



# Love, Meg

*C. Leigh Purtil*

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## **Love, Meg** C. Leigh Purtil

Meg Shanley always believed that her parents died when she was a baby. Since then, she and her thirty-year-old sister Lucie have lived a nomadic life, never settling down long enough for Meg to feel like anything but the new girl. Alone in her uncertainty and confusion, Meg writes letters to Jennifer Aniston for advice.

Unlike Lucie, Jen is stable. She's on Meg's TV?no matter where Meg happens to be living?every night at eleven. For a few years, Jennifer even writes back. But now Jen's letters have stopped. Meg and Lucie are in LA, in a tiny apartment, when a stranger shows up and reveals a seemingly impossible secret. Lucie is not Meg's sister, but her mother. And back in New York, Meg has a grandmother and a real, honest-to-goodness father. Meg travels across the country to find her father?and uncover the truth about her life. But instead, what she finds is the source of her own inner strength.

C. Leigh Purtil's surprising and suspenseful first novel captures the exquisite joy and deep sorrow of a teenager who will stop at nothing to discover who she really is.

## **Love, Meg Details**

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Author : C. Leigh Purtil

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# From Reader Review Love, Meg for online ebook

## Mary says

I enjoyed this book. It was about a young girl's journey into finding out who she is and where she came from.

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## Grace says

Great book. I was alittle skeptical because of the YA genre but I am so glad I gave it a chance

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## Sarah says

Very very typical young adult novel. Though some of the details were interesting, the whole thing played out pretty much as expected. Parts were a bit too soap-opera-y for me, but I suppose most teenage girls are into melodrama. The premise that a 16-year-old girl would actually believe that Jennifer Aniston, famous actress, would write letters to her and consider her a friend was a bit disturbing to me. Granted, she had a bit of a tough life, but she's described as a rather smart girl. Clearly her intelligence does not apply to this delusion. Also not a fan of the convenient knocking-off of Meg's grandmother. Felt like a cop-out.

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## Sarah says

This was a really great book for younger readers. I enjoyed the relationships that Meg experienced in this book; some heart warming and others heart wrenching. The ending was also so bittersweet and enjoyable. However, I absolutely HATED all of the "Jennifer Aniston" talk. It drove me nuts, but I understand the importance of Jen in Meg's life.

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## Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jeremey for TeensReadToo.com

Teenager Meg Shanley and her thrity-year-old sister, Lucie, are moving from town to town, looking for a better life. Their parents are gone and Lucie has taken over the role as mother to Meg, although she has not done a very good job of it. Lucie tends to think more along the lines of what's best for herself instead of what's best for Meg. Meg must travel with Lucie because she has no other family to go to.

When Lucie abandons her motherly role, Meg finds a new "mother," Jennifer Aniston. Meg writes all of her worries and woes in a letter - and Jennifer Aniston actually replies! The replies are motherly, filled with caring and solutions to her problems. Jen is more of a mother to Meg than Lucie is of a sister.

One day, a strange man arrives at Meg and Lucie's Los Angeles house bringing a horrifying truth: Lucie is not exactly who she has been pretending to be. The man, Lonnie, explains that Meg has a grandmother and even a father back in New York. No one knows anything about Meg's father, though, except that he doesn't even know that Meg exists.

With Lucie's words of "If you go, don't come back" imprinted on her mind, Meg hops on a plane to New York to find a family she never knew existed - and what she finds is much more than she expected...

If I could give LOVE, MEG a higher rating I would! This book totally captivated me and made me look forward to continuing my reading. LOVE, MEG is a book I will lend and recommend to other readers proudly. I cannot explain how amazing I thought this book was.

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### **Stephanie says**

[I have two major faults against this book which adds up to the two missing stars. Let's start with number one- the TV aspect. Now, when I "TV aspect" I mean that some of the things that happen in the book are so crazy]

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### **Ann says**

I loved this book I read it in less than 5 hours.

It is about a girl that thought her family was dead and then finds out that they are alive and in another state so she goes down there in search for her dad that doesn't know she even exists and if he will accept her. It is an awesome to read book.

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### **Stacey says**

I Loved this book ^\_^ I'm not quite sure why, But I do!!!

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### **manda says**

**actual rating: 4.5**

15-year-old Meg Shanley and her thirty-year-old "sister", Lucie, move from town to town, looking for a better life on a regular basis. Lucie is Meg's legal guardian, although she is terrible at it. Recently, she's done an even worse job at being her sister. But worry not, Meg writes to Jennifer Aniston to gain advice.

When Meg discovers who Lucie truly is, she moves in with her uncle and grandma that she just newly discovered. So she packs her bag and goes to New York to help her uncle Lonnie take care of her grandmother, while trying to look for her father as well.

Although she the trip doesn't go as happy as planned, Lucy does gain a boyfriend, an amazing uncle, and some real friends. I really loved this book. And in honor of that, here is a Friends gif:

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### **Lola says**

the cover on this book is misleading and the book itself is all over the place. so much was going on that nothing made sense. it was boring and unoriginal. fallowed by an annoying main character and not so supporting side characters. i honestly had no connection with any of the characters and felt nothing for them. i think that it was just jumbled together for the purpose of making a book. thank god it was a gift and that i didn't spend my own money on it. VERY DISAPPOINTING BOOK! i would give it 0 stars but i had to give it something on good reads.

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### **Cindy Hudson says**

Meg believes she knows everything about her life. Her parents are dead and her older sister, Lucy, has cared for her ever since she was a baby. They travel from town to town in California, following Lucy's jobs and boyfriends. Meg has learned to be self-sufficient since she was very young, because Lucy is overwhelmed providing for the two of them on her own.

For years she has turned to Jennifer Aniston—the actress from friends—for emotional support, writing her letters detailing the difficulties she faces in school and at home. Jen has always written back with great advice and sometimes even gifts to help Meg through rough situations. When Meg starts another new school to go with a new apartment that follows Lucy's new boyfriend, she thinks her life will continue to follow this pattern for years to come.

Then a man shows up at the apartment Meg shares with Lucy claiming to be her uncle from New York. He talks about a family back east that she knows nothing about, and tries to convince Lucy to go there. Suddenly, everything Meg thinks she knows about her life changes, and when Lucy refuses to reconnect with her family, Meg sets off without her. Moving to New York becomes a journey of self-discovery as well as a way to get to know the family she never had.

What she finds is not what she expects, but she discovers a lot about herself and the true meaning of family along the way.

Love, Meg looks at what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a grandmother, and all the ways that family can support us as well as tear us down. I recommend it for mother-daughter book clubs with girls in 7th grade and up.

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### **Jennifer says**

Let me quote the best part of this book.

The Durant public library was on Sunset Boulevard across the street from a liquor store and kitty-corner to a Fantastic Sam's. It was brand new, with skylights and a machine where people could check out books by themselves. It had, nevertheless, acquired a bum stink from all the homeless people who slept on its steps every night.

As someone who WORKS at this library, I was excited to see a cameo in Love, Meg. But I need to correct a couple of inaccuracies. No liquor store anymore; just multiple weed dispensaries. Also, we never had a automated check-out machine. But the bum stink is all very real.

Sadly, after that, I'm less interested in this book. There are some twists and turns, but nothing interesting happens. And Juny, the love interest, is so boring -- when in actuality, he shouldn't be. A protagonist that moves schools and towns a lot can be done well. I'm reminded of Sarah Dessen's What Happened to Goodbye. But Love, Meg isn't too engaging. The Jennifer Aniston references seem really dated. And the relationships don't actually seem realistic in the slightest. I took 3 weeks to read this book; I put it down and didn't really want to pick it back up.

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## **Holly says**

Meg and her sister Lucie have always moved around a lot; sometimes three times in one year, they will pack up their belongings, move into a new apartment where Lucie starts a new, dead end, crappy job and Meg will start a new school. Meg's life seems as shaken and impermanent as the boxes of belongings that never receive a proper place in their new apartment and the WalMart bought, particle board furniture that isn't likely to survive many more life altering moves.

Because of their sporadic lifestyle, Meg has become accustomed to starting new schools and reinventing herself; she has went by a handful of different names as she grew up and has settled in with being the permanent new girl, finding a new friend to socialize with until her time in that neighborhood was through where she would be forced to repeat the same steps again and again.

Meg was told by Lucie throughout her life that their parents had died, which is why Meg had never known any parental figure besides her older sister. But while Lucie was the only parental figure in Meg's life, she did not play that part in her sister's life and often barely played the part of her sister. Lucie was often consumed by selfishness; with her string of boyfriends, how she felt, what she was going through and while there were elements that Lucie did try to provide an okay life for Meg, Meg had been disappointed by Lucie and their life far too many times.

While her sister was busy living her life and Meg feeling as if she didn't truly belong there, or anywhere, Meg confided in the Friends celebrity, Jennifer Aniston, to get her through the rough times in her life. For years, she and Jennifer had exchanged letters about what Meg was going through at the time, how she was feeling and Jen would respond with worldly advice always leading Meg in the right direction. Even when Jen's letters had stopped, Meg kept writing for years after and always thought of Jen as the supportive friend she had known her to be through her letters.

When Meg finds out that Lucie isn't the only family that she has and that she had been lied to her entire life by Lucie; the only person she has had to count on and trust, Meg decides that upon hearing about a family she never knew she had, she wants to know more. In hopes to experience what a real family feels like and have a life that Lucie had always failed to give her, Meg travels across the country, from Hollywood,

California to Astoria, New York to live with her Uncle Lonnie and Grandmother, Alma.

Meg's life in Astoria is completely different from the life she lead in Hollywood. For the first time in her life, and after a little adjusting, she felt at home, as if she had a place of permanence. She goes on to become friends with a small clique of three other girls and makes a life for herself in New York while helping her Uncle with her Grandmother, who is suffering from cancer due to being a life-long smoker. The life Meg makes for herself in New York, while it does hold its own set of problems and setbacks, is a great experience for Meg and what she finds out about herself and others in New York gives her the opportunity to find out the truth about the life that Lucie had never spoken of to Meg. For the first time in her life, Meg experiences what it is like to have best friends, to have a first date and to have her first boyfriend, Juny; the older brother of her new best friend—Who is such a sweet and amazing guy that made me immediately think that every woman needs to have Juny in her life.

Throughout her time in New York and learning more about herself and her family, Meg starts to understand Lucie more than she thought possible. Meg truly makes the best out of everything she is given in life and just with the way she starts to think by the end of the book makes you realize how grown up Meg really is, taking on responsibilities and putting her life into perspective. She makes life altering decisions and successfully deals with what life throws at her, coming out of her experiences as a well-balanced, intelligent young adult who has taken control of her own life and realizes where she belongs.

Love, Meg was a fast, exciting and exceptional read. Though I did see the twists and turns Meg's life makes throughout the novel coming before they happened, that in no way means that Purtill doesn't know how to put together a truly enjoyable novel. I just happen to be a self-proclaimed bookworm, am a significantly well read person and also have a knack for guessing the end of thriller movies. It is also worthy to keep in mind that Purtill's novels fall under the category of young adult and most definitely excite and thrill the pants off of her target market, while also succeeding in giving adult women a fast paced and gratifying read.

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### **Nora says**

The author of this book came to my school and she was great!  
i love this book, but don't expect thatt much  
happy reading!

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### **Nina says**

I loved this book, it was a very quick read for me, about a teenager growing up with her sister, who was doing the best she knew how to raise her but coming up very short. Meg loved the show Friends and her idol was Jennifer Aniston, and she wrote her letters asking for advice whenever anything came up in her life. Jen was like the best friend she never got to keep for long, as her sister moved them around all the time and her friends didn't forgot her as soon as she moved on. This book is about finding out her sister isn't what she thought she was all of those years and she has a family in NEW YORK, where Friends was filmed ! and going there to meet them and find out who she really is ! It was a very cute book, I had a question or two I didn't get resolved at the end of the book, but mostly it was very well told. I highly recommend this book.

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