



## Girl Stays in the Picture

*Melissa de la Cruz*

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Devon (one name only) is the most famous singer/actress in the country, and she is on location filming her newest blockbuster in the South of France. While there, she forms a bond with the director's daughter—the hottest thing in Hollywood since she has recently lost two hundred pounds—who is learning to enjoy being young, rich, and famous. Devon also befriends Casey, a small-town girl who is an assistant to Devon's biggest rival. Together, the three of them hit the best clubs, the beach, the Cannes film festival, and anyplace else where there is fun to be had.

## Girl Stays in the Picture Details

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Author : Melissa de la Cruz

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# From Reader Review Girl Stays in the Picture for online ebook

## Yu says

yeah you know what don't even judge i went through a melissa de la cruz phase and i had this downloaded in my kindle.... it was a fast read and i didnt hate it \*that\* much

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## Megan (The Book Babe) says

Due to copy and paste, formatting has been lost.

Girl Stays in the Picture was a fun and fluffy read. Now that's not really true-- it was fun and fluffy, but it was also a tad bit serious at times. I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would-- I was worried that this would be a meh read.

I was wrong. It may have been light and fluffy, but on a rainy day this was exactly what I needed to cheer me up. My only real issue with this book is that it's part of a series, and ends on a cliffhanger. Normally, this wouldn't be such a big deal, except this book was released in 2009 and freaking goodreads doesn't show a sequel in the works. o.O

I'm actually having problems writing this review-- I don't really know what to say!

I liked Casey, Livia and Devon. I can't really pick a favorite, but I definitely relate to Casey more, because I'm a small town southern girl too. The difference between me and her is that I can't stand it when people talk down to me. Everyone puts their britches on one leg at a time, and you? Well, you're not better than me, just like I'm no better than you.

As a result, I hate it when anyone talks down to anything. And poor Casey just got the brunt of all of that, and I just...wanted to beat her boss to death. I'm not normally a violent person. But I wanted to. I have to move on, because I feel a rant bubbling up inside.

I loved the inside look at fame. It doesn't seem to be near as glam as everyone makes it out to be, and it was interesting to see what Devon, Casey and Livia all thought about it, and how they handled it. I also loved the sweet romances that were intermingled into the book. They were just too cute.

All in all, I enjoyed Girl Stays in the Picture and I'd love to see a sequel.

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## Annie Chopra says

This was the ultimate fashion and drama novel that I read. It had me hooked inside and out and made me realize that not all books about A List Models should be judged. I was so happy reading this and learnt so much. Can't wait for the next book to come!

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## Julia says

You can count on Melissa de la Cruz to write frothy stories about girls living in upper-class stardom. This one is clearly designed for a follow-up but come on. No plot twists or surprises at all.

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## Lauren says

At first glance, *Girl Stays In The Picture* looked like a classic "rich girl" novel. You know what I'm talking about, right? The type of novel that is like a *Gossip Girl* or *The A-List* copy cat since it mainly focus on fashion, money, and boys. Though, don't get me wrong I love those type of novels, but unfortunately they seem to lack in two things: reality and substance. Luckily, *Girl In The Picture* had those type of drama issues but with substance and girls that you could relate to in one way or another.

The characters were one of my favorite parts of this novel. I loved how they all came from different backgrounds and had different problems they had to face each and every day. For example, Devon is the it girl pop star turned almost movie star turned rehab star turned movie star once again. Throughout this novel you got to see her fight to be recognized as a girl who can do anything and succeed, not a trashy star who went to rehab. Another one of the girls' was Cassey whose plan was to act like "assistant" to her best friend, Summer, while Summer worked on her new movie. I really liked how Melissa added the typical girl next door in Cassey because I loved how Cassey would do anything for anyone no matter what they did to her. Lastly, there was Livia who is the daughter of the world famous producer Sol Romero. Though, unlike her famous family, Livia was never one for the spotlight. Well, until she got surgery to make her skinny and as she thinks more "likable." Because of this, I was constantly rooting for Cassey to realize that she had something special going for her, her love of writing, and wasn't just another former over weight girl who would fade into the background.

The plot was another high point. Since, it constantly had twists and turns that dragged you into *Girl Stays In The Picture* from the start and kept you there. Melissa De La Cruz's writing was also pretty darn good. Plus, I loved how fast it moved even though it had 400+ pages.

The only thing that got me a wee bit angry at this book was the cliffhanger ending because it leaves you on a note that you really didn't expect would happen. Sadly enough, by the looks of Ms. De La Cruz's website, it looks like she hasn't even began work on the next *Girl Novel* because there is no mention of it at all. Though, no matter how long it takes to get the next one out, I know one thing for sure: I'll definitely be racing out to get it.

Grade: A+

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## Your Average Bookworms says

I actually really enjoyed *Girl Stays In the Picture* By Melissa De La Cruz. It's one of those books that I thought I wouldn't have liked as much as I did. There were some flaws with the writing and the plot. Mostly in the end, and some parts started to get a little predictable. It's mainly about celebrities, and their lives, how

they climb up to the top, and how they come crashing down, the good, the bad, and the tragically ugly in the life of stardom, and how the pressure of stardom can make you get out of control. I highly recommend this book if you're looking for a good read. At some parts, I did feel it was getting a little dull, which made me hesitant to pick it up, but I'm glad I did, because it didn't take long for it to get interesting again.

The characters were fairly well written. Most of the characters do meet up with the same problem; complications with love. In the end, everything is resolved with their love life, and for most, it ends in a happy ending. But for Devon, I think she's the only one that doesn't have a happy ending, because, well, her world basically falls apart, when she just finished climbing up to the top of stardom. Also, the ending will leave you guessing: Who? And why?? It's one of those ending's that lets you make it into your own ending, especially since, it's kind of a cliff hanger, and there aren't any specific clues.

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### **Danie P. says**

It's like reading all the gossip blogs but better.

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### **Jessica Lawlor says**

Three gorgeous girls. One sexy location. *Girl Stays In The Picture* by Melissa de la Cruz tells the story of three girls who are in Saint Tropez for the summer.

Devon is a pop star fresh out of rehab. She has been cast in a movie that is filming in Saint Tropez and she is hoping that she can gain her career and respect back. She is ready to make a change in her life and is determined to stay sober.

Casey is a regular old teenager whose best friend Summer is an up and coming singer and actress. Summer was cast in the same movie as Devon and she hires Casey to be her personal assistant for the summer. Casey is so excited to live a glamorous life for once, but she struggled when she realizes that her best friend has changed- for the worse.

Fat girl turned skinny and gorgeous Livia is in Saint Tropez for the summer because her dad is the producer of the film Devon and Summer are working on. Livia has serious body issues and after weight loss surgery, she is still struggling with her image. Livia becomes friends with Casey and Devon.

The story rotated points of view which is my favorite kind of story. It's even what I'm doing in my own novel. I loved getting to hear what was going on in each girls head and each of their individual voices truly stood out. I loved getting to know each girl and her back story. It was interesting how all of their lives intertwined and some unlikely friendships came about because of their location.

The story itself was a little predictable, but who doesn't like a little predictability every once in awhile? This book is a perfect beach read.

One thing that made me VERY angry was the intense cliffhanger ending! The book was pretty long and I was excited for everything to be neatly tied up in the end and we were left with serious questions. A sequel is

in the works, but I don't think de la Cruz has begun to work on it yet.

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### **Cailee says**

Liked the book till the very ending. I hated that it ended the way it did & then there isn't another book to answer the readers questions that come up at the end.

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### **Carly says**

Love it!  
Not your typical girlygirl book.  
Was very enjoyable and the ending is left as a cliffhanger!  
Darnnn just when it was getting so good too.

Spy x Devon <3 (:

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### **Alea says**

For me, Girl Stays in the Picture was squee-worthy to the tune of Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants and Sleepaway Girls. Pretty much good clean fun. I was surprised at how on their own these teenagers were but I think that goes along with the whole Hollywood lifestyle. I loved the glimpse in to film sets and overworked assistants.

One thing that really excited me about this book was that I couldn't pick a favorite character, usually I gravitate towards one or two that I feel like I understand better but in Girl Stays in the Picture I loved them all equally! For me that shows the strength of the characters. They all had their own unique storylines, Devon and her mess of a mother and the chance to clean up her act, but does anyone care? Livia, always in the background until a weight loss surgery brings her out of the shadows, and Casey who's totally out of her element with the Hollywood elite! I just loved them all. You better believe I'm excited beyond belief that this is a series.

This book was an addiction for me, at 432 pages I wouldn't call it short. I somehow was finished it within 24 hours, which is pretty much unheard of for me with a book this size. I just couldn't put it down. I loved being right there in the adventures these three new friends were experiencing.

And oh the ending, how perfect. Can you say cliffhanger! I think I've already searched several times for information on the next book in the series and haven't found anything. I'm ready for it, bring it on!

I think this is the most fun I've had with a book in a few months and I'm excited to have a few of Melissa's other books to read!

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## Kate says

Girl Stays in the Picture portrays the problems that different people in the show blitz encounter. Devon's role in the upcoming movie is getting shorter and shorter, Casey is an assistant to her best friend Summer, but is Summer still treating Casey as a friend or a nobody? Livia undergone surgery and became skinny. Now she has a perfect boyfriend and perfect life but there's more to this story.

After hearing some good reviews of this book and being a fan of Melissa's Angels on Sunset Boulevard , I was expecting a fast-paced, scandalous read. But, no. At 432 pages, it took me two weeks to finish this book. I kept reading and putting it down because it was dull.

The characters lacked depth and similarly like L.A. Candy, are two-dimensional. Moving on, I liked each individual characters. My favorite would be Casey as she seems like the most thoughtful and relatable. What this book lacks the most is a good climax. I feel that the climax is always anticlimatic which is a major turn off.

I don't know if it's just me or does anyone else agree that Melissa de la Cruz always uses the "tell" method instead of the "show" method. The first rule of writing is always "show, don't tell." It means showing the reader through your words what you want them to see; don't just tell them about it. For some articles on "show, don't tell," you can check out these websites: Daily Writing Tips, Writing World, Research Writing Techniques.

Here's an example of telling and not showing:

Livia gave a tight smile. She would kill to have a plate of delicious, flaky, croissants. With butter. And jam. *Slathered* with butter and jam. That used to be one of her favorite things about coming to Europe for family vacations -- eating all the lavishly buttered food.

Do you agree? That this is "telling" and not "showing"? I'd re-write it as:

The craving for the delicious, flaky croissant was enticing. The wonderful aroma surrounding it was making Livia drool.

*NO! I will not touch the croissant. After all the years of eating buttery food and getting ridiculed at, I can't let all my efforts go down the drain.* Livia scolded herself.

Biting her lower lip and Livia stared longly at the buttery croissants, remembering why she always enjoyed coming to Europe for family vacations.

Ok I know I need working on for the ending of the sentence but I thought it was a good attempt. I'm not an author, just a teen blogger. I know I don't have much right to critique Melissa's work but it just bugged me that there was so much "telling". Despite the problems I have with the book, I found that the plot was good and if it had been better executed, I'm sure I would have enjoyed the book more. However, I doubt I will be reading the next book in the series.

Read this book if you're looking for something to occupy you for a few hours. You will *probably* like this

book if you liked L.A. Candy.

This review can also be found at Read This Book! a YA book review blog.  
<http://readthisbook.wordpress.com/>

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### **Carol(ina) says**

There was just something about this book that kept me reading until 3 AM. At around 420-something pages, it took me about three and a half hours to read. I just simply couldn't put it down.

I've read many of Melissa de la Cruz's books and I've noticed that many her books have some of the same things : changing POV, a normal average girl thrown into a new world, and lots of drama.

I liked the rotation of POV between the three main characters: Devon, Livia, and Casey. It allowed me to get a feel for each girl and just let me understand the characters a bit better. I did feel that the author mentioned Livia's body issues too much; and I found myself skipping those parts when they were mentioned (in all of Livia's chapters).

Devon's struggle to remain sober added more authenticity to her character, but I found it odd that she didn't notice that her mom and Randall were just using her. I mean Devon's been in the business for many years and she still can't tell when she's being used? That was a bit odd.

And Casey was the stereotypical "normal" girl who gets to experience the rich and famous lifestyle. I was a bit annoyed that it took Casey a while to find out that her friend, Summer, had changed. But I did like the insight into assistant's jobs and the other set tidbits thrown in. Even though the characters were flawed, I still wanted to know what would happen to them.

Now onto the plot. It was predictable. I knew what was going to happen but I couldn't put it down. But Melissa de la Cruz's writing has improved and she can write some great summer reads! While the book is the cliched "Hollywood" book, it has heart. I am dying to know what happens next since the book ended in a cliffhanger (not a big one, but a cliffhanger nonetheless).

Overall: A great summer read perfect for that sunny, lazy day. And even though it's predictable and the character's are a bit flawed, it's a very good fluff read.

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### **Nasty Lady MJ says**

To see full review including a special trend spotlight analysis click here:  
<http://yalbookbriefs.blogspot.com/201...>

Really on the fence about this one I think 3.75 stars would be appropriate.



Be forewarned if you don't like light reads you'll probably not like this book.

And okay, there is some substance to this book. There are little mysteries here and there, but the book in essence is about a summer in France. On a movie set, no less. But still, it's about living it up in France. Which I love, but others might not like.

In typical de la Cruz style the novel revolves around three protagonists. I can't complain about any of them. Each of them were unique in their own way. Okay, so maybe I did want some more of Devon's backstory. But I thought...well, that's what sequels are for right? Well, yes but this book isn't going to have a sequel...it was but....it's complicated.

As for the plot itself it's pretty simplistic. I often wonder if de la Cruz wrote this book in her sleep. Writing about glamorous people is obviously her forte. But Melissa is better than this book. If you've read her Blue Bloods books, you know that plotting is one of her specialties as well. And while there is a plot to this book, it's a bit of a snooze fest to the very end where things pick up.

Best Feature: St. Tropez: Have I mentioned that I want to go to France? All kidding aside, I would've gone there to study abroad if it had been an option. It's essentially the perfect place to set a book, see Anna and the French Kiss. However, I have to say I am really happy that Melissa decided to set Girl in the Picture in St. Tropez rather than Paris. It sort of gave a different look at the country. And I will have to say with Melissa's writing I felt like I got to experience France when in fact I haven't.

Worst Feature: Cliffhanger Ending: Usually I like cliffhangers, but in this book you're never going to find out what happens to these girls unless you read Melissa's FAQ's. The series got canceled because Melissa decided to focus her energies on other projects. And I guess I can appreciate that. I'd rather have one good book with an unresolved ending than a bunch of sequels that were quite shitty. But still, things were just starting to get juicy.....

Appropriateness: There is some cursing in this book, teenage drinking and drug use are seen and discussed. Additionally there are some sex scenes and sexual related material that happens in this book. It's definitely not for younger teens.

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## **Rena says**

A fun, inside look inside teen celebrity life. I'm kinda bummed there's no plans to finish the series.

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