



Thin White Line

J.A. Templeton

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Kenzie's picture perfect California life is turned upside down when her father leaves the family for another woman. Within months, she goes from private school and posh beachside living to public school and a sub-par apartment in rainy Washington.

On her first day at her new school, Kenzie is reunited with her cousin Brooke, a rebellious senior who sings in a popular rock band with two of the sexiest men Kenzie has ever met.

Kenzie is soon swept into a world of partying, concerts and tattooed bad boy rockers. Just when she starts to feel like she finally belongs, a single night and a fateful decision changes everything.

*New Adult Romance--17+ due to adult situations.

Thin White Line Details

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From Reader Review Thin White Line for online ebook

Tara says

would have earned a 5 had the ending not been so typical. I really felt like it needed to be more gritty and not the HEA, especially with the subject matter. other than that... superb read.

Perks Of Being A Fangirl says

I got this book as a freebie on Kindle and bought it without reading the blurb. It's a freebie- how can you resist!

As I've said in some of reviews, weirdly enough I love reading about drug use- it's probably a weird kind of book fetish. soz. Despite only giving it 2 stars, I had enjoyed it as a short quick read as a freebie.

One thing that I really liked about the novel was the relationship between Kenzie and her cousin. It is something is valuable and precious that I kind of got jealous wanting a relationship like that. Although Brooke can be seen as opening the gateway for drugs, she takes responsibility and takes care of her cousin.

As for Deklan-

and Ryder-

So after comparing other books, I found that this novel's description was somewhat lacking. I would of liked to see more description.

It was a fairly short novel therefore towards the end I felt that the author was trying to squish 100 ideas into the last few chapters. It would have been so much better if she had extended her chapters as everything was feeling a bit rushed towards the finishing line.

Lori says

I loved the idea of this book. Kenzie is a good girl and she does go a bit bad. She's in pain and finding ways to cover it. She gets taken under her cousin Brooke's wing at school and in life and soon finds herself in a whole new world. A world filled with hot guys and parties.

This book starts out like a typical YA/NA book and quickly delves into the dark side of life, then ends on a happy go lucky note. I love all things dark twisted and real, so I was really excited when I downloaded this book (for .99cents from amazon if I recall correctly).

Anyway I got right to it, and read it in one short sitting. I loved, loved, loved the first half of the book. But

the second half of the book happened too fast and got a bit preachy for my tastes, which is fine. Because young people need more anti-drug messages shoved down their throats. I think. Why the sarcasm about the message, well because I'm perma stuck as an immature teenager. This whole book makes me want to start crushing my meds and abuse them, just to drown out the preachy message. Harsh? Yep, you betcha. But I frecking hate being preached to. About anything. Seriously, tell me not to do something and more than likely I will. And I am probably the most anti-drug person ever. So I am NOT advocating that people should do them, but I do not believe in being preachy. It happens to backfire more often than not.

So now that I got that rant out of my system we can focus on the awesomeness that is most of this book. I loved Kenzie and her cousin Brooke's relationship. It was great, and I loved that Brooke taught Kenzie to have more confidence. I love that Kenzie found herself in what felt like a natural way, until the end of the book and the insta-love. She may have gone about becoming her own person in the "wrong" way, but isn't that what being young is all about. Making massive mistakes is one of those things that all young people do. Hey they are young, that stuff happens to those cute little people like insta-love and going down the "wrong" path.

The love triangle was interesting, and added the right amount of sexual drama to the story. I loved Deklan. Yummy boys with tattoos. Plus I don't feel like a pedo crushing on him. He's of age folks!!! Yess!!! I would love to read a follow up book, because any addict can tell you that quitting drugs is not that easy. Definitely not as easy as this book made it seem.

Anyway at this point, it's the cold meds talking (I hate being sick). Just know that I enjoyed this book, A LOT, it has a bit of an edge to it, but falls flat when the story suddenly shifts gears in the middle. If it could have found a way to stay edgy, real and have the perfect solution it would have been a five star book for sure, as it is, it is still a four star book!!!

♥ Sarah says

Good girl Kenzie, lived a pampered, straight-edged life before her parents divorced. Then, suddenly finds herself lost in a whirlwind of wild parties, drugs, slutty girls, and hot rocker boys. But, tragedy strikes and she starts to question her lifestyle, attitude, her choices in friends, and boys in particular.

This book took me by surprise; I expected one thing, but got something totally unexpected. And, by unexpected, I mean the heavy drug use, and party scenes. And, as much as I liked the little love-triangle, I wasn't really into the romance aspect of the story (strangely). Instead, I found myself really appreciating the message behind the story - it wasn't particularly deep, but still effective. At first, I thought the author was glorifying drug use, but it turned out to be quite the opposite.

Definitely a unique, and unexpected read in the indie-YA genre.

Amelia says

Ewww a love triangle. Why is there always a love triangle? Ahem. Anyway... not a bad freebie, though I do have quite a few gripes. Firstly, writing in the present tense. More and more authors seem to be doing this lately, but I find it rather awkward. Second - stop calling that teenage boy a man already. You know him from SCHOOL. He is not a man. So annoying. Third - what teenager says "making love"? I mean seriously, no. Fourth - must YA/NA characters always declare their profound love after ten minutes?

Things started off reasonably well but I admit it did feel sanctimonious further in. Not that I'm saying 'yeah, let's everybody take drugs', no. But to have the cousin (view spoiler) and have this neat little ending felt too obvious. A bit like the author conceived the plot as: character is sad - character takes drugs to stop feeling sad - another character overdoses - character becomes more sad - characters swear off drugs for ever and ever - characters now have perfect lives. I'm sorry but... yay, you stopped using! But it isn't going to magically make your life perfect and to suggest it is does feel more I-wrote-this-for-a-don't-take-drugs-campaign than good-story-that-just-so-happened-to-have-a-positive-message.

Andrea says

Some spoilers...

I really enjoyed reading this book. I liked Kenzie right from the start. Even though she was miserable and out of her element she accepted her cousin unconditionally. I loved the respect and love the girls had for each-other just because they were family which ultimately lead to them being friends as well.

Teenagers face these types of issues all the time, peer pressure, drugs, sex, self worth and respect, making choices on a daily basis. There's a fine line between experimenting, fun and going too far. I think Kenzie's mom said it best when she said, "Hell, we were kids once. It's not like we were angels. We were just lucky."

That's the truth.. Anyone who survives being a teenage is lucky... It's some of the roughest years..

As far as the love triangle I was really torn as to who I wanted her to end up with. Even though Ryder was an immature jerk, I was hoping he might realize sooner and change for her before it was too late. But she made the right choice Deklan was always concerned about her and always jumped to protect her which I loved. And in the end she did help Ryder grow to be a better person.

I enjoyed her journey of finding her way and staying true to herself.. In the end everyone was better off even her mother became happier thus just solidifying that some of the things we see as the worst thing to ever happen to us could turn out being the best, if we let it..

Kelli C ~ Jack Sawyer's Heart says

3 solid, unexpectedly gritty stars!

I will say I was a bit surprised at this read...good girl moves to a new town and really a new entire lifestyle and BAM, welcome to the dark side!

Kenzie is a good girl from an all girls school...her parents unexpected split has left her in a downgraded lifestyle. This girl finds life in the fast lane when her cousin takes her under her wing. Now she is in an atmosphere with local rockers, diving into the realm of drugs because everyone else is taking them and then practically giving up her v-card for the hottie bass player! Ryder is sex on a stick and well, he has bedded half the town honey! Those groupies hanging all over him are a red flag girl, but Kenzie is blinded by her lust! Then there is also the smoking hot drummer Decklan...well he might be in the mix too with the longing looks, shoulder to cry on and definite interest!

This story was more than good girl meets bad boy...it was more of a dabble into how easy life can change if you give up control or if you cannot find someone when you are down. I liked the take home message and I liked that the bad boy didn't get the girl! I loved that the good guy and the good girl were it! My problem was it was a bit fast and unrealistic...too unbelievable! Decklan was older, wise, and just smokin'...I just wasn't sure what the pull toward a senior naive band groupie with home drama had! But that's just me!

Erika Lynn says

Rating: 3 stars

It's been a long time since I've read a YA read. Usually, all of my YA reading is either paranormal romance or fantasy, so this book was without a doubt putting me outside of my comfort zone. I'm glad I was given the opportunity to read it though because there were so many times I thought to myself, 'Wow, this is all so familiar'- going back to my high school days. This generation of teenagers lead totally different lives than the average teenager led 20-30 years ago. Templeton puts many issues into perspective here and writes about several obstacles Kenzie, the main character of the story, Brooke, her cousin, and their friends overcome.

Sex, drugs, rock-n-roll-- speed, weed, and birth control! How many times did I say that as a teen? Too many! I thought I was oh so cool, fitting in with all different crowds of kids- the stoners, the preps, the geeks, the athletes, and even occasionally the 'nobodies'. I was a cute teenage girl who loved her pot and liquor. I got good grades and ALWAYS had a fiction book in hand, worked a full-time job after school and still managed to be involved in at least one sport per season. I found myself relating to Brooke the most because of her 'won't take anyone's shit' attitude, her drug use, her relationship with Curtis, etc.

Kenzie is forced to move from her private school life in San Diego, California to Vancouver, Washington where she attends public school, meets new people, develops a totally different persona, goes wild, experiments, and falls in love- just to name a few. Eager to fit in but also knowing right from wrong, Kenzie encounters many different dilemmas and is forced to make decisions she thought she would never have to make. Until one day, everything turns around. She's questioned by her brother about her behavior, her mother and friends notice a change in her, and she deals with fighting off her own demons. With overwhelming feelings of jealousy, hatred, lust, loathing, euphoria, depression, and so on- this is Kenzie's journey through her new high school, friends, boys, parties, drugs\alcohol, and family issues.

Although I never personally had to experience infidelity or a divorce/separation between my parents as a teen, I saw so many of my friends go through it. Some parents don't realize the impact this has on their children and in Kenzie's case, she is hurt and angry. She finds ways to channel her depression and loneliness that are self destructive, leading her down a path going nowhere. Almost losing a family member wakes her up and makes her realize the terrible things she is doing. All the while, she has an unfaithful boyfriend and fantasizes about a boy that is so close, yet so far away.

I enjoyed this book up until the ending. It was just so cliche. I think I would've rather it conclude with a cliffhanger versus the HEA. With all of the struggles that Kenzie and her friends encounter in this story, it is unrealistic that everything falls back into place and is perfect at the end. Of course everyone loves a happy ending- but there is always some flaws left somewhere. This book is ideal for ages 13+ and it projects an educational lesson to teens who struggle with the same issues Kenzie and Brooke have.

Sandra R says

I'm going to give this book 4.5! Well written from 17 year old Kenzie's POV. Lots of angst and drama in this N/A story. It deals with adult situations and romance and I'm not giving away the plot. It was easy to read, an interesting plot, had excellent character development and I really loved Kenzie. There is drug use included, so an adults only read. This author also writes steamy Historical romance under the name Julia Templeton.

Mel says

I did enjoy reading Thin White Line, although YA fiction is not my usual read.

The story is about young love, first love, heartbreak and everything in between.

Kenzie is torn away from her privileged lifestyle and private school after her parents separate. She finds herself in public school, living in an apartment with her mother, over a thousand miles away from her friends and the only home she's known.

Her cousin Brooke is in a band, with some very cool, very hot, talented, tattooed guys. Kenzie finds herself attracted to Ryder, but then there's Deklan, who's quiet, made her feel welcome, and almost normal again.

Kenzie is having a tough time dealing with her parents separation, she finally has some freedom and uses it to find new friends and find acceptance of her situation.

Kenzie is very young, and in some parts of the story this shows through. She very much wants to fit in and be accepted, so she goes with the flow most of the time. It takes a few 'out of control' moments for her to realise she's better than that, and one tragic event to change the course of her life, and the lives of those around her, forever.

Ryder is your typical good looking teenage boy. He's cocky and self assured, he knows he can have any girl at his beck and call, and he's never been denied what he wants.

Deklan is older, he's finished with High School and he has a job working at Branded, a tattoo parlour. He finds himself attracted to Kenzie, but sees the way she is with Ryder, and steers clear; but it does become harder for him, and his feelings creep through throughout the book.

Overall, Thin White Line by J.A. Templeton is a good, quick, easy read. The characters are good, the story is told well. It doesn't set you alight and it won't change your life, but it's still worth a go on a lazy Sunday afternoon.

Milla Diaz says

Short book that packs a punch. It's a very realistic & honest story about teenage peer pressure & the things you do to fit in with the 'cool' crowd. It shows the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse without being preachy. Liked it.

John Clark says

Kenzie lived in a bubble until her parents' marriage blew up. Her reality included a safe boyfriend, big house in a gated Southern California community with guards. She attended a good school and had few worries. Then the divorce hit, letting things get ugly and life became very different. She found herself a thousand miles north, living in a small apartment while starting at a public school.

Her only salvation was her cousin Brooke. But Brooke has changed a lot since they last saw each other. She's edgy now, smokes, drinks and has multiple ear piercings as well as singing in a local band. At first, Kenzie's a bit put off by the changes, but she quickly re-bonds with her cousin and after meeting Ryder and Declan, two very hot members of the band, her need to belong, coupled with her feelings of loss, propel her down a path unimaginable just months before. Where it takes her and what happens to the new people in her life is a very good cautionary tale for at-risk teens. It doesn't preach, instead letting the consequences of Kenzie's choices, coupled with ones made by Brooke, her boyfriend and Ryder, give readers a chance to think about the results of risky behavior. Strong language and a sex scene at the end may put off some teens and/or librarians, but the overall story, coupled with its message, should outweigh such concerns.

April Brookshire says

Okay, going into this, I had no idea that the title Thin White Line was referring to cocaine.

So, I'm reading the beginning of this book and I'm thinking: "So far this is such teenage high school YA cliché."

Then the characters start whipping out the drugs!

I got really into this book after that and I am so freaking happy that Kenzie ended up with the guy I wanted her to. (Especially after the recent disappointment that is Dead Ever After)

And, I'm wondering, is this the first book in a series? Because I'd really like to read more about these characters.

Seems that the author is good for more than just erotica. This was great new adultish YA. Though, I'm hoping she continues in both genres.

Breeana says

"Don't ever let anyone determine who you should be. You're the only one who can do that."

Danielle (~Dani~) says

3.5 stars

Not too bad. This was a freebie & it amazingly enough held my interest. I really enjoyed it. Love when that happens :)
