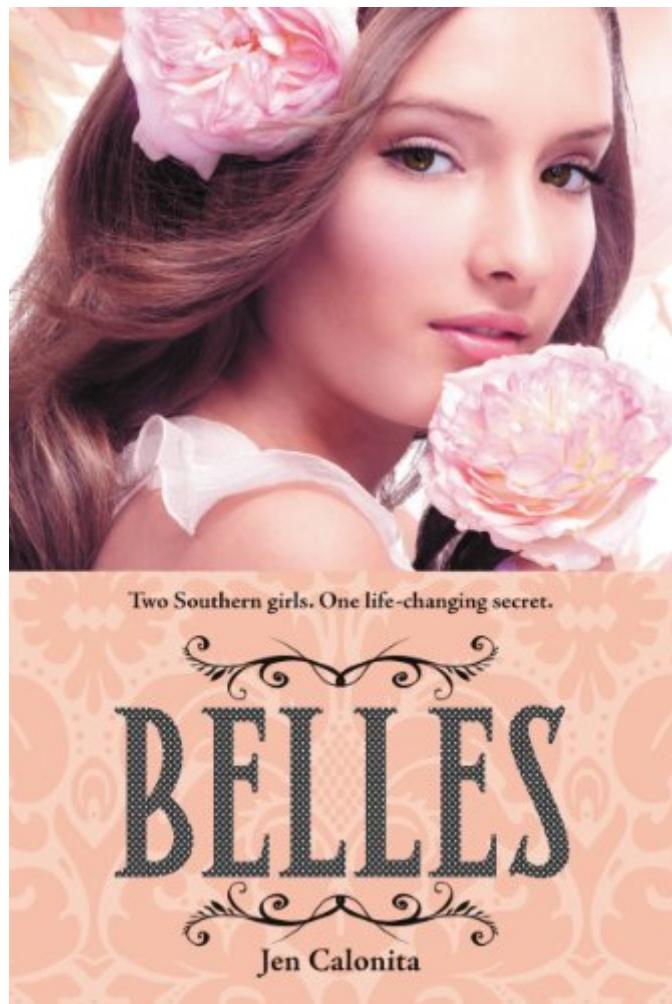


The book was found

Belles



Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Isabelle Scott loves her life by the boardwalk on the supposed wrong side of the tracks in North Carolina. But when tragedy strikes, a social worker sends her to live with a long-lost uncle and his preppy privileged family. Isabelle is taken away from everything she's ever known, and, unfortunately, inserting her into the glamorous lifestyle of Emerald Cove doesn't go so well. Her cousin Mirabelle Monroe isn't thrilled to share her life with an outsider, and, in addition to dealing with all the rumors and backstabbing that lurk beneath their classmates' Southern charm, a secret is unfolding that will change both girls' lives forever. Don't miss the first book in the Belles trilogy by Jen Calonita.

Book Information

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in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Alternative Family

Customer Reviews

Often times when you finish one series by an author, you can't be sure if the next series will be as good. However, Jen Calonita's book is great! If you enjoyed the Secrets of My Hollywood Life series, you will love this book as well. True, this book is an easy read, I finished it within a day at the beach, but it is a great story that sucks you in. The chapters go back and forth between Isabelle

(Izzy) and Mirabelle's points of view, which keeps it interesting as you get to see parts of the plot unfold before the other character who is not narrating does. It's a light book, more for enjoyment than for learning or moral lessons, but it still has a great story to it. Plot characteristics: high school drama, family difficulties/issues, and the main character is NOT in a LOVE TRIANGLE with two boys (sorry it's my pet peeve, everyone seems to be trying to play up the love triangle and starting the "team xxx" and "team yyy" fights).

Jen Calonita builds a beautiful rags to riches story with her novel, Belles. This was a surprisingly good read! What a great coming of age story about a high schooler, Isabelle Scott (Iz or Izzy for short) who grows up on the wrong side of the tracks and suddenly finds herself thrown into the life of the rich and elite of Emerald Cove (EC) after her grandma and legal guardian takes a turn for the worse. Fitting in and maneuvering the EC social structures in this town are harder than taking care of her ailing grandmother, working as a beach lifeguard, keeping her grades up, paying the bills, buying groceries and maintaining her status of star swimmer... Will she be able to climb the social ladder? Will she make friends? What about the summer fling that suddenly turns up at her new school and is in the arms of the one girl who she despises?

This book is about a girl named Izzy who lives in a place called Harborside, which is considered the wrong side of the tracks, with her grandmother since her mom died when she was 10 years old. But now her grandmother's health is decreasing and she has to be sent to a nursing home and she's shipped to live with an uncle she's never known in a rich part of town called Emerald Cove with his family and her cousin Mira. Mira's friends, especially a girl named Savannah (who reminds me of a high school version of Massie in the Clique book series by Lisi Harrison) who tries to sabotage Izzy every time she gets. Both girls learn things about themselves throughout the book and a big secret comes out towards the end. Overall I loved this book and I was really impressed since I have to admit I had little hope for it since I've never liked Jen Calonita's books before. Sure the plot is a bit cliche, new girl from poor town comes to town and makes an enemy of the popular girl and the popular girl's boyfriend likes the new girl, which makes her hate the new girl even more but however I'm okay with cliche plots (face it most things have been done before!) as long as they are well written and possibly have a different outcome, which I'm thinking this will. Another thing I loved about this book is that it's not based in LA or New York like a lot of these series about rich kids are, it's based in North Carolina. I honestly knew what the secret was before I even got half way through the book but I won't say it's predictable since it's possible that it could have just been predictable to

me because I've read plenty of books and watched plenty of shows where something similar has happened. My only peeve was that I wished we could have seen Savannah's point of view because I'm sure if we had of, she would have had more layers to her (just like Massie from the Clique series, Cammie from The A List and Blair from Gossip Girl). However I am looking forward to the next book since this one was really good and I finished it in a day! Grade: B

I purchased this book and wanted to read it before I let my 15 year old granddaughter read it. I really enjoyed the book and feel there was a lot to learn from it as far as how to treat friends. It's about Izzy who was 15 and taking care of her senile grandmother. The grandmother got where she really didn't know what was going on and the caseworker placed Izzy with a distant cousin which she had never met before.. There was such a difference in the society from which Izzy came from and where she was going . She had a terrible time adjusting due to the cousin and her friends not accepting her and causing trouble. The book even held my interest so think others would enjoy reading it.

As a middle school teacher, I am always on the look out for books that will offer opportunities for personal growth and social interaction. Belles is a book I recommend often to my tween students because it accomplishes both goals! Readers can identify with both girls as they continue through the book and that makes for good book club conversation! The fast moving plot carries their interest right through to the end, too, making the sequel a much anticipated next read!

.... And almost lost me. I love Southern Fiction, which is why I picked this up. The characters reacted realistically to things that would come up, and I spent the whole book wondering if I guessed correctly on who released all the information on the dad. However, there was this spark missing that kept it from being perfect. It became predictable at places. And well... something was missing. IDK what. But still a good read, I do recommend it. And the second one is better.

fast shipping and a great price

I really enjoyed this book. I read it in one day and found it a good, fun easy read. It is going to be part of a series. At first I was a little worried because I am from North Carolina and was hoping this would not be another book about Southern belles and debutantes. But I was happily surprised after learning where the title came from. Their names IsaBELLE and MiraBELLE which I found kind of clever

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