



Beautiful

By Amy Reed

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Beautiful By Amy Reed

When Cassie moves from the tiny town where she has always lived to a suburb of Seattle, she is determined to leave her boring, good-girl existence behind. This is Cassie's chance to stop being invisible and start being the kind of girl who's worth noticing.

Stepping into her new identity turns out to be easier than Cassie could have ever imagined...one moment, one choice, changes everything.

Cassie's new existence both thrills and terrifies her. Swept into a world of illicit parties and social land mines, she sheds her virginity, embraces the numbness she feels from the drugs, and floats through it all, knowing that she is now called *beautiful*. She ignores the dangers of her fast-paced life...but she can't sidestep the secrets and the cruelty.

Cassie is trapped in a swift downward spiral tinged with violence and abuse, and no one--not even the one person she thought she could trust--can help her now.

"*Beautiful* is stark, disquieting, and, quite simply, riveting." --Ellen Hopkins, bestselling author of *Crank*

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Beautiful By Amy Reed Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #715646 in Books
- Brand: Simon Pulse
- Published on: 2010-10-05
- Released on: 2010-10-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .49 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Thirteen-year-old Cassie has bloomed. Following her family's move from an island off the coast of Washington to a Seattle suburb, she has a new attractiveness that earns her the moniker "the beautiful seventh grader." Her good looks and willingness to conform are a passport to her school's powerful clique of druggies led by Alex, a frightening but charismatic fellow seventh grader who adopts Cassie as her best friend. Cassie's compliance with Alex's demands—to burn photographs of former friends, to take acid, to have sex—secures her a position as Alex's second in command but threatens her health and safety. When Alex's half sister Sarah moves in with Alex and her wasted mother, Cassie finds her allegiance shifting from her best friend to Sarah. Reed's first novel owes a tremendous debt to Catherine Hardwicke's 2002 film *Thirteen*; however, where the filmic treatment of its 13-year-old heroines' dangerous experimentation is complicated by the richness of their characters and their interactions with one another and the supporting cast, this novel is less complex and more sensational. It is difficult to discern motivation for many of the characters, whose actions—Alex's in particular—are explained in almost clichéd form, and the secondary characters are one-dimensional.—*Amy S. Pattee, Simmons College, Boston*

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Review

"[*Beautiful*] is essentially a new-millennium *Go Ask Alice* with a similar blend of cautionary horror story and weirdly fascinated detail . . . Chilling narration . . . There's boldness in the book's willingness to make Cassie unsympathetic at times . . . Train-wreck fascination galore . . . It'll probably be passed around enthusiastically."

--*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, November 2009.

"The gift in this book [*Beautiful*] is Reed's ability to find the perfect words and use them in ways for which the reader is not ready. The writing is lonely, haunting, sensuous, and oddly beautiful."

--*VOYA*, August 2010

About the Author

Amy Reed is the author of the edgy contemporary YA novels *Beautiful* (2011 YALSA Quick Pick), *Clean* (2012 YALSA Quick Pick, Junior Library Guild Selection, Northern California Book Award Nominee, and YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults nominee), *Crazy* (Bank Street College Best Book of the Year), *Over You* (2014 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults nominee), *Damaged*, *Invincible*, *Unforgiveable*, and *Nowhere Girls*. She lives in Asheville, North Carolina. You can visit her online at AmyReedFiction.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mike Costello:

The book *Beautiful* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So why must we leave a good thing like a book *Beautiful*? A few of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim this book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you may give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book *Beautiful* has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You

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Harold Bunch:

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