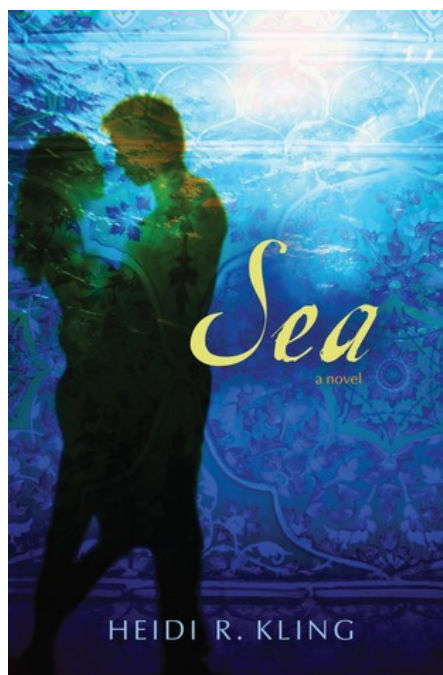




Sea

Heidi R. Kling

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Sea

Heidi R. Kling

Sea Heidi R. Kling

Still haunted by nightmares of her mother's death, fifteen-year-old Sienna Jones reluctantly travels to Indonesia with her father's relief team to help tsunami orphans with their post traumatic stress disorder-something Sienna knows a lot about. Since her mother's plane went missing over the Indian Ocean three years before, Sienna doesn't do anything if it involves the ocean or planes, so this trip is a big step forward.

But the last thing she expects is to fall for Deni, a brooding Indonesian boy who lives at the orphanage, and just so happens to be HOT. When Deni hears a rumor that his father may be alive, Sienna doesn't think twice about running away with him to the epicenter of the disaster. Unfortunately, what they find there could break both their hearts.

Sea Details

Date : Published June 10th 2010 by Putnam Juvenile

ISBN : 9780399251634

Author : Heidi R. Kling

Format : Hardcover 323 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Sea for online ebook

Danielle says

Sienna stopped living the day her mother died. She stopped loving everything and became distant from the life she once knew. On her birthday her dad gives her the opportunity to turn her life around and get back on track with her dreams. Her dream was to follow in her parents footsteps, but this is what lead to her mothers unfortunate departure. Sienna has to find the courage to find herself again and she could find so much more.

Where I found you takes us into a world many people can't even imagine. Sienna is given the opportunity to join her fathers team . They are spending the summer helping out with orphans who have lost everything in a tsunami.

Deni is the mystery boy she meets. He awakens Sienna in a way she had forgotten existed, but Deni is from a different walk of life. He has his own problems.

Where I found you is so much more than a romance novel. This book has so much culture and interesting facts as well as the storyline. I definitely learnt a thing or 2. There are some interesting characters that made me want to know more about them. It has a heartfelt storyline with an element of truth. It's about finding yourself and moving forward with life.

4 stars out of 5.

ARC received in exchange for an honest review

Book 2: Where the sea takes me is out 2nd April 2018.

Whitney Atkinson says

Very different from anything I've read! I only knocked a star off because it was a little bit angsty.

Heidi says

What I Learned From This Book

1. A book takes a long time to write.
2. Most of writing is revising.
3. I'm grateful and happy I have a book coming out.
4. I hope people like it.

My rating system: A star for each year I worked on SEA: 2005-2010. =)

Nic says

"I wanted to tell him that you can meet someone and they can change your life forever, even if you have only known him for a short while, that when you leave, you're a different person than before you meet him....."

This is the story of Sienna who's mother disappeared in a plane crash overseas when doing relief work 3 years ago. Sienna is still greiving the loss of her mother and is haunted by nightmares. For her 15th birthday her Dad gives her a plane ticket to go to Indonesia to do relief work with him at an orphanage. Sienna reluctantly goes despite her fears. When Sienna arrives she meets and is instantly drawn to Deni a 17 year old orphaned survivor of the tsunami.

Sea is a beautiful and breathtaking coming of age story that deals with loss and falling in love. This writing and plot captured my attention quickly and I read this book within 24 hours. Sometimes when you read a book that deals with loss you cry more than you smile but not with Sea. This book had the perfect balance . I also loved that most of the story was set in Indonesia. Even though it was sad to read about the devastating effects of the tsunami, I enjoyed learning about their culture.

This is a wonderful story that touched my heart. I can't wait to see what Heidi R. Kling writes next.

Miranda (MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It) says

3.5 / 5 Fangs

I did not know what to expect going into this book, but I was pleasantly surprised! This story was full of romance, self-discovery, loss, angst, and hope. The author tied in so many different elements to this story, which kept the plot refreshing and interesting. The angst in this book was a little much at times, but it definitely kept the story moving!

I loved how this book mainly took place in Indonesia. I have never been to Indonesia before or read a book set there, so it was so interesting to read about. I don't know a lot about their culture, but it seemed like the author researched their customs and tried to represent it as accurately as possible.

I really enjoyed the cast of characters in this book. Sienna, the main character, was a really inspiring girl. I felt her pain and anguish over the traumatizing events of her past. It was so wonderful to watch her overcome her fears and become a stronger person. Her growth throughout this story was one of the best parts of this book. There were also a lot of well developed side characters that added depth to the plot. The only characters I wish I could have seen more of were Spider and Bev. Bev was Sienna's best friends from the states, so we didn't get to see a lot of her throughout the book. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we will see more of her in book two! The relationship between Spider and Sienna left a lot of unanswered questions, so I am also hoping to see that addressed more in the sequel.

The romance in this book was full of passion and intimate moments. Deni said some corny lines, but I still swooned just like Sienna did. However, I was always a little wary of Deni though because I felt like he had some secrets he was hiding. There were a lot of obstacles that Deni and Sienna had to face, and I am intrigued to see how those obstacles will carry over into in the sequel. I truly did feel the connection between Deni and Sienna, even if their romance was a little rushed towards the end. I ship them SO HARD. I NEED

ANSWERS ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP AND I WANT THEM TO GET THEIR HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

Overall, I thought **Where I Found You** was an entertaining and memorable read. I am extremely excited to see what adventures the characters go on in the sequel!

3.5 / 5 Fangs

**This ebook was given to me in exchange for an honest review. **

MrsLeif's Two Fangs About It
Facebook
Twitter

Sandy says

Sea is unlike anything else I've read this past year. The story is rich and unique--I can't fathom the amount of research that must have gone into this beautiful tale. The characters were compelling and believable--you could feel their emotions, feel their heartache, pain, and love. Seeing the intersecting journeys of healing (for several characters--Sea, Deni, her father) took hold of my heart, and I could not put this down until I knew how it ended.

And the ending? While it may not be what you expected, it was so satisfying. This is not a sad tale--it's a story of healing and redemption, of opening up your heart and finding yourself again after immense tragedy. It's a beautiful message of hope wrapped up in a beautiful cover.

Liz says

Between the fanatical reviews posted by several bloggers and Sea's gorgeous cover, I had to have this book for myself. Even though I knew a large part of the plot was about tsunami relief, part of my brain expected this book to have lots of idyllic romantic scenes where the characters work through their emotional baggage while sitting on a beach. I have no idea where my brain got this idea, but Sea turned out to be much different, yet absolutely beautiful nonetheless.

Sea is a story that had me "Awwing" on one page, angry the next and even feeling a little queasy a few pages later. I didn't particularly like Sienna or her traveling companions at first, but I began to like Sienna more throughout her time in Indonesia, and my feelings about her completely changed by the end of the book. She felt a lot of anger towards Vera and occasionally her father, which I loved, because if I'd been in her shoes, I'd have felt the same way. As for the love interests of this story, while I found Deni sweet and romantic, by the end I found myself very appreciative of Spider's role in the story.

Kling is not shy about depicting cultural differences or the devastation caused by the tsunami. I wasn't honestly sure how I would feel about Sea until I reached the end, however. I kept wondering how everything would tie together, would the reader feeling as though he or she had been deprived of a proper ending. To be honest, it was one small paragraph that made me fall in love with this book. One beautifully expressed,

heartbreaking yet apt paragraph. That was when I realized that this is not just a book for victims of tsunami, or someone who has lost his or her parents. This is a book for anyone who has ever had to overcome loss, or anyone who has felt trapped within the confines of a broken heart, stuck in a state of static, yet unable to move forward.

I will not forget Sea or Sienna's emotional journey any time soon. The last few chapters of this book had me in tears, but also left me thinking about what's important when it comes to living life. Don't let this book pass you by.

April says

Imagine, if you will, a book that will melt your heart simultaneously reminding you of a 1940s black and white film, despite it being set in the present. Are you picturing? Picture an exotic location, such as say, Indonesian. Now, add in a large smattering of romance and you have Sea by Heidi R. Kling. [Read the rest of my review here](#)

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

It's hard to believe that Sea is Heidi Kling's debut book. Sea is a richly written story that will capture the readers attention and pull them right into the wonderful world Heidi has created. It's both real and captivating. Woven with a beautiful, sweet summer love story, Sea is one read I highly recommend.

Fifteen year old Sienna Jones is still grieving over the death of her mother, when her father, a psychiatric Doctor surprises her for her birthday with a trip to go with his Team Hope back to Indonesia. Sienna's parents started Team Hope, to help bring relief to the orphans who are still grieving and coping from the traumatic tsunami that devastated Indonesia. In reluctantly going to Indonesia for two weeks, what Sienna doesn't expect to do is fall in love with the little girls she's there to help, discover the truth in her mother's death, and find love in an intense 17 year old Indonesian boy, named Deni.

Set in both Angel Miguel, CA and in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Sea's rich setting is both breathtaking and hauntingly beautiful. Heidi's vivid description of Indonesia made me feel like I was there with Sienna seeing Indonesia for the first time. From the way Sienna describes what she sees when they land, to the orphanage they are there to help out, to seeing the sites with Deni, everything about Indonesia's descriptions were beautiful, and delicately written. What I enjoyed most, is the relationships that Sienna made while there.

The characters and their relationships are real and their emotions so strong and engaging that my heart ached for them. Sienna and her father's relationship is a real father and daughter relationship. Their trip brings them closer together and brings some closure from the death of his wife and Sienna's mother. Like Sienna, I fell in love with the little girls at the orphanage as she formed a lasting bond with them. There to help them cope with their post traumatic stress disorder, Sienna finds they helped her, more than she has helped them. As Sienna was moved by their stories from when the waves hit, I found myself feeling the same ways she was.

The romance is beautiful and pulled at my heart strings as Sienna has to choose between the boy she's grown up with and the one she's grown to love and wants to help in Indonesia. The relationship Sienna has with her best friend back home is Ca, Spider, and the immediate connection she has with Deni, left me breathless. How do you choose when both are equally wonderful? Spider knows everything about Sea, and Deni has lost everything, but finds hope with Sienna. When Sienna decides to help Deni look for his father, who has been

missing since the waves, she learns that love is also about letting go.

Sea truly had it all. Strong emotions, vivid descriptions, characters who I completely fell in love, and relationships that I want to see more of. The story is moving, and brilliant. I am looking forward to reading more about Sienna, Deni and Spider. Brilliantly written, moving and a captivating love story mixed in, this is a must read!

haley says

Actual rating: 2.5 stars

I had trouble putting my finger on it, but I finally figured out why I didn't enjoy Sea. First of all, there were no mermaids. I was expecting some. Yes, that's my own fault for being stupid and not thoroughly reading the synopsis (which doesn't mention mermaids at all), but still. One can't help but expect mermaids, looking at that cover and all. But that was a trivial thing.

No, the main reason I didn't like Sea was that many of the more important characters lacked common sense.

Ok, so the whole premise of the book never was really convincing. What parent brings their daughter with them to a foreign country after the girl's mother died in a plane crash near there? Without asking her before buying the plane tickets? Yes, relief work is very noble and admirable, but seriously? Just what kind of parent flies over the Indian Ocean with their fifteen year old daughter, when the mother died IN THAT SAME OCEAN only three years before?! That made me a tad angry, and so the book began on that note.

Secondly, what moron runs away with a boy she met only DAYS before in a foreign country after her father specifically told her NOT to leave?! Sienna, the protagonist, apparently. Even if she wasn't directly disobeying her father, it's still a stupid plan. There are too many things that could go wrong, and to risk everything for a boy you just met on the slim chance his father might be alive is beyond dumb.

I did not like the ending. Plain and simple. If I'm reading a romance, I want the couple to end up together. I like happy endings. I do not like it when a girl risks everything for the boy, and he chooses another girl anyway. And then she goes home and ends up with a random guy that was absent for most of the book. A random guy whose name is Spider. I hate spiders.

The only thing I did like about this book was that it took place in another country (Indonesia) and the author did a good job of including the culture and customs.

It wasn't completely terrible, so 2.5 stars. It's good if you're merely looking for some light reading. Don't expect anything amazing (and don't expect mermaids. Haha :)

Erica says

Heidi R Kling has written a breath-taking debut with Sea! Readers are plunged head first into a heartbreaking story of loss, hope, and new experiences. Sea is a book that speaks to everyone, but everyone can take something a little different away.

Sea is a touching story that helps a person connect with themselves. It is a book to make you think, and think

deep. You look at the situation these characters are in, and it makes you look at the world around you in an entirely different way.

The characters were wonderfully written. I fell in love with Elli - I wanted to pull her off the page and just give her a hug. She was a little ball of sunshine even after all the horrors she had been through. Sienna was a wonderful main character. She was compassionate, and had drive - she had experienced horrors in her past and wanted to help others work through their horrors. She fit no cliches and was her own person. One of my favorite things about Sea was there were so many characters you may have only heard from once or twice, and they stuck with you throughout the entire book. And with all the characters, it almost seemed like you could hear their voices in your head.

When I first read this description of Sea and heard there was this relationship between Deni and Sienna I was excited. As I read, I found out Sienna would be in Indonesia only 2 weeks, and for a moment I remember thinking, "Oh no! Will that connection be real? I mean, can something that awesome believably build in that short of a time?" I was worried for a minute that that connection they had would fall flat, and not live up to my expectations, but Heidi R Kling left no room for doubts or anything with the strong connection Sea and Deni had. It was so intense and beautiful, you were simply drawn to it. Their relationship was so involved, and blew you away.

As you read, you get this feel of Indonesian culture. You saw the characters' struggles, and that presence of culture just intensified the reality of them. I also loved the setting - it was unique. I had never read a story in this setting, and everything was new. That made Sea a hundred times better, as you didn't just feel like you were along side the main character discovering this new world to them. In Sea you literally were along side Sienna discovering Indonesia and its culture.

When you are reading Sea, you would by no means guess that it is a debut novel. The story leaps off the page and speaks to you. It's a journey of the heart and emotions. Once I started reading, I had troubles putting it down. Sea is a book for all types of people, it is one you don't want to miss.

Erica (daydreamer) says

Sea is a luscious, intriguing tale that was beautiful and dreamy. I was pulled straight under the waves from the beginning. It was expertly written and researched. Kling captured the allure and fascination of the Indonesian culture, and the desperation and tragedy of the tsunami perfectly.

Kling did a superb job at bringing her characters to life. They all seemed so real. Sienna was a wonderful character, (also love the name :) Deni was really great, and the romance between the two was sweet. But honestly, I liked Spider better. Deni was super nice and quite romantic, and I could feel the love that he and Sienna shared, and I knew it was real, but I felt like the love between Sienna and Spider was stronger, like it meant more and could go farther. Although there was a lot more of Deni than Spider in the book, I felt more of a connection with Spider. I don't know why, that's just kind of how I felt.

I went into this story not expecting a happily ever after, because (view spoiler) So I was very satisfied with the ending. It was sad, but also full of love and light as Sienna finally found where she belongs and realized that the trials she went through, and losing a first love was not a waste. Trials like that build us up, and help prepare us for what may happen in the future.

Sea was a fantastic novel. I loved taking the journey with Sienna as she discovered more about herself and what love is, and that love can be found in more than one place, with more than one person, and that perhaps

you sometimes may have to have a lost love, before you find the one person you are truly supposed to be with.

Nicole says

First things first: I received this book through NetGalley.

Where, oh where, do I start. I wasn't prepared for all the emotions that I would go through while reading this story. But I loved it. I truly loved the story and I loved that I got to feel all the feels.

Summary: After her mother's plane went missing over the Indian Ocean, seventeen-year-old Sienna Jones gave up everything she loved about living in California. No more surfing. No more swimming. No more ocean, period. Playing it safe, hiding from the world, is the best call.

Until her dad throws down the challenge of a lifetime: spend the summer with his humanitarian team in Indonesia, working with orphans who lost everything in a massive tsunami.

The day they arrive, Sienna meets a mysterious boy named Deni, whose dark, intense eyes make her heart race. Their stolen nights force her to open up and live in a way she thought she couldn't anymore. When she's with Deni, she remembers the girl she used to be... and starts to feel like the woman he sees in her.

A woman he wants for his own.

Gulp.

But when Deni's past comes looking for him, Sienna's faced with losing another person she loves. She can't do it. Not again.

Fortunately, this time, she has a plan.

**

I mean, the summary of the book pretty much tells you, that this won't be a cute read full of rainbows and unicorns. So I should have known. I didn't.

First of all, I loved the setting. This is the first time I ever read a story that is st around the work of a humanitarian team and the work they do for a country after a natural disaster hit. I loved the writing, it was real and didn't sugar coat anything, whilst also really bringing us (well, at least me) closer to a different culture. I loved that element of the book so much.

I loved the characters. Sienna, the main character. She's one of those characters, that I read a few lines about and that I love right away. Not saying, I was okay with all her decisions and okay with everything she was doing. Her backstory with her mother, the effects all of this still had on her, gave me all the feels right away. I pretty much loved everyone in this book, there wasn't one character that I just felt meh about whenever they showed up. I even really liked Vera, who maybe didn't seem as likeable from Sienna's point of view. But let me tell you, the other character besides Sienna, that I loved the most, was Elli. Little Elli stole my heart in a matter of a few seconds. I loved her relationship with Sienna. I just loved that little girl so much. She deserves the world and all the happiness in it.

Of course there was this whole thing with Deni and Sienna and their relationship. I didn't care much for that and at the same time, I loved it. I love the non romantic part of their relationship, them talking to each other and getting to say things that they can't tell anyone else. Them, helping each other out, getting over things and moving on, even if it's tough as hell. I liked that part. I'm a bitter old lady at this point in my life, I don't get excited anymore about people getting together and being head over heels in love in the span of such a short period of time. I'm not saying it's not possible but you know, I don't feel it. I don't connect with that.

But I loved, LOVED, the story and would totally read it again, which is a feeling that I love. There is also going to be a second book coming out this year and I'm really excited for that.

Kristy says

"The seaweed is always greener in somebody else's lake, you dream about going up there but that is a big mistake. Just look at the world around you, right here on the ocean floor. Under the sea....."

And, here we have yet another book that 100% shocked me...

I thought this was going to be either:

a: a retelling of 'The little mermaid'

b: a cheesy love story envolving the ocean

c: or a combo of both

But, this was not even remotely any of those. This book was not really even about the ocean.

Sienna, a fifteen year old american girl who has recently lost her mother to a plane crash across the world in the indian ocean has been given a suprise ticket for her birthday. A plane ticket to Indonesia. She doesn't want to go at first, but she watches a video of all the orphaned tsunami victims that she could potentially help and she is compelled to go. She has to go. She needs to go. She goes.

She meets Deni, an orphan boy from a nearby island. They instantly bond. They grow together. They heal and help each other. Typically not something I would think I would like to read, but this one was so heartfelt and emotional.... it was just so good.

Sidenote: I think the cover needs to be something different, more serious so it doesn't look like a romance novel. I think the cover is pretty and it's probably what made me pick this book up, but it makes the book look like something it's not...

Rachel says

I'm just having horrible luck lately. All these books I've been reading lately have been sub-par, and "Sea" was no exception. The cover and synopsis sounded promising and I had a friend pining to read it after me. Needless to say, I spared her the torment. I think, I need to stop reading about anyone under the age of sixteen. If you can't drive a car, you should have no opinion about romance. You are a brainless child still and shouldn't be running away with some strange boy in a foreign country, directly disobeying your father. RUDE! Have you gathered I'm not a fan of our protagonist? I couldn't even connect with the loss of her mother. She died on a tiny plane and Sienna won't even look at a massive jet. And the romance. You're fifteen - STOP. Plus, you barely know the boy, and you're leaving in a few weeks! I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I'm not a fan of "sideburns, scraggly goatee, and a limp". Oh yeah, he sounds sexy. I might have even gotten past all of that, but then she has to run away with him. After which, he promises to find her in America, but then he finds his long lost fiancée, and oops, nevermind. Sienna is cool with that though because

Spider (WTF??) is waiting to have a hot makeout session when she gets home. Oh and dad is totally forgiving of her running away. Ugh. This has turned into a rant, so let me get to the point.

1.5-stars. I'm feeling generous. Don't read this book unless you yourself are under sixteen and okay with stupid romance and immature behavior.

~Tina~ says

Sea is a story about a girl named Sienna Jones, once she lived her life large, but her mothers death made her fearful and so she became distant and lost.

Her father, who also feels the weight of lost wants to help others to feel useful again and wants Sienna to join him on Team Hope to Indonesia, to help the tsunami victims for two weeks.

Can a journey of love and hope make Sienna live and feel again?

This is just a beautiful written story filled with rich romance and an eye opener for everything that you hold dear.

This one really surprised me, I knew it was a love story, yes, but I didn't know it was going to take us to us to a place that holds tragic and despair but only when you really look we find compassion and hope. I found myself getting wrapped up in the these children and the love story between Sienna and Deni is so precious. With wonderful amazing characters and great writing, Heidi Kling sets a gorgeous story of lost, letting go and moving on.

Touching, moving and memorable, Sea is a sweet gem and a fantastic debut!

Elaine says

I'm so glad I had the opportunity to read this book first! It definitely sets the stage for 'The Sea Takes Me' is an insightful look at how one teenage girl reacted to her mother's disappearance. When her father challenges her to spend part of her summer working in an orphanage in Indonesia she reluctantly agrees.

This is a thought provoking story with evocative descriptions of the conditions there, the treatment of the orphans and the trauma many of them have suffered after escaping the tsunami which together make it a graphic reading experience. Her budding romance with one of the orphans, Deni, and their interactions together with cultural insights make this a very different story and I look forward to reading the sequel next!

I requested and was given a copy of this novel, via NetGalley, with no obligation. This is my honest review of the book after choosing to read it.

Steph Su says

SEA is a wonderfully solid, emotional, and un-put-downable debut by a highly talented YA novelist.

Heidi Kling writes her characters with assured realness. Sienna thinks and sounds like a 15-year-old with a tragic past: she has the fears and (occasionally petty) concerns appropriate for her age and situation. Instead of finding her naivete annoying, then, Sienna's (and, thus, Heidi's) seamless teen voice completely won me

over.

This is the first YA novel I've read that deals with the tragedy of the Indonesian tsunami, and it does it in an immersive, knowledgeable, and respectable way. Through Sienna's eyes, we experience the strange and sometimes terrifying world of post-tsunami Indonesia without being overwhelmed or too emotionally distant. I loved the control that Heidi Kling has over her knowledge of Indonesian phrases, customs, and concerns. She writes these things—whether they be major scenes central to the plot, or simple details easily overlooked—with an appreciable confidence that makes us latch our trust securely on her as an author.

Perhaps more powerful in SEA, however, is the poignancy of the many different relationships within. With just a few lines of dialogue or description, each character wins us over. We are able to see Sienna's father's genuinely good intentions despite his being in the difficult position of being the father of a motherless teen girl. We understand Sienna's trepidation at her father's budding relationship with her former therapist. But most of all, we are completely able to believe Sienna's relationships with two very different boys. To elaborate, Deni may be decidedly a guy who seems almost too perfect to be true, but the way his and Sienna's romance unfolds has all the sweet subtlety of a truly sigh-worthy teen romance.

Sienna's voice skews slightly more towards readers who enjoy a younger YA voice, but her experiences are anything but trite or age-limited. Read this, and I dare you to not in some way be affected Sienna's unique and heartwrenching journey of discovery in Indonesia.

Marieke says

Thank you to the publisher/Netgalley for for providing me with an eARC in exchange for an honest review. This in no way influenced my opinion.

Yes, eerste boek van het jaar!

De eerste helft van dit boek was erg traag. Ik kwam er maar niet doorheen en dat frustreerde me echt heel erg. Daarom las ik ook allemaal andere boeken ondertussen en stelde ik deze steeds maar uit. Toch wilde ik deze ook uitlezen, dus ik ging er vandaag eens voor zitten. En de tweede helft was zó veel beter!

Naast het langzame begin, ergerde ik me ook aan de instalove die in dit boek voorkomt. Het was totaal niet realistisch en ik vond het verschrikkelijk. (view spoiler) Wat ik ook niet realistisch vind, is dat Sienna toch gaat vliegen.. Haar moeders vliegtuig is verdwenen en hoogstwaarschijnlijk in de zee gestort en Sienna durft dus niet meer te vliegen of te surfen. Heel logisch natuurlijk. Maar zodra haar beste vriendin haar ook maar heel even heeft gesproken, bedenkt ze zich meteen en gaat gewoon vliegen? Uhhh, waar is je angst? Tuurlijk kwam deze angst nog wel even terug toen ze in het vliegtuig zat, maar ik vond het totaal niet realistisch.

Leuk boek voor even tussendoor en goed algemeen onderwerp. Maar de uitwerking vond ik echt niks, totaal geen boek voor mij..

Kate says

I received this ARC from the publisher (quite a deal, too! I had requested an ARC of Boys, Girls and Other Hazardous Materials but they had run out, and then I got a package in the mail containing a hardcover of that one, another hardcover and two ARCs including this novel and Restoring Harmony). I'm interested in Middle Eastern culture and the backdrop of the Indonesian tsunami was timely considering the chaos in Haiti

right now.

Three years ago, Sienna's mother disappeared in a plane around the same time as the tsunami. Since then she has stopped surfing and stopped using her nickname "Sea." Then her father brings Sienna along to help tsunami orphans in Indonesia. Sienna is humbled by the perseverance of the children she helps at the orphanage, many of whom suffer from PTSD, and intrigued by a boy her own age, Deni, who seems to be a leader for the younger boys. Against all the warnings of her father, she begins spending more and more time with Deni.

I liked how the culture of Indonesia is present through the entire story and I learned quite a bit about their way of life. Sienna and Deni's romance seemed to happen a bit too easily, considering the restrictions placed on them, but the unexpected ending helped me forgive that. I was fearful for Sienna during parts of the novel having it drilled into my mind that young blonde girls are often targets for kidnapping into the sex slave market, but thankfully there was no hint of that in this novel. It was nice to read a novel that looked at a catastrophe like the tsunami and let people know that even three years later, there is still a lot of devastation and repercussions for the people there to overcome.
