



Priscilla the Great

Sybil Nelson

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Meet Priscilla Sumner, an ordinary seventh grader with extraordinary gifts. As if middle school isn't hard enough, not only does Priscilla have to fight pimples and bullies, but genetically enhanced assassins trying to kill her and her family. Armed with wit, strength, and a genius best friend, Priscilla must defeat the Sellwood Institute, an organization dead set on turning children into killing machines.

Add an older brother annoyingly obsessed with Christina Aguilera, mischievous baby twin brothers who could scare the sin off of Satan, and parents more puzzling than a Rubik's cube in the Bermuda triangle and expect a smoking page-turner!

Priscilla the Great Details

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Author : Sybil Nelson

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From Reader Review Priscilla the Great for online ebook

Amy Eye says

Fire flinging fingertips, making armored, killer guards rock out to some pop music, and an invisible jet. Man, the lifestyles of the not-so-rich and super-powered.

Priscilla is just like any other 7th grade girl. She's got a mop of red hair, a overprotective father, a football playing brother, and a set of twin brothers. She and her best friend, Tai, have been plotting ways to get Priss' crush to finally crush back on her. Then, one day, Priss isn't so normal anymore. Right before school at the coolest pool party, her extremely hot crush makes her feel REALLY hot, hotter than she has ever felt before, her face is red and her body is definitely feeling 'off'. Pass it off as hormones, stress, or nerves, but when you can set fire to a bathroom towel by touching it, something has changed.

Priscilla learns at this point that she may never be normal again, and this fire thing? Is she going to scorch something every time she sees her favorite guy? This cannot be happening, and who is she going to tell? Who will believe her? The answer to that: more people than she realized, and it's an awful lot for her to understand. Oh yea - she is kidnapped and about to be killed now, did I forget to mention that? And her so-called super powers decide to take a vacation, not too super after all, huh?

I flew through this book! I loved the whole journey. It was fun, it was funny, it was exciting. I can't wait to keep going with this series. The way the author ended it was a cliffhanger I am too weak to resist.

We get to see a real family in this story. With all of the ups and downs of sibling relationships and parent/child drama. It all feels very real, even with the super powers thrown in. You can tell the family has a real dynamic to it. Who hasn't loved and hated their siblings all at the same time. The same is true in this family. One of my favorite parts is when a booger war is invoked to help the older brother out, even if he didn't realize it at the time. (Every family needs to experience a good booger war!)

Young adults and some of us not-so-young adults will rush to end of the book, when my Kindle said that I had hit the 100% mark...I was not a happy girl. I couldn't believe I finished it that quickly. I WILL be joining the gang for round two of Priscilla the Great!

J.L. Campbell says

Priscilla, a feisty twelve-year-old, finds out she has the ability to shoot fire out of her fingers. She also discovers that she inherited her powers from her mother, who's on her own quest to stop an evil scientist from carrying out his plans to use genetically enhanced children to do his dirty-work. Priscilla must eventually rescue her friends, family and the mutant children from the evil Dr. Sellwood

I liked the humor and funny scenes sprinkled throughout the story. Any book that can make me laugh will get a favourable review. Priss' brand of humor was age appropriate and uniquely hers. The book was a quick, action-packed read, and though it is meant for middle grade kids, I thoroughly enjoyed the adventure.

I asked my son what he liked about the book. In typical boy fashion, he said, 'people got kidnapped, things got blown up and guards were thrown aside like toothpicks. Oh and I also liked the devil twins and that

angelic Tai.' (I kid you not, these are his words).

I wasn't sure he'd actually read the book, but was convinced when he challenged me to quiz him on it. Amazing, the depth of details kids remember when it suits them. I had to stop him from telling me EVERYTHING that happened in the book by reminding him that I'd just read it.

I asked him if there was anything he didn't like about the book and he grinned and said 'nope'. For an adult, Priss' capers would be beyond incredible, so I buried my jaded adult persona and read like my ten-year-old. I was soon swept along by Priss jetting here and there doing her super-girl thing. There was some violence, but it wasn't graphic.

If you want to encourage your children to read, this is a fun series to start them with. The characters are hugely entertaining and each is easily identifiable by their own brand of quirkiness. I'm chuckling just thinking about the chapter with the twins snot wars. I'm now into book two, thanks to the cliff-hanger at the end of book one.

See full review at <http://readerssuite.blogspot.com/2011...>

Natalie says

In a Sentence: A quick middle grade read with a fun main character.

My Thoughts

As I kind of hinted at in my "In a Sentence," section above, *Priscilla the Great* was a book that, once I actually sat down and devoted time to reading it, I flew through rather quickly. Priscilla "Priss" was a cute, quick-thinking young girl who is hard not to like. She's got a bit of that stereotypical "tween" feel, but not to the point of causing annoyance.

My favorite part of the book was Priscilla's interactions with her family. I thought they were very realistic and well-written scenes. Priss's older brother, Josh, has an obsession with Christina Aguilera, which totally cracked me up because my little seventeen year-old brother, who's a total jock, has a closet fetish for girly pop music as well. (Shh....don't tell)! I also loved her little twin brothers. They were able to do pretty much every mischievous thing imaginable, and they annoyed the crap out of Priss, but I found it to be endearing (at least, from an outside perspective. I'm sure they'd drive ME crazy too)! Also, Priss's best friend, Tai, was a total sweetheart, and I liked her immediately!

There is really only one issue that I had with this book, and that's with putting into a category (i.e. Middle Grade versus Young Adult). With the exception of one thing, I would put this book solidly in the MG category. However, there was a very brief reference to sex that made me think it would be more appropriate as a YA book. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't anywhere near graphic or anything, but I thought it wasn't necessary to advance the plot or characterization, and it was enough to make me really have a problem with putting an age stamp on the book. Up until that point, I was planning on passing the book on to my eleven year-old cousin after I was done with it, but now, I'm not sure. It's not like I expect this age group not to know about sex, but the way the scene was embedded into the book, and given Priss's personality and her

age, I felt like the next to first thing a mother would say to her seventh grade daughter after finding out that she was crushing on a boy would NOT be to tell her not have sex with him. I understand that Priscilla's powers could make her dangerous if she was in a "romantic situation," but I thought that, for a seventh grader who JUST started realizing her feelings for a boy, the warning "no kissing, honey" would suffice.

Other than that, I thought Priscilla the Great was a decently enjoyable read. It was a bit like what you would expect if X-Men went to middle school. From the way the book ended (warning: cliffhanger!), I'm expecting there to be a sequel, though I haven't heard of anything yet!

Reading Vacation says

Priscilla the Great is a perfect example of what I love about middle grade books. From the characters, to the plot, to the tween-feel, Priscilla the Great has got it all.

Priscilla (aka Priss), has superpowers. She has super strength, super hearing, and fire power. Yes, she can make fire! What I really like is Priss' personality. She is sarcastic and FIREy and just basically awesome!

Priss has an unusual family and I love all of their hilarious scenes. Her dad is WAY too protective, her mom is gone a lot, her older brother is a jock who adores Christina Aguilera, and her little twin brothers are totally outta' control. Those little guys drive Priss CRAZY! Priss also has the world's sweetest bestest friend named Tai.

The plot is fast-moving and full of mystery. I read the whole book in one day because I couldn't stop! There is an evil organization with a grudge against Priss' family. She sets out to make things right. As the plot moves along, Priss comes to understand her family and herself much better. Sybil Nelson has a wonderful way of creating suspense and fitting all the pieces of the puzzle together. So well done.

One of the best parts of Priscilla the Great is the tween-ness. I should know, I'm eleven! I can easily relate to Priscilla and the middle school drama is spot on realistic. I give Priscilla the Great a GREAT big HOT 5 stars!

RATING

5 Loved

COVER COMMENTS

Hey Priss, I think your finger is on fire! I like that fire is used on the cover. I don't care for the blackboard, although I suppose it is there to represent middle school. It's just so stark.

Ambur says

Sybil contacted me about her blog tour a while ago, and I jumped at the chance. Priscilla the Great sounded hilarious. I knew it would totally make me nostalgic for junior high and all that 'lovely' drama (yes, that was

sarcasm, although sadly some of it was actually nostalgic :P). Here's the blurb:

"Meet Priscilla Sumner, an ordinary seventh grader with extraordinary gifts. As if middle school isn't hard enough, not only does Priscilla have to fight pimples and bullies, but genetically enhanced assassins trying to kill her and her family. Armed with wit, strength, and a genius best friend, Priscilla must defeat the Sellwood Institute, an organization dead set on turning children into killing machines.

Add an older brother annoyingly obsessed with Christina Aguilera, mischievous baby twin brothers who could scare the sin off of Satan, and parents more puzzling than a Rubik's cube in the Bermuda triangle and expect a smoking page-turner!"

See how I couldn't resist it?!

I thought, 'If the blurb is this funny, the book will be hilarious!' and boy was I right!

Priscilla was an awesome narrator and a pretty fierce superhero too! I loved her jokes, and her whole inner monologue, which was also packed with jokes. I was laughing throughout this book, and when I wasn't laughing I was thinking about being twelve, almost thirteen, and how awesome it would have been to have superpowers...which was another thing that I totally predicted would happen while I read this book, and I was so right. I mean it would've been scary too, not knowing why it was happening or how to control it, but it would've been beyond cool! Yup, she's even got me talking like I'm in grade 7 again. :P

The characters in this book were described simply and we got to know each of them through their interactions with Priscilla. I absolutely loved her friends, Tai and Kyle, and her Christina Aguilera-loving brother was pretty awesome too. I don't want to spoil anything, so I'll just talk about her parents a little bit. Her dad was described as a body-building secret service agent at one point...and he was trying to get jiggy with it. Oh how I miss using words like jiggy, I think my friends would look at me weird if I said jiggy, but I'd still do it anyways. Her mom's name is Quindolyn, which I think is such a cool name...totally long and a little crazy, but I still love it.

This book is middle grade, so it's not too complicated and it's easy to follow. It's also not too long, but it packs a huge punch. The paperback copy that I have has 271 pages, and in those pages it was probably one of the most exciting books I've read in a while. I forgot how dramatic being a pre-teen/early teen is, and how exciting everything feels. Reading this book helped me remember all that, and I was as caught up in it as Priscilla was herself. I would've loved to have read this when I was younger because I loved the story now, as a girl a few months shy of 20, but I would have loved it even more if I were Priscilla's age. That being said, I think this book is versatile for many ages. Sybil did an amazing job at making this book applicable to more than just those in the middle grade age group, she uses vocab and Priscilla's thoughts to help put you in Priscilla's shoes. I'm gonna be honest too, I really miss reading books where the writing is a nice font, it's easy to read, doesn't hurt my eyes, and it looks pretty. So many adult or YA books have tiny writing on big pages, so it was a relief to read a book that had really clear font, and that looked amazing too. I loved the texts that were used...I'm a sucker for aesthetics inside and outside of a book. :P

Priscilla the Great was an adorable and funny story. I'd recommend it to anyone, from the target middle grade age group, to fledgling adults like myself, to parents, or anyone looking for a fun story, which will make them remember their own childhood...and be slightly envious that they didn't have superpowers, or an ice cream machine in their school. :)

Birgit says

Admittedly I don't read YA, or books for an even younger audience, all that often. In this case though, I'm more than glad that I did and I thoroughly enjoyed the novel even as an adult.

This first part of Sybil Nelson's series about the teenage girl Priscilla grabbed me right from the beginning. Starting with a twelve year old girl who suddenly shoots fire out of her fingers this story could have gone many ways, but this one is certainly unusual. Definitely not your average girl-becomes-witch kind of book, which you might expect upon starting to read, but a fun X-Men kind of story with lots of twists and turns. Not only is it a highly entertaining and well-written read, it is also so much fun to dip into the teenage state of mind with Priscilla. I absolutely loved her snarky personality - she's just really cool (unless of course she fires up her fingers) and extremely likable.

And do I really need to mention that with the cliff hanger at the end I was glad I had the second book in the series to continue right away?

In short: A super fun book for young readers!

Gabrielle Carolina says

This is not the book for me and I wouldn't really recommend it, either. The personality of the novel and the inconsistencies began to give me a headache and I finally gave up.

Long Review TK.

SJH (A Dream of Books) says

Priscilla the great is an understatement! Priscilla the amazing; Priscilla the awesome; Priscilla the fantastic is more accurate!

The book is about a young girl who discovers that she has some extraordinary talents. She can create fire with her fingertips and she also has superhuman strength and hearing. In addition to that, she has a sinister organisation on her case who are intent on hunting her down and experimenting on her and if that wasn't bad enough, she also has boy troubles (and hasn't even had her first kiss yet). She's dealing with all the usual problems facing most young girls: an unrequited crush, a love-hate relationship with the boy-next-door and issues with her best friend, but she also has to face several life and death situations.

This was a really fun and enjoyable read. A breath of fresh air! Priscilla is a great character and I absolutely loved her fantastical story. Her and her family reminded me a little bit of The Incredibles. They're certainly not your average all-American family. I liked the way they were each individualised and their personalities developed - overprotective Dad, troublesome twins, secretive (and often absent mother) and Christina Aguilera music loving brother. I thought the way their secrets all started to unravel throughout the book kept the suspense and intrigue high.

It was interesting finding out about how Priscilla ended up with superpowers and during the second-half of the story the pace really picked up and got very exciting. I ended up taking this to bed with me to finish because I just couldn't wait until the morning to find out the conclusion of the story. It ended on such a cliffhanger though!! I didn't realise that this was going to be a series but there are a further four books

planned so I'm thrilled that I'll get to read more of Priscilla's story.

Kim Justice says

Let me say first here that Author Sybil Nelson is one amazing author. The way this book flowed and topics that were dealt with were so engaging that you feel for the characters as if you were there in their life's. You want to reach over an hug Priscilla and let her know:

To read more of my review: [Breath of Life](#)

Melissa (i swim for oceans) says

Priscilla is pretty much your average tweenage girl. She has crushes, she has a best friend, she experiences bullying and all the stress the middle school entails. Priscilla, however, has something else going for (or against) her, depending how you look at it. Priscilla has incredible superpowers that leave her vulnerable in ways that her classmates could never imagine, but also give her amazing power and potential, making her a veritable fire hazard in school. Can Priscilla master her powers with the help of her best friend in time, or will she fall prey to a heinous plan to turn children into monsters?

It should be made known that I don't read too much Middle Grade literature because it tends to be a bit too flat or unemotional for me. However, when the author, Sybil Nelson, approached me to try *Priscilla the Great*, I was intrigued by the premise containing superpowers. You all know I'm obsessed with superpowers. So, I decided to give it a go. *Priscilla the Great* is a fun, engaging tale of a young teenage girl grappling with the realities of life while throwing fire-starting, mind-reading and more into the mix. Written in a simple but descriptive prose, the book flows well, and kept me rooting for Priscilla throughout.

The book starts with a bang, showing us Priscilla in a precarious situation, then backtracks to show what led Priscilla to her current situation. I loved the beginning of the story. When books launch full-speed into the action, I'm immediately caught from page one. However, I was a bit disappointed by the amount of backstory that was crammed right into the first part of the story after the initial plot-opener. To be honest, the book came to a screeching halt for me. Luckily, *Priscilla the Great* picked up speed again and built up to a fun and exciting page-turner, in part because of the great characters. Both Priscilla and her best friend, Tai, a genius, were laugh-out-loud funny and perfectly balanced with the plot.

Despite the rocky first bit of *Priscilla the Great*, I was quite impressed by the story as a whole (despite my cover love totally not being satisfied by the cover). It's a bit like a cross between *Percy Jackson* and superhero comic – definitely entertaining. I give it a 4 out 5 overall, and I'd recommend it to fans of upper MG and lower YA reads, especially those who enjoy a good science fiction story.

Kelly says

I received *Priscilla the Great* at the perfect time. When I got, I was feeling a little burnt out on reading. I had

been reading a lot of "serious" stuff: Stephen King, a book about forensic science, poetry, things like The Replacement. I needed--and wanted--something fun. And that's where Priscilla comes in.

I was sucked in from page one. Priscilla's voice is so authentic, not just in her dialog, but also in the narration. As a writer, voice is something I struggle with, and I am amazed at how strong Priscilla's voice is. She sounded just the way I imagine a seventh grader would sound, and just the way I probably sounded as a seventh grader. The way she expresses herself through dialog is perfect. One scene that stood out to me in terms of dialog was when Priscilla's mom is talking to her about her powers, and she wants Priscilla to watch an education video about hormone progression. The way Priscilla reacts to her mom wanting her to watch this sex-ed type of video was fantastic. She claims there's no way she's going to watch the movie, she insists that she needs privacy, and she says it's unfair that she has to watch the video when her older brother doesn't. That's exactly how I imagine a seventh-grader reacting to this situation.

The way Priscilla describes things in the narration is also perfect (perfect might be my favorite adjective when it comes to this novel). The way she describes things is just the way I would expect a twelve year old to describe things. And it was those descriptions that kept me laughing. There are so many things I could list that had me cracking up while I read, but I'll only put my favorite down: "The next morning I woke up with a headache the size of Josh's ego" (p. 25). I thought this was a great line, not just because it was funny, but also because it's a great metaphor that is in no way a cliche. Plus, I think it gives us a little bit of insight about what Priscilla thinks of Josh, her older brother.

And speaking of Josh, as much as I like Priscilla, Josh was my favorite character in the novel. I love it that he's a Christina Aguilera-singing football player. I love it that he and Priscilla don't always get along, but at the end of the day, they love each other and are pretty protective of each other. I kind of see Josh as the perfect older brother, and I really hope we get to see more of him in the rest of the series.

The story itself is fun. There's action, friendship, a tiny bit of romance--all the things I love. It's perfectly paced, and there was never a dull moment (totally cliche, I know, but totally true). Priscilla the Great is engaging and funny with characters that I loved and really cared about.

Molly Ringle says

It's like Joss Whedon's Buffy, for a younger set! (And without vampires, thankfully. Those are so done to death.) That's what I found myself thinking as I read Nelson's fun, sassy, super-powered book. Hot-headed, kinda-dorky Priscilla discovers some serious girl power as she approaches the often horrible age of thirteen, and learns some awesome things about her family along the way. Her narrative is fun, clever, and sassy, without being annoying or dumbed-down. Priss and her friends and siblings are smart and irascible, with one-liners that kept making me giggle. It has the feel of a superhero comic book or family-level action movie, and I would love to see it turned into one. Modern middle-school girls would eat this story up, I'm betting, but even as a woman in her mid-30s (and of course a Whedon fan) I really enjoyed it.

The ending leaves me ready to leap into the sequel, since it throws us a huge twist and leaves some questions unanswered. Still, it wasn't an unfair "What? You can't end there!" kind of ending, so I forgive it. Great work!

Courtney Vail says

Priscilla the Great is a hilarious page-turner full of action, spunk and, of course, way cool powers. If you're looking for a book that actually makes you laugh out loud, you must read this!

A pretty typical middle school girl with a smarty best friend, a comic book addiction and a crush on the school hottie suddenly finds herself setting things on fire, hearing conversations from afar and being able to lift cars. Her mom is so gone and off doing whatever in supposedly Dubai, her little devil twin brothers are trying to take the car out for a spin, her older brother knows way more Christina Aguilera songs than she does and her over-protective WWE wannabe dad will break her bedroom door down in concern if she doesn't answer it quickly enough, so how can these crazy things be happening to her when she's the sane one in the family? She's the one always trying to keep everyone from falling into disaster.

Well, it's up to Priss to now save not only her family but the world as well from deadly kid assassins and a psycho teacher, who's not just some weirdo. It's a good thing she has powers to get the job done.

The book opens with her being kidnapped, so from page one you know it will be a scorching read full of intrigue, mystery, danger and hilarity. If you're a cool junior higher, don't be put off by the cartoony cover. PTG will not let you down or be a waste of time or your scant cash. And if you're older than the target market, know that it's a funny and fresh read and its scope goes far beyond the typical MG. It is bursting with appeal for readers of all ages.

Danna says

Priscilla the Great was a really cute read and I had a lot of fun reading it, but there were things that could've been better.

Priscilla was a great character, but she sounded too old for her age. Actually, most all of the characters acted a little too old for their age. I felt I would've connected more to them if they had been, say, sixteen or seventeen. I liked how Priscilla was fiery---haha! She did things her own way and had a mind of her own. I also liked how her family was close. It bugs me when a characters mom or dad or both is dead, so this was nice.

The super powers in the book were interesting. I liked how the characters had to train to use them the right way. I would love having Xi's power to not feel anything and regenerate body parts. That would be useful for the daredevil tricks I have planned out.

Overall, this book was a fun middle grade story. I do wish the characters would've been older or they would've acted younger though. Priscilla the Great is hot reading!--- see what I did again:)

Andrez says

I have to admit I wasn't sure of what to expect with Priscilla. It sounded awesome, but would it *be* awesome? I wasn't very sure.

Boy, I was wrong.

I found myself liking Priss from the first chapter - literally. She is, in one word, awesome. (I know, I need to broaden my horizons vocabulary-wise, but this works really well here). If she were real, I'd want her to be my friend. She is a fun, feisty, determined, and really cool girl, and the way she dealt with everything was very realistic (with that I mean she was neither too mature nor too immature) and I really liked the mix of action and Middle School drama. I thought that was so. Damn. Cool.

About the boys, I can't say much, but it's pretty obvious from the beginning someone has a thing for her, and I absolutely adore when boys don't know what to say when they like a girl. It's so endearing.

Now, to the genius bff. I can't say this is very original, but it really works with the storyline, and Tai definitely won me over.

This book is full of action and I was always either laughing like crazy, or *awing* like crazy (is that even a verb?) or giggling like crazy. I was never bored, never pissed off at anyone. This is a highly entertaining read, and though it's obviously aimed at Middle Grade audiences, I think older people would enjoy it too.

Now, when is the next one coming?
