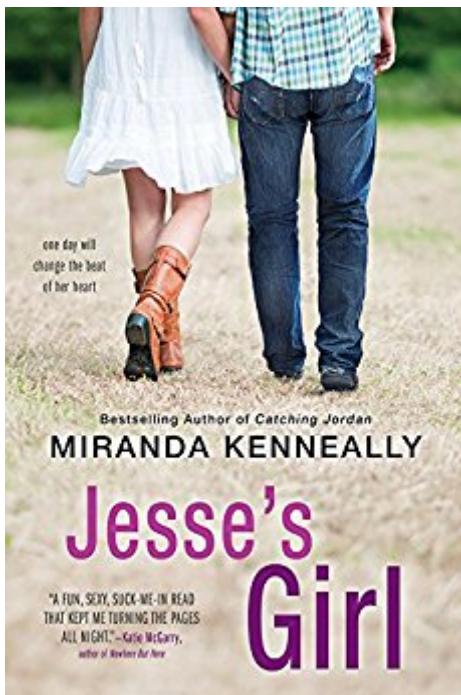


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Jesse's Girl (Hundred Oaks Book 6)



Synopsis

Practice makes perfect. Everyone at Hundred Oaks High knows that career mentoring day is a joke. So when Maya said she wanted to be a rock star, she never imagined she'd get to shadow the Jesse Scott, Nashville's teen idol. But spending the day with Jesse is far from a dream come true. He's as gorgeous as his music, but seeing all that he's accomplished is just a reminder of everything Maya's lost: her trust, her boyfriend, their band, and any chance to play the music she craves. Not to mention that Jesse's pushy and opinionated. He made it on his own, and he thinks Maya's playing back up to other people's dreams. Does she have what it takes to follow her heart-and go solo?

Praise for Miranda Kenneally's *Breathe, Annie, Breathe*: "[An] expertly paced and realistic romance." -Booklist, starred review "Heartfelt, uplifting, and quite possibly enough motivation to make readers reach for their running shoes." -Publisher's Weekly "Breathe, Annie, Breathe is an emotional, heartfelt, and beautiful story about finding yourself after loss and learning to love. Her best book yet." -Jennifer L. Armentrout, New York Times bestselling author of *Wait for You*

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Customer Reviews

Miranda Kenneally is a great writer. I have read all of her books to date and enjoyed them all. They are all set in the same small Tennessee town, and reading them gives a real sense what it is like to live there, plus the interlocking set of characters from one book to the next makes them all the more enjoyable. Each book has a unique angle, a passion about something; in this case, it is a passion for music, playing the guitar and singing. Kenneally's heroines are always bold, strong young women who overcome their shyness and self-doubt through self-discovery, and Maya in this book is no exception. She is funny, wild, determined and emotionally sensitive. I won't give away the plot, but knowing her helps Jesse come out of his shell and grow as a human being. This is a YA novel, but as I have expressed elsewhere, I think adults who avoid YA fiction because they assume it is shallow or juvenile, are really missing the boat. The themes in YA fiction are about emotional maturation, class divisions, overcoming one's own weakness and self-doubt, having fun and resisting domination, especially young women resisting domination by overbearing men. Acceptance of gays is another important theme of YA literature, but not in a preachy way...more in a matter of fact, "but of course" way. If you haven't read any of Kenneally's books, do yourself a favor, and order this. If you have, this is just as good as the others, maybe more so...but perhaps that's only because I love music so much.

I don't deny the fact that I am a lucky girl. I got to read Jesse's Girl for the first time when it was in draft form and wasn't even called Jesse's Girl. I fell in love with it then but I wanted to wait to review it until I had done a reread. Honestly though, it didn't matter. The book was awesome in draft and awesome in a final copy. Miranda Kenneally once again does what she does best and gives you awesome boys, wicked cool girls and a story that will keep you invested till the end. Not to mention the laughs. Jesse's Girl is about Maya Henry (if you read Catching Jordan there is a reason the name seems familiar) a punk rock girl in a country world. Maya has dreams of being a famous punk rocker someday but those are few and far between in her hometown in Tennessee. When Maya is given the chance to shadow Jesse Scott, country music God, for one day she feels like this is her chance to see how the business works. Too bad Jesse doesn't trust anyone, as they are all looking for something, and makes that very clear to Maya off the bat. Even with their differences they two spend a day together that changes them both in a way they never expected. Action: If you have read a Kenneally book before you know they usually involve some kind of sport. Football, running, softball they have all played a role in the past Hundred Oaks books. Jesse's Girl is different in that case. Instead of using a sport Miranda went with music and it worked for this story. I think the magic of two different music

styles in a music city was the perfect way to take a tale about a normal girl and a famous guy. When I first read the synopsis I was sad there would be no use of sports, but it was the right decision for this story and I think ended up adding to it. Backdrop: Nashville! What isn't there to love about Nashville?? I have gone once and it has been one of my favorite cities that I have ever visited in the US. Having that as the background for Jesse's Girl was pretty amazing as I was able to picture a lot of the places from my short visit there. I was also able to picture how easy it was for Maya to feel out of place as a punk rock girl because Nashville is anything but. It was pretty much the perfect setting for a story like this. Truthfully it made me want to hop on a plane and go to the Ryman Auditorium, the Grand Ole Opry and pop in a Tootsie's. Who's in for a road trip?? Characters: Hands down what I liked best in Jesse's Girl was the characters. Maya Henry talk about spunk. She knows who she is and isn't afraid to stand out. She stands up for herself and does what she thinks is the right thing. She's funny and uncertain but also sure of who she wants to be and I loved that. And Jesse. Oh adorable Jesse Scott. He had some of the perfect one-liners in the book that just made me laugh, still make me laugh when I think about them. He is definitely closed off (and with good reason) but there is something very open about him too. Just add him to the list of the amazing Kenneally Boys (have we trademarked that term yet?? We should!). Plus you know there will be the inevitable cameo from characters in other books, I mean Maya's last name is Henry for crying out loud. Final Thoughts: All in all I loved Jesse's Girl both times I read it. It made me laugh and cringe and then smile as Maya and Jesse navigated through whatever was going on between the two of them. I loved the way the story was told and how it all went down in the end. I loved the cameo of some old favorites while starting off a generation of new Hundred Oaks kids to love. It did exactly what I think a good book should do and it made you feel just like you were part of the day and had become friends with Jesse and Maya yourself.

Another lovely book in this series. Miranda has a knack for writing fun, upbeat, and sweet books that also have the tendency to tug at the heartstrings. The characters have a way of being perfectly flawed that really add an extra oomph to the books. Maya is strong, independent, sassy but also insecure at times, which leads to her taking a backseat to others. And Jesse? While being completely swoon worthy, he isn't the type that always says or does the right thing. Though most of the book takes place throughout one day, the connect between Jesse and Maya feels real and not forced or rushed. You can't help but cheer for them both as they go through their journey, both together and on their own. Disclaimer: once you start reading, it may be hard to put down!

This review and more can be found at The Heart of a Book Blogger

(<http://theheartofabookblogger.com>). I enjoyed Jesse's Girl a lot. I loved how Maya and Jesse's relationship developed and that it didn't turn into instant love. They had real chemistry, and I loved their romance. Even though Maya ends up dating a country star, they had a very believable relationship. A great part of this book was Maya's family. I loved how supportive they were of Maya and each other. Plus, it was great seeing an update of Sam and Jordan. Another part I liked was how strong-willed Maya was. She knows what she wants, and she's going to work hard to get there. This book was very sweet and adorable.

Enjoyed this book, but not as much as I loved "Breathe, Annie, Breathe" (from the same author). It tells the story of punk girl and music lover Maya, who had the chance to "shadow" country star Jesse Scott for a day as part of her school's career-mentoring day. It's your typical girl-meets-celebrity trope, and I like how realistic it feels at first as I get to know more about Maya and Jesse. But then, the spark loses midway the story to the point that I didn't mind if they don't end up together as long as they are successful in their own journeys. The author is also good at writing effective minor characters because I enjoyed Maya's relationship with her family. Still a nice read.

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