



# **Like Moonlight at Low Tide: Sometimes the Current Is the Only Thing That Saves You**

*Nicole Quigley*

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**Like Moonlight at Low Tide: Sometimes the Current Is the Only Thing That Saves You** Nicole Quigley  
For Missy Keiser, returning to Anna Maria Island, Florida, means two things: her mother made another poor decision with men, and Missy will have to reenter a world where she's known as "Messy," a social pariah who dared to have a crush on Sam King, the most popular boy in school.

But much has changed in the three years she's been away. Missy's next-door neighbor is no longer an elderly woman but Josh, an intriguing boy who seems genuinely interested in her. At school, she's surprised to find few people remember who she once was. And any remaining taunts of Messy are silenced when Sam King gives her his nod of approval.

Just as things seem to be perfect, Josh's sudden distance, her mother's latest relationship implosion, and her brother's strange behavior threaten to ruin it all. Missy is forced to decide between the boy she's always wanted, a boy who is intent on trying to save her, and the brother she's known all her life. And her decision could have consequences she can never undo.

## Like Moonlight at Low Tide: Sometimes the Current Is the Only Thing That Saves You Details

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# From Reader Review Like *Moonlight at Low Tide*: Sometimes the Current Is the Only Thing That Saves You for online ebook

## C.E. Hart says

This book sucked me in—fast. I opened it up in the morning and finished it by afternoon. As cliché as it sounds, I couldn't put it down. *Like Moonlight at Low Tide* isn't just a story—it's an experience.

I love the ease of the first person narration, and the vivid imagery Nicole Quigley created. This story deals with a myriad of emotions, and has a wide cast of well-developed and memorable characters.

Even though I wasn't bullied during my school years, I can still sympathize with the main character, Missy Keiser. Almost anyone can relate to those coming-of-age school years, and the feelings of being awkward and self-conscious, but Missy dealt with much more than that. A hard life. An absent father. A not-so-attentive, promiscuous mother. Poverty. Though her little sister was too young to realize their plight, Missy and her brother dealt with more than their share of brands-on-their-foreheads (so to speak.) Being teased and bullied, they found their own ways of dealing with such an unfair life.

Missy is my favorite character, but a close second is her next-door neighbor, Josh Durham. His quiet demeanor and subtle nuances add so much to this story. To me—he's the most memorable of them all.

To be totally honest, there are a few places in the book that sound a little preachy. Being a Christian, I don't mind that at all, but for someone who is not, this might be a slight turn-off. Those scenes, however, are brief and do not take away from the story. On the contrary, they are powerful and even life changing.

In short—I LOVED this story, and hate to part with these characters. If Nicole Quigley decides to write a sequel, I'll most certainly purchase it.

Cover: Love it

Title: Love it

Publisher: Blink

Pages: 256

Pace: Steady

First Lines: People never ask me the right question when they ask me what happened the beginning of my senior year. They always ask what his last words were.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a Review Copy free from the BookSneeze blogger program. I was not required to write a positive review. The options I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255

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## Alexandra Ray says

Wow, I don't know how to start this review, maybe because I'm still reeling after having just finished it seconds ago.

I suppose the title is as good a place as any to start. *Like Moonlight at Low Tide*. Personally, I love this title,

it's what drew me in initially. Perhaps that's because of my unabashed love for the sea. I'd probably read any book if the title mentioned the sea, heh.

But it was the first couple of pages that really hooked me. I love it when a story is told with the end first. One of my favorite examples is Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Opening with the end, I think, makes the reader ask "how will this happen?" rather than "what will happen?" which brings to life what a reading experience is supposed to be about! If we only care about what happens in the end, then we risk missing out on the journey. I know I've fallen prey to that - skimming madly through a book because I'm made to feel too anxious about what happens in the end. That's not what a book is about, especially not this one. This book is a journey, and we are meant to experience every step. It was brilliant of Nicole Quigley to write those first two pages the way she did. After that, I was hooked onto every word she wrote.

I'm not sure if I would classify this as a coming of age story, though Missy's age would put it into that category by default. First and foremost, I think this is a coming of hope and faith story, an awareness story. To anyone who hasn't been in Missy's position, she would seem like a very weak protagonist. She is insecure, broken in so many ways, not sure of anything, and constantly assuming that everything is her fault. Personally, I got her, because I've been in the same position. That only made me want to root for her even more because she's a real character. No, she's not the strong female lead that everyone seems obsessed with these days (not to say that some of those characters aren't just as real), but Missy is a character who reaches through the pages to those of us who aren't as gifted in the kick-ass department, who aren't able to find that courage that people so admire. She is a character that brings hope through her story, in some ways far more so than those characters who find that courage more easily and have a bow-and-arrow or sword or ninja skills to protect them.

Bullying is a prevalent issue in our society. The mass media has made sure to make everyone aware of how detrimental it is. What they fail to cover in the news stories and billboard slogans is what lies at the root of the issue and, more importantly, how to overcome it. This book covers it all - brilliantly, I will add. It would be easy to tell a story about how bullying caused a young person to take his own life, but this story goes beyond that. To redemption and discovery of a truth that is so important in every single human life.

Enough philosophizing on that. I'll talk about characters now. I've already discussed Missy, so I'll move onto the three important guys in her life - Josh, the neighbor boy who seems to understand her best; Robby, her brother; and Sam, the boy she has crushed on since middle school, at first to humiliating ends. Each of them served a monumental purpose in Missy's life. Each of them was fleshed out very well by the author and had a distinct voice that guided Missy on her journey. However, my only critique for the entire book is that I wish more had been shown about who Robby was. I've already said that he was fleshed out, so that isn't the problem. And I get that since the story is from Missy's 1st person POV that we couldn't see everything about Robby given he and Missy did not hang out much. But I wish his character hadn't been told to me - I would have liked to be shown more. For instance Missy told us in her thoughts that he was a trouble maker and had already been threatened with expulsion a couple of time... but I only saw one instance of him actually being the wild, rebellious child that we're told he is, and that scene felt kind of strange as a result.

Other than that, this was an incredibly well written book. The language - oh the descriptions Nicole Quigley brought to life! - was beautiful and meshed very well with the beauty of the title. My inner sea-lover was not disappointed one bit.

I love how organic Missy's relationships with Josh, Robby, and Sam were. They grew at their own individual paces. They didn't feel rushed or too slow because they were the driving forces of the novel, which is how it should be. I loved going up and down with Missy, feeling the emotions with her. The confusion and heart

break and self-doubt were all so beautifully portrayed in her.

I'm so glad I read this, and I would recommend this book to everyone who isn't offended by the presence of God... though those people may need this more. Personally, as a person of faith, this story reaffirmed what I believe, and I'm thankful for that.

Thank you to Zondervan Publishing for providing me with this book through NetGalley.

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## **Estelle says**

Review originally posted on Rather Be Reading Blog:

It's no surprise Melissa isn't totally thrilled with her move back to Florida.

After 3 years away, she has no faith that the bullies who made her life miserable have grown up in the slightest or that she is confident enough to ignore their comments.

Despite having the support of her old best friend and her boyfriend, Melissa's life starts to change when Sam King — the literal king of high school — starts to show interest in her and the murmurings from the peanut gallery start to die down. All of a sudden she's sitting at the cool kids table, has exclusive invites to the best parties, and best of all, is kissing Sam, the boy she has always had a crush on.

But I wouldn't call her happy. Sure, she's coasting through high school now but she can't ignore her mom's revolving bedroom partners or the fact that she never knows what kind of mood her brother Robby will be in. She hates her clothes, doesn't love how she looks, worries about her family's reputation in town, and still feels happiest and most at home when she is swimming.

Or hanging out with Josh, the mysterious surfer boy from next door. Cue the love triangle! Josh is thoughtful and sweet, and seems to always be watching out for Melissa but she's never sure if he actually likes her more than a friend. He doesn't belong to any one exclusive group in school; he's the kind of guy who is just friends with everybody. I loved how Quigley made Josh an active member in his church youth group as well. His religion never dominated who he was, and only supplemented his character. (This made me think about the role of religion in books and how I prefer to learn about a character's beliefs without feeling like I'm being preached to.)

A really serious event halfway through the book made me question the paths Quigley chose for her characters. I would rather trade such significant and painful developments for more attention being paid to small details, character voice, and the story's structure. Because even the aftermath felt a bit incomplete. While the novel reeled me in and I cared for Melissa, I couldn't help but think how much stronger her story could have been and how much better I could have gotten to know her. Much of the time she felt like a shadow of herself, relying on situations to steer her in certain directions and not her own gut.

Would she ever confront her past? When would she learn to trust herself?

Once I reached the ending, I was still questioning if she had learned much at all.

While the overabundance of storylines gets weighty, Quigley does manage to raise many important questions

through *Like Moonlight at Low Tide*... about bullying, selfish parents, our personal beliefs, and the quest to find our own peace.

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## **Jen says**

Compelling, Gut-wrenching, and Romantic Debut.

This is a beautifully written story with a powerful message about love, forgiveness and discovering your true worth. Missy has not had the easiest life, whether it be because of her mother's reckless lifestyle or the bullying she's endured at the hands of her classmates and my heart broke for her. She may have left Middle School as an awkward preteen but when she returns to start the second half of her Junior year, she's anything but awkward and everyone is taking notice, including Sam, the school's "It" boy she's crushed on for years. Missy is so caught up in the past and the way she was treated before that she can't see how beautiful she is now so all the attention she receives is nerve racking for her.

Sam and the popular crowd are all Missy has ever wanted and she's convinced that if she can just fit in, it will mean she's finally worth being loved. Missy soon discovers that getting everything we think we want can still leave us feeling empty and unsatisfied. (Been there. Done that.) Josh, her next door neighbor is cute, kind and popular in his own way but seems to prefer hanging out with his youth group friends over the regular teen party scene. Josh also has a front row seat to the mess that is Missy's home life but instead of judging or gossiping about it, he's just there for her. He shares his faith with Missy, trying to get her to see that she's worth more than what some boys want from her and that God's grace is enough to cover anything we could ever do. Josh also has a way of showing up at just the right time which only adds to his swoonability. Missy isn't sure what to make of Josh's God but can't deny that she like the way she feels about herself when she spends time with Josh. Sam is nice too and he also makes her feel all the feels but she isn't convinced Sam understands her the way Josh does. Missy soon finds herself caught between her feelings for both boys but the drama of her home life always seems to take center stage.

Her Mom continues to make poor choices but she crosses a line when she decides to get involved with someone who has influence in Missy's brother, Robby's life. Missy's status at school seems to hit and all time high and just when she thinks her life couldn't get any better, tragedy strikes, bringing with it a storm that leaves her devastated and guilt-ridden for the boy she couldn't save. Things go from bad to worse when the one person she wants most pulls away with no explanation leaving her alone and hurt. In a gut-wrenching conclusion that left me glued to my seat, Missy finally has to decide what she believes about herself, her life and whether or not God really does exist.

I really enjoyed this! These are strong characters, the topics relevant to today's teens and the message wasn't pushy or preachy. I'm also familiar with the area in the book which always makes a book more interesting. I look forward to seeing what Nicole Quigley comes up with next.

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## **Gayle Pace says**

### **REVIEW**

Humans have the habit of overlooking what they feel is uncomfortable or what they don't want to deal with.

We sometimes go through life with blinders on. We look straight forward and anything in our way of comfort we choose to ignore.

At a young age, Missy was bullied for the mere name she was given. She was known as "Messy" Missy. Bullies don't realize that they are hurting someone, sometimes, beyond repair. It can do such damage to a person's self confidence and their own perception of who they are. Sometimes it can hurt a person so bad that they contemplate suicide and some even follow through, especially our young and teen agers. That is a time when their confidence needs to be puffed up, not deflated. Sometimes, even after the bully has ceased, for whatever reason, the bullying continues. Why? Because we don't forget those terrible words, those hurtful words, so we continue to think that the bully was right. It isn't the bully who is doing it this time, it's the person that was bullied. Sometimes we can hurt ourselves worse than anyone else ever thought of. The issue of suicide can be an end in some cases and the author shows that through a teen age girl, Melissa, nicknamed Missy, who has a mother who gets around and a father who doesn't work. Add that to bullying from kids at school or kids down the block or even adults and what do you have? In the eyes of someone who is hurting, you have the possibility of suicide. They just can't take it any longer. They just want someone to care, someone to talk to who won't put them down. The author brings out some ways that can be taken to talk to someone, to let the hurt out and someone who cares in. So we need not judge so harshly. We have no idea what another person has or is going through. Judgement can be extremely harsh and hurtful. The author tackled this subject with great tact and understanding. The ending may be a surprise showing that if someone has faith, has a way to let the hurt out positively and a little maturity, it can be worked through. Bullying doesn't have to take over anyone's life, but sadly it does sometimes. Help in anyway you can to STOP THE BULLYING!

I was given a complimentary copy of LIKE MOONLIGHT AT LOW TIDE from the author, Nicole Quigley and Zondervan Publishing for my view of the book. No other compensation took place.

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### **Amanda says**

Oh, wow...this book ripped out my heart and stomped on it. It's been a while since I've read a book that made me feel this way. This book covers a lot of difficult issues but they are handled very well. The issue of suicide is dealt with in a realistic way...the author quietly gives hints to the warning signs leading up to it and the aftermath is heartbreaking.

I really liked Melissa's character...I related to her feelings of not wanting to stand out or be the center of attention, I also was taken back to my Junior High days when reading about the torment she went through by her peers in middle school. The only thing I disliked was that she called her mother by her first name, which seemed a bit strange and disrespectful.

The faith content was good. I liked the fact that one of the characters was unashamed about going to church and reading his Bible.

The relationships between the characters were enjoyable to read about and kept me guessing at times.

Overall, this was a very good YA contemporary story with a lot of depth. I would recommend it for ages 16 and over because of some of the content (underage drinking, partying, sexual innuendos, etc.).

My Rating: 4.5 stars

I received this book from Celebrate Lit Publishing to review honestly. All opinions are my own.

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### **Melanie says**

Like Moonlight At Low Tide was a wonderful book. The beginning of the story was good and grabbed my attention (read a sample and you'll see what I mean), but it wasn't until I was well into the book that I started to love the story and really care about the characters.

I had no idea what was going to happen to the characters or how the book was going to end-- and when I reached those last couple chapters I got really nervous that something I dreaded was going to happen. But, the book ended the way it should and I loved it.

Overall, a very good read. I'm not usually a fan of coming-of-age novels, but I loved Like Moonlight At Low Tide. I recommend it to older teens and adults who like realistic YA fiction.

\*I did not get this book for review. As always, all thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Ashlie says**

I fell in love with this story in the first few pages. This story that will keep you turning pages with it's suspense and vulnerability, and a cast of characters with a diverse range of emotional depth. It's a fantastic read, if you have any hormonal reaction at all to anything, this book will get you. It deals with the loss of a loved one, the give and take of high school popularity, the bullies that plague and haunt us through our memories and how we let them rule our futures.

Missy is the girl that people pity, she doesn't come from much, and not much is expected of her, considering who her mother is and what her mother's choices are, and the reader gets to see the mental, spiritual and emotional development she goes through first hand. I think Missy is the perfect female MC for contemporary fiction because she is a typical teenager. I think she is very relatable. Who hasn't been bullied somewhere during their school years? Those who are like Tanya...

Tanya is the high school bully that everyone has in their past, and dreads ever facing again. On more than one page I wanted to reach into the story and punch her in the face, for her sometimes subtle, sometimes deliberate berating of Missy. The world is hard enough on girls and women, we don't need to beat each other up as well. Tanya needs to learn some hard lessons in humility, compassion and kindness.

Missy's brother, Robby is the troublemaker that always seems to be left to his own devices and no one really gives much thought to. Some would like to fly under the radar this way, but really, Robby wasn't that person. He needs his family and just that one person to believe enough in him to turn it around. Sometimes just believing in yourself isn't enough.

Sam is the high school jock that everyone wants to date, and he actually seems nice enough. There were hints



here and there of him being less than a gentleman, but really, he was painted as an average, teenage boy, which is probably why he will never be good enough for Missy. Missy is used to average, and below average, in life. She's had enough mediocrity, she deserves something great, like a gentleman who respects her and more importantly, understands forgiveness, faith and respects her. Enter Josh.

I loved his character. Josh was very accommodating to Missy and very "turn the other cheek" to the jerks in his high school. He never holds against others the wrongs they commit when they don't understand what they're doing. The opposite is also true: if you know you're doing something that's wrong, he will expect you to face the consequences. The best thing about Josh is that he sneaks up on you. He keeps saving the day but he's so humble it almost goes unnoticed. Nicole Quigley has a very unassuming way of showing us Josh's worth and it works, marvelously. It's obvious that he likes Melissa, but it's hard to see how it will come together. When all these plot twists keep coming, some as subtle as the sand shifts on the shore and some crashing into the reader as hard as waves, some may believe it's not meant to be for Missy and Josh. Some see Missy and Sam continuing their romance, but really, what will the outcome be? You'll just have to read it and find out!

The poignant story breeches difficult issues that Missy has grown up, physically, but she is about to be very surprised by the reaction of her peers to her return to the island. She will have to decide if she's happy with this reaction, or if her heart yearns for a different kind of approval and friendship from someone else. Is what she's wanted for years going to be enough when the seas get rough? What is really going to give her lasting happiness? In this amazing book, Missy will answer these questions, learn what it means to have faith, and what type of relationship it takes with God to maintain that faith.

This is one of my favorite contemporary reads of the year, please pick it up and give it a try. I don't think it's possible to be disappointed in this book. READ IT, READ IT, READ IT!

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### **Michelle (Pink Polka Dot Books) says**

Missy is returning to Anna Maria Island mid-junior year. This is not a place she wants to be. When she left in junior high she was known as Messy, a girl all the guys barked at. She crushed on the cutest boy in her grade, Sam King, but when a popular girl found out about it, she made sure Missy paid dearly. Now she shudders at the thought of being called Messy and being outcasted again.

Miraculously though things have changed. And Sam King actually likes her now. But the good things happening at school don't change the fact that her home-life is sort of a wreck. She doesn't remember her bio dad and her mom serial dates (mostly loser) guys. Her new next-door-neighbor Josh tries to look out for Missy and offer her some form of escape, but eventually that blows up. When her mom starts dating her brother's boss at the docks, she thinks maybe this time it'll work out.... it doesn't and her brother pays the price. This book is about bullying, high school, drugs, death, and religion. A lot of issues packed in... and a lot of emotions.

I have to say WOW this book really got to me. I was definitely crying on multiple occasions for different reasons... and I loved it. I love when a book makes me feel something that deeply.

The first half of the book is all about bullying and how lonely and ugly it makes Missy feel. I just loved the way all that was written. It made me feel it like I was in H.S. too. I could totally relate to feeling like if I could just fix something about myself everything would be fine.

The last part of the book was so hard to read. Just really sad and emotional stuff. I totally would've given this a 5 star rating except for 1 thing: I didn't like Josh. He was so standoffish and weird, I just didn't get him. It was obvious he cared about Missy from day one, but he was all about pushing her away without explanation. And I really didn't dig the religious stuff. I felt like Josh was pushing his ideals on Missy and trying to change her to fit with what he wanted her to be. Not cool!

Semi-Spoiler-  
(view spoiler)

My blog:  
<http://pinkpolkadotbookblog.blogspot.com>

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## **Susan says**

Like Moonlight at Low Tide

Nicole Quigley

LIKE MOONLIGHT AT LOW TIDE is a heart breaking novel about self esteem, bullying, and teenage suicide. Once I started reading it, I had a very hard time putting it down. Nicole Quigley hooked me from the first chapter and never let me go. Missy Keiser is a junior in high school and she has just moved back to Anna Maria Island, Florida. When she was in middle school she was miserable there and couldn't wait to escape the island. Her school mates made fun of her for being poor and for the clothes she was wearing. Her mother moves the family away to Pennsylvania to follow her current boyfriend. Now Missy does not want to go back to school and face those mean kids once again but she has no choice. She wonders if her old middle school crush Sam King, will notice her this time around.

Missy needs to learn that she is worthy of love and friendship all the while dealing with her arch enemy, Tanya! Tanya makes Missy's life a living hell, now in high school just like she did in middle school. LIKE MOONLIGHT AT LOW TIDE kept me guessing right up until the very last page. I was cheering for Missy throughout the story, praying she would find acceptance and her own identity as well as life. Let me tell you, be prepared to be on one crazy emotional ride as your heart breaks for Missy. Why does being a teenager have to be so hard?

LIKE MOONLIGHT AT LOW TIDE is filled with life lessons as well as teenage life struggles and triumphs. I will admit that I cried and was taken on an emotional whirlwind that left me breathless at times. Schools should make this story a required read for middle schoolers! If you are looking for a good emotional story that will leave you wanting more, this is the book for you. I can not wait to see what Nicole Quigley writes next!

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## **Claire Matturro says**

This is a lovely and inspiring book, well written and richly layered, that deserves to be read by a large audience. Compelling and captivating, the story will pull readers right in.

While the target market might be teens, it moved me despite the fact I'm closer to my 50th high school reunion than I am to my junior prom. Evocative and spiritual, the book carries an important message about finding one's self worth and finding God that transcends age and youth.

The descriptive passages of Anna Maria Island on Florida's Gulf coast (where the story is set) made me want to race off to the island and go swimming in the tides. I live near Anna Maria, and the author did the place justice in her beautiful descriptions.

Protagonist Missy, or Messy as she was teased when younger, goes from being the ugly duckling, bullied outcast in middle school to being a beautiful young woman on the arms of the football hero during her junior year. This transition doesn't bring her the joy she thought it would. For one thing, troubles with her mother and her family lead to tragedy, and Missy must learn to cope with grief and her own low self-esteem. The love and concern of a good neighbor keep Missy from totally succumbing to her grief—but it's only when Missy opens her heart to God that she finds peace. Along the route of her emotional journey, Missy learns some valuable lessons about maturity and compassion. But this isn't just a modern morality tale, it's a riveting grand story about growing up and finding love.

A grand book, which any age or faith should enjoy.

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## Amy says

Review and opinions by my 17 year old daughter:

Like *Moonlight at Low Tide* was certainly a very emotional story. It starts off with a vague description of what happened at the beginning of Melissa's senior year, and then mentions the suicide of someone dear to her. BAM! Right off the bat. Except she never names the person who does it. She simply names the three potential fellows who could have: Her brother Robby, her long-time crush Sam, and her new friend Josh.

One who loves her. One who couldn't. And one who didn't know how.

I read this book chomping on my fingernails, unsure who would commit suicide before the end and terrified to get too attached and have my heart broken as well as Melissa's. I determined to stay as far away from these guy characters as possible, unfortunately Melissa did not have any premonition of what was to come and so spent a lot of time in the presence of each guy and I ended up coming to care deeply for them (well except for Sam, I didn't really like him) even though I had determined not to.

This made the reading all the more nerve wrecking. I'm surprised that I have hair and nails leftover from this book, but I did like the ending. Though I think I would have liked just a little bit more closure.

This book deals with the very tough subject matters of suicide and bullying and abandonment, but it does so very well.

I received a copy of this book for free. I was not required to post a positive review and all views and opinions

are my own.

Reviewed by Nicki

<https://pausefortales.blogspot.com/20...>

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## **Lori Twichell says**

The opening lines make sure that you know that this is about a suicide and the aftermath – from the perspective of someone left behind. I wasn't too sure that I wanted to get that deeply into a book like this. I have a teenage daughter who was ruthlessly bullied in elementary school. It became so out of control that we ended up homeschooling her instead of sending her to middle school. (And thankfully that was one of the best decisions we've made as a family.) But because we know what it's like, it was agonizing to look at the situation through a teenager's eyes and as a parent, I wasn't sure if I was ready for that. Throw in suicide and that's usually a book I avoid like the plague. I empathize too much and that sort of situation would be too difficult for me to handle.

Thank God I overruled those feelings and chose to review this book. After reading it, I fully believe that this could be one of the best YA novels I've ever read. Forget the "Christian" label – this book is exceptional no matter whether you're Christian or not. I think every parent should read this book. Bar none. And I think that every teenager should read it as well.

The writing was powerful and strong. It left no room for doubt or even wiggle room that could take you out of the story. The voices were real. Painfully so. The situations were agonizingly honest and deep. Rich with detail, Quigley leaves no stone unturned in peeling back the layers of this girl's story and sharing every painful moment. It sounds heavy and dark but surprisingly, it's not. Missy has an incredible spirit that shines through even the hardest situations. You find yourself rooting for her. Praying that she comes through on the other side. There were moments I wanted to gather her to myself and give her a hug from some adult who really cares. There were deep emotions that ricocheted through the plotlines in the same way they roll through a teenager's life and leave them unsettled. There were moments you couldn't help but laugh and paragraphs that made you want to cry.

So many Christian books these days whitewash what the teenage experience is like. They set up an ideal that is wonderful but often unobtainable. They aren't realistic. It would be fabulous to have a teenager who was never confronted with sinful nature or that slipped up and made mistakes. It would be great to understand God's plan without question and be able to turn away the peer pressure without a thought. But I have not yet met a teenager – or an adult for that matter – who could live that sort of life.

Missy makes mistakes. She screws up and she knows it. So do the people around her. But she isn't a totally lost cause. And she doesn't know that. It's up to her neighbor, his grandmother, and a few other people in her life to show her that.

This story is utterly gorgeous. It firmly slammed itself directly into my top ten for 2012 when I read it. I cannot recommend it highly enough or strongly enough. Nicole Quigley is an author that is firmly in my sights now and I cannot wait to see where the rest of her career goes from here.

Review copy provided by the publicist. Thank you Candace!

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## **Alanna (The Flashlight Reader) says**

Oh my. Two words: tragic and encouraging.

I had no idea what this was going to be about. None. I seriously thought it might be a mermaid tale based on the cover and title. (I was wrong!) Turns out, this is a contemporary fiction book—which is not my usual genre of choice. But, since it was set in my home state of Florida I thought I would give it a try. So glad I did.

The characters are great. Missy and Josh are so layered that I was instantly sucked in to their stories. All of the characters are flawed, and that's what makes them believable. Missy comes from a dysfunctional family (understatement) and she's trying to not be dragged down by them. I could go on and on about Missy and how she represents so many lonely girls out there... the ones that are desperate to belong somewhere. But I won't. That would give away too much of her story. I can say that she thinks Sam King is her answer. Oh, how sad and wrong she is. Through tragic circumstances she learns that Sam is just Sam—a teenage guy—and not her savior.

Then there is Josh. He's quiet, observant, and protective of Missy—but why? You don't really get an insight into Josh's head, but I enjoyed his presence throughout the book. You always had the sense he was lurking in the shadows—like a superhero of some sort waiting to swoop in and save the day.

The plot is not straightforward at all. For the majority of the story it seems like it's about Missy finding who she is, but then it takes a turn. You go from typical teenage story to a story of redeeming grace. That was not typical. It wasn't overly done or being shoved down your throat. It was subtle, and I felt it added a poignant message that so many people need to hear.

Because there is that “turn” towards the end, this book won't be for everyone. What I found a pleasant surprise might turn the next reader off. It's hard to say. What I can say though is that *Like Moonlight at Low Tide* is a fresh insight into the loneliness that plagues so many people in our society.

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## **Lori says**

I really did like the story. I had no idea what adventure or journey i was going to go on but I soon found out!! I really dont care for some of the teen books bc some are very depressing but i was really surprised by thos one!!! I enjoyed it because from page one, Missy draws you into her story.

Another reason I enjoyed this book was because it was told in 1st person and since it was told this way it makes me feel like I'm inside the person's head taking their journey with them!!!

And, may I say that cover of this book is very hauntingly beautiful and it was what drew me to read it.

This book is full of surprises that's for sure!! I won't tell because it will give it away!! I can't wait for y'all to read it!!

I can relate to Missy in many ways.

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