The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han

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Every year, Belly Conklin awaits to go to her summer house on Cousins Beach. Here, her mother Laurel, her mom’s best friend Susanna, and Susanna’s sons (Conrad and Jeremiah) keep all their summer memories, making those two months their very own. But everything changes one summer when both Conrad and Jeremiah start seeing how Belly isn’t a little kid anymore. This creates a dilemma in Belly’s life: Which brother will she choose?

This book is realistic fiction with aspects of family, adventure, and romance. This book is the first of the trilogy; It’s Not Summer Without You and We’ll Always Have Summer follow in this series. After watching the Amazon Prime season based on this book series, I became curious about the original novels. In my opinion, The Summer I Turned Pretty book series had many aspects that were more interesting than the screen adaptation. I enjoyed these books so much that I read all of them over one weekend!

One of the many things that I liked about this book was the characters. Belly is an awkward teenager experiencing things for the first time, something that can be universally relatable. All the side characters were also very charming. Extroverted Jeremiah and reserved Conrad gave variety to the people in Belly’s life. Laurel and Susanna also have an unbreakable bond, making a wholesome subplot to the trilogy. Being an avid teen fiction reader, this book is very similar to many books that I’ve read before. Some of these include Eleanor and Park, Tell Me Three Things, and Han’s other series To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before. Anyone interested in reading a teen summer romance would enjoy this.

I believe that the cover represents the book very well. On the cover, it shows the important things about Belly and Cousins Beach: seashells and flowers. These images are brought up many times in the book, tying everything together.

Not only do I recommend this book, but I also encourage those interested to read Han’s other books. If I had to rate this book, I would give it a 9/10.

Submitted by:

Jenna N.