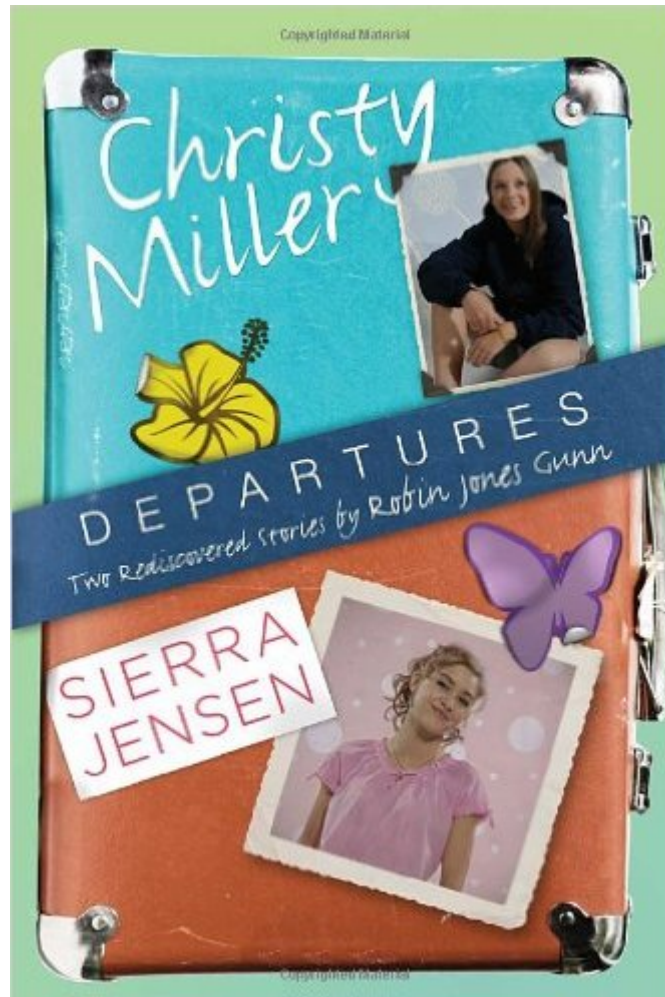


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Departures: Two Rediscovered Stories Of Christy Miller And Sierra Jensen (The Christy Miller Collection)



Synopsis

Christy Miller and Sierra Jensen cross paths on their way to summer vacations that reveal what a gift it is to have a true Forever Friend. Now Boarding at Gate 10 After her high school graduation, still aching from Todd's departure, Christy joins her family on a trip to Wisconsin to visit relatives. While there, she reunites with Matthew, an old friend from junior high. When Matthew starts to show a romantic interest in Christy, she realizes this summer vacation could change everything she thought her future would be. In the Event of a Water Landing Fifteen-year-old Sierra Jensen can't wait to spend her summer vacation with her friend Jana at a pristine lake in Montana. But when they arrive, it becomes clear that Jana's only interest is acquiring a boyfriend. Sierra just wants to hang out with the guys as friends, but Jana turns every encounter into a possible romantic relationship. As their friendship begins to suffer, Sierra wonders if it's possible to find a Forever Friend who will listen to you, laugh with you, and keep your confidences.

Book Information

Series: The Christy Miller Collection

Paperback: 208 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (63 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #672,412 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Friendship #93 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Relationships #1666 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I wish I had these books when I was in middle school. Gunn does a great job of creating characters with depth who are great role models for young girls. While the books are about high school aged kids, I think they'd capture the attention of middle school girls better. I know I always read books

about kids who were just a little older than me as I was growing up. These books can be really helpful in preparing young girls for some of the struggles they will be facing. They allow girls to start thinking about them and develop a plan for how to respond to certain situations. I think they'll also help girls to stay focused on God through the middle and high school years. I hope my daughter develops a love of reading so I can introduce her to these books in about 8 years.**I received this book for free from WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group for this review.

Departures was very hard for me to get into. It is made up of two different stories by these authors both obviously directed toward preteens. I often enjoy books meant for younger audiences but this was not one of them. Even though the characters were all high school age I believe the writing and storylines are more befitting a 10 or 11 year old. I had a hard time trying to like the characters and often found most of them quite annoying. The stories also left much to be desired plot wise as well. I felt like there was not really a story being told. I feel so horrible because this is the first bad review I have ever had to publish but I feel I should be honest. I do think that this book could be good if targeted to the appropriate age group though.**Disclosure a free copy of this book was provided to me by Waterbrookmultnomah blogging for books program in exchange for my honest review.

I didn't like the Christy Miller story as much. It seemed a little forced to fit the storyline from the Katie Weldon books. But the Sierra Jensen story seemed like it fit very well with all the other Sierra books. Both are fun reads though!

I love Robin Jones Gunn books, but this one was not my favorite! I only read it after getting all they way through the Christy Miller Series, the College Years, Sierra Jensen series, and the Katie Weldon series. Maybe if I had read it in order I would have appreciated it more, but the storylines seemed insignificant to the series to me. This one would be better to read from the library than to own.

For my first ever book review for Blogging for Books, I chose *Departures* by Robin Jones Gunn. The book is actually two short stories that go with her Christy Miller series and Sierra Jensen series. Since they are two different stories with (for the most part) different characters, I'm going to write a mini review for each story. The first story is "Now Boarding at Gate 10," starring Christy Miller. She's headed to Wisconsin on a family vacation, to celebrate her grandparents' fiftieth anniversary. What she doesn't expect is the possibility of a romance with her junior high crush. While the story was as

well-written as all twelve full-length Christy Miller books, I felt like it wasn't really that great. Except Matthew, Christy's junior high crush, and a girl who is now friends with Christy's ex-best friend, all of the characters have already been met by the readers in the Christy Miller series. The plot is easy to follow and flows nicely, and the characters are all true to form. So what's the problem? Well, partly because I know how the series ends and partly because I totally loved Todd in the previous books, I felt this story didn't fit with the rest of Christy's life. True, there are real-life experiences during which you may have a 'What if..' moment with a romantic interest. But still, I felt that the possibility of Christy and Matthew dating seemed unnecessary to Christy's life story in general. All in all, I give the story three stars out of five. The second story was "In the Event of a Water Landing," starring Sierra Miller. The story starts with Sierra, her friend Jana, Jana's brother Gregg, and Gregg's friend Tim. They're on their way to a vacation in Montana, which is delayed by an airline mix-up and a trip to a huge mall. When they do finally arrive, Sierra is confused by Jana's strange behavior and the confusing, mixed feelings both Sierra and Jana seem to be feeling about guys. Now, I was never a huge fan of the Sierra series. (Most likely that was because I was too busy worrying if Christy and Todd got back together to focus on reading the Sierra books.) However, this story is the exact opposite of "Now Boarding at Gate 10." I feel this little 'preview' of Sierra's life - which comes before the Sierra books - better helps the reader understand Sierra's thoughts and beliefs throughout the rest of the series. While the plot was nothing extraordinary, the characters were completely realistic. Sierra discovers a few things - about herself, about Jana, and about guys and relationships in general. I found that I connected much better with this mini-book on Sierra than the entire rest of the series. This story definitely gets all five stars. I received this book for free through Waterbrook Multnomah's Blogging for Books program.

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