeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life a living hell. Standing up to him was her first mistake and then daring to fall in love with him was simply unforgivable.Burn Before Reading is so much more than what we expected from just a YA book. Sara has delivered a darkly luscious and heartbreakingly poignant odyssey with characters so layered that you canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t wait to discover whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hiding right under the surface.You

will lose yourself in the dreamlike imagery and tender love story only to find yourself wide awake in the endÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦

Here’s the thing. This is more 3.5 stars than just 3. I figured going into this it was going to be a slow burner. I’ve read Sara Wolf’s books before, and I think she creates beautifully tainted characters. Some of her character development is amongst the best I’ve seen, but this book didn’t really leave me with a "gee I’m happy with this book/ending/everything" feeling. This is more of a personal preference, but there’s just something that bothers me about books that build to a relationship, then it happens, and the book is finished. And you never get to see the MC’s as a couple. This was the worst form of that. Hand holding was as fare as we get in this. I do think this was well written, but I kinda hate that I read over 600 pages to not even have a kiss between Bee and Wolf. I think this book did well with discussing reality rough situations, as Wolf’s other books have. However,its not my favorite and I can’t say it did it for me in the romance category.

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