



Melody Burning

Whitley Strieber

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Beresford doesn't remember much about his past or how he came to live in the chutes and crawl spaces of the posh high-rise that shares his name. But when rock star and teen sensation Melody McGrath moves to an apartment on the fiftieth floor, he knows he has to be near her. Although she doesn't realize it, Melody is threatened by more dangerous forces than her manipulative stage mom and the pressures of life in the spotlight. The owner of the glamorous building has been hiding a fatal secret within its walls, and Beresford puts all his plans at risk. Will Beresford and Melody be able to escape with their lives (and love) intact?

Melody Burning Details

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Author : Whitley Strieber

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skyscraper and hearing something in the walls? Not like tiny animal sounds but literally...someone IN the walls.

That being said...

The Bad: Those were pretty much the only good points about the book... Even the cover lost its appeal for me once I finished because it's supposed to be Melody...but the girl on the cover is a little older and seems....more mature than the Melody in the story. Neither Melody nor the other main character Beresford were developed thoroughly and Melody seemed unauthentic and her mom was annoying. Some of the lines she said did not even seem like a mother would say it. This book just didn't do it for me and its disappointing because the concept could have been done SO much better.

Overall I would give this book a D. I can't recommend this book for anyone looking for a serious read.

Jennifer says

Read for professional review. Two words: don't bother.

Marie says

I just genuinely did not enjoy this book AT ALL.

I'm just going to leave it at that until my anger cools down, what a pure waste if my time!

(Benji) The Non Reluctant Reader says

Melody Burning is one of those books that are impossible to get into. The summary sounded exciting but the book wasn't. Let me tell you why.

First things first, Whitney Stieber tried for the "instant love" approach. And it failed. Miserably. The second they meet she's all like "he's so amazing, I love him so much" but guess what, SHE HAD KNOW HIM FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES! Even for insta-love that is fast! She didn't even know his last name, for goodness sake! This is supposed to be realistic fiction, but there is nothing realistic about it. I'm not saying I know a lot about love, but I know enough to know it (almost always) develops over time. Please, get real!

Even if you take out the insta-love part, there was a major lack of character development in this book. They were all so 2D. Melody was impossible to connect to and was pretty unstable, just like her mom. Beresford was also very hard to connect to and seemed more phantom than person. I really just wanted to take Melody, Beresford, and just about everyone else in this story out and smack them one! There was also no one to aspire to; everyone seemed self-centered and just plain mean. I wouldn't want to go on a road trip with any of these people. Period.

The setting in this book was very cool, though. I loved hearing about Beresford crawling around secret passage ways inside the hotel walls and shafts.

The ending was very exciting. But like all of this book, it suffers from being very unrealistic. I enjoyed the suspense and the thrills that were going on, but was thinking in my head "God! Does he honestly expect us to

believe this? Get real."

Melody Burning was just not my kind of book. Pure and simple.

2/5

Source: Around the World ARC Tours.

Melody Burning is out December 1st

This book counts in the following reading challenges:

111 in 2011: 87

Anna says

The book starts off with a prologue of little Robbie and his Dad being held at gunpoint on a work elevator in an apartment building that's under construction. Dad ends up dying and having his body dumped down the elevator shaft, while Robbie has to hide from the psycho named Luther, who has the gun. Flash forward about ten or eleven years, where everything is all suddenly about teen pop star Melody McGrath, who has moved into the Beresford apartment complex. She is almost certain that someone is inside the walls, spying on her. Her Mom thinks she's having a psychotic break, but Melody is right. Robbie is still in the walls, living in the vent/duct system and sneaking things necessary to his survival from people's apartments. Only, he doesn't remember his name (so he calls himself Beresford) or how old he is, but he's figured out how to DVR the T.V. show Melody is on and is obsessed with her. The owner of the complex wants a hit man to find and get rid of the boy, because he plans to burn down the place for the insurance money. He even built it with code-breaking constructions so the fire would spread faster! Melody discovers Beresford, but he gets taken away. Without him there to protect her, will Melody survive? This book had a promising prologue and I got interested at first. Then it developed a split personality, unable to figure out who was the main character and what the plot was trying to accomplish. I get sick inside when I think about how good this book could've been and wasn't, because Mr. Strieber unsuccessfully tried to write romance between a wild child, with the mind of a preschooler and a mature teenage girl. It sickened me and I wished for the answers to the mystery to be fleshed out - I got crumbs instead of cornbread. Don't read this unless you want to read something that NEVER should have made it past the press, onto the shelves. Waste of ink, sadly enough.

VERDICT: 1/5 Stars and my true revulsion at it's lack of realistic decency (this from someone who used to LOVE Flowers In The Attic as a teenager, which I think says a lot!)

No money or favors were exchanged for this review. This book is now available in stores and online.

Lore says

I had of issues with this book.

Donna says

Horrible. So horrible. I could barely finish it, in fact once I reached the epilogue, I just gave up.

I did not find the characters very interesting. There is a rock star, Melody, and a boy who lives inside the

same apartment building as her. The boy does not own an apartment, he is a squatter. He lives in the spaces between the walls, and has been there every since his dad dies, which was years ago. None of them were very interesting to me. Melody was very plain, even though she was a rock star. Beresford did not have much personality at all.

Beresford has been in the building for years, never coming out. He just nicks other people's food. WHY??? Why don't you just get out?

The storyline was pretty crap. I don't even know how to summarise it. It was just terribly boring.

The writing was horrible. The text didn't flow. Reading this book was like torture.

HORRIBLE. 1/5 stars.

Gigi S. says

What. The. Hell. Was. That.

This was , by far, the worst book I've ever read. I don't even want to list the reasons because it was just so painful to read. In every way a book can be bad, this was bad. This wasn't a book—it was a parody of cliches.

I've honestly lost a little bit of faith. So let's break this down quickly:

Plot: 1/10 (The plot was barely existent and entirely irrelevant. Honestly it was just 200 pages of nothingness. The characters did nothing to further the events, it was just like a snapshot of a particularly eventful week of their lives. Not much made sense and a lot of the important stuff seemed to have been skipped over. The fire was anti-climactic and I honestly have a hard time right now picking what exactly was the conflict and resolution of this book. It just flatlined right from the get go. I mean, it was hinting at a show down between the creepy walls guy and the creepy owner of the building but instead...the owner just randomly died even though he knew about the fire? Um, what? Why didn't he leave? Why did he get in the elevator? What happened? That is the biggest question this book poses for me: what the hell happened? Surely this must be a parody. Surely. Oh, and as for the insta-love? Worst case of it ever. How long did it take them to fall in love? One breif meeting. And the guy was a stalker who had lived in her walls and watched her sleep and kissed her straight away, and she had insisted right from the beginning that she was afraid of the "creep" but once she saw him she fell right in love...basically, the whole thing made Twilight look literary and healthy. I am completely at an awe as to how this was even published, how an editor actually sat down and said this was okay to print. I just...I just can't even begin to describe how terrible this was. And, yes, I've read some pretty bad young adult and usually I just take it for what it is but with this I am just completely flawed, confused and frustrated).

Character: 1/10 (Every single character was a caricature of a stereotype—it was clear that the writer had never met a teenage girl, but had substituted that for reading a few teen gossip magazines and maybe the first few chapters of Twilight. The 'villains' were the stock standard cold war James Bond types, and the "love" interest was obviously Tarzan. There were so many irrelevant characters it hurt—you could've taken 10 out and still had too many).

Style of writing: 1/10 (I was going to give this 2 or 3 out of ten but then I remembered the awkward switching between first and third person, and past and present tense, and the cheesy attempt at creating a

girl's thoughts and thought *nah, I is just about right*)

First: 3/10 (I was already cringing by the first chapter but at least this first third gave me hope for plot of some sort).

Second: 2/10 (This is when I lost hope).

Third: 1/10 (This is when I decided this whole thing must in fact be a parody. Don't even start me on the epilogue).

MC: 2/10 (I didn't hate her, per se, but mostly because all she was was a cardboard cut out of a teenage girl. There really wasn't anything to like or dislike... She underreacted about everything and clearly needed a good slap to get set straight but honestly there was more important things to worry about then her. Exactly what you'd expect a middle age man thinks of when he thinks 'teen girl' including buzz words such as "totally!" and "girl!" and "like"...ughhhh).

Scenery: 3/10 (At least there was lots of descriptions of the crawl spaces and chutes...not that I understood any of it).

Concept: 2/10 (The whole living in the walls thing could've been interesting if it had gone anywhere).

Emotional: 2/10 (There was an attempt at mother-daughter bonding or something but honestly I missed it between all the horrible, horrible, well, everything).

Overall: 18/100

I feel like that is generous...

A. says

I just couldn't finish it. It made no sense. I mean, there's this teenage boy who lives in the elevator shafts and crawlspaces in a fancy apartment building, and he's been there since he was tiny, so he has no social skills, no education, I don't even know where he gets his clothing, and someone is trying to kill him but apparently they can't seem to do it since this has been going on for a decade at least, and then some teenage pop idol moves in and she falls in love with him? WHY? It doesn't make sense. She is surrounded by people all the time and so she gets a crush on apartment mole boy? Sure, her mother is a bitch, but part of that is for the press to be all 'oh my, poor Melody with her demanding crazy mother.' She seems to really want to put the girl on antidepressants because of the songs she writes (which, even without the music part you can tell are pretty awful) even though she doesn't act like she's going to off herself at any moment. And the 'suspense' part of the story is that there is a secret flaw in the building which makes it unsafe and the guy who wants to kill mole boy is trying to keep it under wraps.

So I had to put it down. I just really, really, didn't care what happened to these people. They didn't seem real at all, and I figured the building would burn down or something and then Melody and mole boy would get married and mole boy would just live off her royalties because he has absolutely nothing going for him and can't do anything except climb around elevator shafts and nick food from people's apartments.

I used to read but now I don't It's bad I know says

This book has a very cool title.

This book has a very cool cover.

However, this book is not cool.

First of all, throw several pounds of swearing in my face in the first chapter and I'm not impressed. Second of all, base half your story on this guy lusting after this girl and this girl who has unbelievable, unfounded mood swings (well, she IS on drugs, but really? the nasty monster-like snarl, the "I HATE YOU" into the dark where she can't even see him?), and you've really got one downer for a first venture in the teen fiction market. So many authors are doing this now and you know what, they're not meant for it. The crime half of the story looked to be good but in the face of all the negative stuff? Oh, and also, the girl's POV is impossible to not hear as Miley Cyrus. Movie star with southern twang. Annoying. If that's what he was going for . . . congrats. The writing also was choppy and didn't flow easily from one thought to the next. One star.

Whitley says

I am the author of Melody Burning. The book has not yet been published, and yet there are reviews from as early as last March. Last March, it hadn't even been FINISHED! For what it's worth, I think that these people are reviewing a controversial author who they dislike. They cannot have read a book that has not yet been released. So please give Melody a chance. Do not rely on fallacious reviews. (I have dated this review to the actual date I finished the book. It will be published on December 7, 2011.)

P.E. says

I just couldn't believe what was happening. It didn't feel real, and so I had no connection with the characters, the plot was simple and felt a bit forced (insta-love) and the world building didn't make sense (a guy lives in an apartment for years without anyone noticing?). It just wasn't my piece of cake.
