

## **Sweethearts**

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Jennifer Harris had a lisp, baby fat, and no friends. That is, except for Cameron Quick. Both of them social outcasts, the two were best friends, some might even say soulmates, destined to be together forever. However, that would not be the case, as Cameron mysteriously disappears one day, leaving no clue as to where he has gone. Now Jennifer is Jenna Vaughn, a seventeen-year-old high school senior with everything she could ever want- looks, popularity, even a boyfriend. Everything except her best friend. When all of the sudden Cameron comes back into her life, past memories and feelings are awoken, leaving Jenna to deal with the repercussions. A story of love both lost and found, *Sweethearts* is a touching story of growing up and dealing with the challenges life throws your way.

I thought this book was very good. It had its flaws, as all books do, but I was captivated with the story from the very first page, enough so to finish it in one evening. It was funny, cute, romantic, and of all things, mysterious. What was so interesting about the plot was the use of flashbacks and memories interwoven throughout it to keep the story going. They created a suspense and tension that really drove you to keep reading. Seeing everything through the eyes of older, present-day Jenna as well as younger, nine-year-old Jennifer made the story much deeper and more emotional. However, my favorite part of the book had to be the characters. There isn't one character in the whole book that seemed insignificant or unimportant, and each one was super well-developed. The banter between Jenna and her friends is great, and her interactions with Cameron are so sweet. The author also made a great character in Alan, Jenna's stepfather, who is exactly what a parent should be.

Unfortunately, the book did lack in certain areas. The biggest problem for me was the ending. Jenna and Cameron's relationship (both as friends and potential love interests) is built up through the entire novel, just to be left hanging in the last few chapters. We don't get much closure with any of the characters, even Jenna, and it is from her point of view. I just thought that while the ending provides great potential for a second book, it was anticlimactic, and if a sequel is not going to be written, we deserved more than what we got. All in all though, this is a quick read, but a good one. It is short and sweet but still chock-full of great messages, moments, and memories. People of all ages could find something they love about the book, but since there are some mentions of more mature subjects (though not much at all), I'd say it is good for readers twelve and up. Definitely check it out when you have the chance!

### **Recommended Titles:**

The Cupcake Queen, Heather Hepler

#famous, Jilly Gagnon

Waiting for You, Susane Colasanti