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Coming Up For Air (Hundred Oaks)



Synopsis

Swim. Eat. Shower. School. Snack. Swim. Swim. Swim. Dinner. Homework. Bed. Repeat. All of Maggie's focus and free time is spent swimming. She's not only striving to earn scholarships she's training to qualify for the Olympics. It helps that her best friend, Levi, is also on the team, and cheers her on. But Levi's already earned an Olympic tryout, so Maggie feels even more pressure to succeed. And it's not until Maggie's away on a college visit that she realizes how much of the "typical" high school experience she's missed by being in the pool. No one to shy away from a challenge, Maggie decides to squeeze the most out of her senior year. First up? Making out with a guy. And Levi could be the perfect candidate. After all, they already spend a lot of time together. But as Maggie slowly starts to uncover new feelings for Levi, how much is she willing to sacrifice in the water to win at love?

Book Information

Series: Hundred Oaks (Book 8)

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Customer Reviews

"Maggie's present-tense narration is rich with the details of elite student athletics, and she is cleareyed in her exploration of her sexuality, including a look at college hookup culture that manages to be very funny. The frank depiction of female teenage sexuality elevates this series entry." - Kirkus "This lighthearted romance has all the trademarks of a Kenneally novel: a strong female lead, a sexy male love interest, and a complicated relationship fraught with sexual tension. Fans of the author's Hundred Oaks series won't be disappointed as they watch Maggie's and Levi's friendship move in a new direction, and the competitive and uncertain element of Maggie's future in

swimming makes the page turning all the more enjoyable." - Publishers Weekly

"The writing and plotting will appeal to the intended audience and perfectly balance intense sports play-by-play with romance. In her quest to explore her sexuality, Maggie prioritizes her desires and needs. She is always in the driver's seat, which is not often the case for female characters in YA fiction. Kenneally provides readers with a realistic model of sexual behavior that emphasizes safe sex practices. Hand this title to those who enjoy Kasie West, Morgan Matson, and Emery Lord." - School Library Journal

"The latest visit to Hundred Oaks is quite possibly the best of them all! Maggie King is a delightfully layered heroine to whom readers can easily relate, especially student athletes who have also missed out on "normal" teenage experiences as they worked to achieve their dreams. From the close-knit friendships to the intensity of Maggie's training, the sizzling chemistry and the authentic emotions, the story remains engaging and current throughout. Honest discussions about sex and self-worth add to the novel's dimension and appeal." - RT Book Reviews

"This novel addresses teen questions about sexuality frankly and openly... The author's likable characters highlight issues of libido and trust in an even-handed way. Maggie's coming-of-age journey resolves her quest with the realization that everybody must decide for themselves their personal priorities at this crucial life stage. It is about learning that not everyone fits the same mold, and that is okay. Young readers who are anxious about the road ahead will appreciate this author's honest approach." - VOYA Magazine

Growing up in Tennessee, MIRANDA KENNEALLY dreamed of becoming an Atlanta Brave, a country singer (cliché!), or a UN interpreter. Instead she writes and works for the State Department in Washington, D.C., where George W. Bush once used her shoulder as an armrest. Miranda loves Twitter, Star Trek and her husband. Visit mirandakenneally.com

There's just something about Miranda Kenneally's books. They are easy to read and they grab your attention and refuse to let go. Once you start, you NEED to finish. I read most of the Hundred Oaks books in one sitting. I would finish one and jump right into the next one. These books can 100% be read as standalones but specially for this one, the epilogue will matter so much more if you've read *Catching Jordan*. I love the way these stories uniquely interconnect. They're not the story of all the best friends in a friend group and I loved finding the connections to prior books. I absolutely fell in love with Maggie and Levi. I loved their friendship and the growth of that friendship into more. I also could not get over the fact that Levi is just always reading. You cannot go wrong with a swimming/Harry Potter reading main character. Maggie and Levi are precious and I loved them. They also had

an incredible support system in their family, their coach, their friends and that's always nice to see. I love to see YA where adults actually exist and support the characters.

Sweetly engaging, heartwarming, emotionally charged friends to more romance that kept me reading late into the early morning. This journey took me back to my own high school years trying to figure out balancing friendship and budding love. Maggie is so sweet and real super easy to relate to. Levi is her best friend and emotional rock, so sweet and funny just adored him. Both super intense focused athletes and extremely talented swimmers with bright futures. Their struggle to balance home, swimming, friends, family and an attempt at a social life is beautifully written. Looking forward to more from this author.

I like the series. But I have the same criticism of each book...I wish teen sex wasn't written about as so ordinary and expected as the normal behavior of our youth. Anticipation is more rewarding than the actual act when reading about it. Due to sex being portrayed as "expected teen behavior", I can't recommend it to teen readers. Some references to previous books' characters. I wish there were some male POV chapters in here too. Overall good book, but meant for adult readers.

I have read every one of Miranda Kenneally books and have loved them all!!! It's hard to put them down! Keep up the great work Miranda!!

Oh my loves this book! Perfect ending too! Sad to see this is the end of the series too! 5 stars a must read!

Very good, read all of her books.

Keneally tends to hit or miss with her Hundred Oaks books, and this one leans heavily toward miss, unfortunately. While it has its entertaining moments, the main character has no personality (her only traits are "determined" and "horny"), and her drive to "hook up" had poor motivation (especially when you compare her to, say, Parker from *Stealing Parker*, one of the books in the series that was actually a "hit"). A lot of dialogue was unnatural, and the scenes where a coach/teacher gives Maggie tips on how to get a boyfriend? Completely across the line. I get this is fiction, and I get that the coach is the main character from the *Jordan* book that started it all, but if I ever found out a teacher was talking to a student about what she needed to do to get a boyfriend, I would be

livid. Basically the thing that drives this book is the sexual escapades. So if you're also a horny teenager, you'll probably love it. If you're not . . . you'll probably notice the lack of effort put into the protagonist and her story line, too.

This is a perfect addition to the Hundred Oaks books, has the feel of *Catching Jordan*, I couldn't put it down!

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