



The Noah Confessions

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At the age of 16, it's standard procedure for every girl at Lynnies Russo's posh Los Angeles prep school to get a car. So on her 16th birthday, Lynnies is startled when she opens the small gift box from her father—it doesn't contain the shiny new set of keys she was expecting. Instead she finds a worn-out bird charm bracelet. What can he be thinking? When she cuts school to go try surfing so as to have a special day, instead of grounding her, her father hands her a manuscript box and says, "Your mother wanted you to have this when it seemed you were losing perspective. I think now's the time."

Through "The Noah Confessions," Lynnies uncovers her family's secrets, loves, and tragedies, and comes to recognize that their past may not necessarily determine her future.

The Noah Confessions Details

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Author : Barbara Hall

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From Reader Review The Noah Confessions for online ebook

Sasha Singh says

"Your mother wanted you to have this when it seemed like you were losing perspective. I think now's the time." Barely 16 year old Linnie Russo like everyone else at her private school expected to get a car on her birthday. But fate had something else for her, she gets a bracelet. An ugly bracelet, with deformed birds on it. Like all teenagers, it seems like the world is ending, and to teach her dad a lesson she decides to ditch school. But an outstanding student can't ever do something rowdy without feeling guilt. During this time, she has the chance to realize her family is different. Different from all of her friends. Her parents didn't grow up here, they didn't live a Southern California life. And most importantly, she doesn't know anything about her dead mother.

Barbara Hall's "The Noah Confessions" is a great example of a frame narrative. When her dad realizes, she is old enough to know the truth; he gives her a Manila envelope. She starts to read and is intrigued, because it is a series of letters her mom wrote to some guy named Noah. Thus creating this story inside of a story, her mom's life inside of her dad's life inside of Linnie's life. Another great thing about this book is the symbolism. The cemetery is a great part of the protagonist's life. She can't seem to understand why she keeps going back there everyday, almost as if there is something her mom hasn't told her and she'll get the answers in the cemetery. By the end of the book, when she knows the truth about her family, she doesn't need to go there everyday. She knows it's time to let go. The suspense in this book is absolutely thrilling. One can't wait to find out what is wrong with her family. What kind of things her mom has done! How she is different from everyone else. This book is one of those books that is hard to come by, so it will be definitely enjoyed by people who wonder about human behavior and the brain.

KRISTI ? ? says

Quite good actually. Everything happens too fast though and there's a few parts where it gets REALLY boring but besides that, it's a good book. And it has an amazing ending. Not like "And they lived happily ever after" ending. Psh, those were SO last year. This ending is...just normal. In fact this whole book is just normal...everything that happens could seriously happen in real life and that's what I like about it.

Karen Ball says

Linnie is expecting a car for her 16th birthday, because everyone at her private school gets that. Instead, she receives an old charm bracelet with chipped birds hanging off it. It belonged to her mother, but even that information isn't enough to keep Linnie from being angry over the gift. After Linnie ditches school to learn to surf, her father gives her a very long letter her mother had written many years ago to someone named Noah, and Linnie begins to discover her family's secrets -- including why she's never met her own grandparents. Linnie finds out how courageous her mother had to be early on in life, and to prove she is like that, she goes surfing during a big swell and almost drowns. This brings her closer to those she loves -- her father and her new boyfriend. This story has three different points of view and an interesting premise. For 8th grade and up.

Shonali says

My Rating: 4 out of 5

My Review:

I have been reading quite a lot of YA recently and some seriously good YA at that. The Noah Confessions was no exception. An accidental find at my library (which has quite a good selection of Teen books) I was intrigued on reading the summary at the back. I must say I was little put off with the cover though.

Lynn Russo is as difficult to handle as is any 16 yr old when her highly expected birthday gift of a car , turns out to be a really ugly-looking bird charm bracelet. Every person in her school gets a new car when they turn sixteen. But her father has other plans. When she fails to understand his intention at not letting her have a car , and bunks her class to take a surfing lesson from a friend , he hands over a manuscript, saying that her mother , who died when Lynn was a little girl ,wanted her to have this. Now ,Lynn is stuck with 2 gifts she doesn't really want , an ugly bracelet and an old set of letters written by her mom to some guy named Noah when she was a teen ager.

What follows is a Lynn's journey in to her late mother's childhood and teenage. Along the way , she uncovers a few family secrets she would rather not know and some that bring joy to her . All the time thinking did she really know the perfect mother she idolizes .

It's a really beautiful narrative with quite a storyline. I really liked the father daughter bond , that Lynn and John Russo share. Even though she hates the gift he gives her , she still wears it so that he doesn't feel bad. I am yet to see a teenager I know do that.

Here are a few lines from the book I really liked

He said, "Lynn, Mommy is gone." It was that simple. And part of me still blamed him just because he was the one who said it. I remember going very still and thinking, Don't cry, don't show anything. Because if you show something it will be real, not just for you but for him. I started taking care of him right that moment.

And I hadn't stopped. I didn't know how to stop. Which was why I was wearing the stupid bird bracelet and why I hadn't cried or complained as much as I wanted to about the car. I had to let it go. He had been through enough and I was all he had.

Now why didn't I give this book a 5 on 5? Firstly , it did grow monotonous somewhere half way through, got a little philosophical for a YA. That didn't last long. It went back to fast and interesting within 4 to 5 of pages. Secondly , the cover. Come on , they could have done better than that. It has no connection whatsoever with the story , it's a big put off so to say.

If not for these 2 little glitches , the book is a wonderful read.

Highly recommended for teens and adults alike

Case says

This started slow and confusing. There's a family tree in the front for good reason. But the story is compelling.

A young Cat sees her father kill the babysitter, doesn't tell until years later when she meets Noah, a cute boy and cousin of the victim. But no one believes!

Year's later, Cat's dead, and her daughter reads Cat's confession letter.

I don't get the point of the father/daughter years later thing. I think it would have been better to just tell Cat's story.

Courtney says

I'm most struck by the discussion later in the book of the difference between what the "private" and "secret" parts of our lives are. I had no idea the author was a television writer until I read her bio at the end of the book, but the structure and wrap up of the story certainly makes sense. The tone is somewhat dark and disturbing, yet the characters are always struggling to define and understand love. It was a quick read.

Ms.Goldstein says

This book is good because its main character, who starts out as a stereotypical selfish teenager, reads a letter written by her dead mother and learns that her parents were actually real people, once. It shows how people have to learn to be themselves while also allowing others to be themselves, which isn't always easy. The book is serious at times, light-hearted at times, and also has a little bit of surfing action and romance. It's got something for just about everyone.

Shaya says

I liked this book! The premise is a good one, if not entirely original. Linnie's mother died in a car crash when she was young. Now she lives in CA with her dad and goes to a private school where everyone gets a car when they turn 16. Except Linnie's dad gives her an ugly bird bracelet and no car. Later, he gives her an account her mother wrote about a crime that was committed. Both Linnie's and her mother's narratives are interesting and well-written. Linnie grows throughout the book and improves her relationship with her father. I liked that while there are romantic relationships they're not the point of the book. All the characters sound like real people. I'd recommend it to anyone who likes good young adult realistic fiction.

Deb says

A 16-yr-old girl that attends private school in Southern California gets a mysterious gift for her birthday. Expecting a car, Linnie reacts poorly to an old bracelet and a thick letter written by her mother as a teen. She already has trouble identifying with her father, who seems to have never gotten over her mother's death, and this unexpected "gift" doesn't help matters. As she reads, she comes to realize that there was more to her mother than she knew.

Over the course of the novel, she also meets a boy, has her first date, takes foolish risks, and comes to understand that maybe she DOESn't know everything.

This is an interesting novel, and I appreciated the fact that it didn't wrap everything up in a nice bow. Life is rarely neat and clean. The reader is left with the feeling that this young woman will be sorting through her feelings for some time to come.

* Chosen by teens to receive the 2008-09 Young Adults Reading Program (YARP) Award, a South Dakota State Library program.

Carlee says

"The Noah Confessions" by Barbara Hall is a story that delves deep into the past of a young girl's history and the history of her family. The main character, Linnie Russo, struggled to find her true self. At the beginning of the story, all Linnie wanted was to fit in. At the age of 16, for their birthday, every teenager receives a car from their parents. When Linnie turned 16, however, she received an old, disfigured bird charm bracelet. Her reaction to the bracelet wasn't what her father expected. Throughout the story, as readers, we were able to see Linnie's growth. Linnie changed into a girl of understanding, showing us that there is a reason behind everything.

At the very beginning of the story, all Linnie cared about was proving to her friends that she was cool and like them. She strived to fit in and longed to have friends. She had trouble with this because she was different. She was different in that she only lived with her father. Her mother had passed away much earlier in Linnie's life. On her 16th birthday, instead of getting a car like all of the other 16 year old kids in California, Linnie received an old bracelet with beat up birds dangling from the chain. Her first thought was that her father was trying to humiliate her in front of her friends, peers, and all of California. The night she received her "new" bracelet, she begged her father to get her a car, instead. She didn't understand the importance and meaning behind the bracelet. Because of that, Linnie's father decided she was old enough to read "the letter."

The letter. What more could be explained about Linnie's family tree after reading the letter? Linnie's father explained to her that when she reached a certain age, she was old enough to read the letter. Linnie's mom had written this letter to a man named Noah. She explained her deepest secrets in the letter. She even confessed of being a criminal. When Linnie first started reading the letter, she was very angry. She didn't understand why she was now finding out all of this information. Later on, after she finished the letter, she was even more angry. Linnie couldn't believe all of the secrets that have been hidden throughout her whole life.

After a terrible accident, Linnie realized how wrong she was to be upset with her father for not buying her a car and for giving her the long, secret filled letter. She ended up in the hospital in a coma. While she was unconscious, she imagined herself talking with a beautiful woman. This woman happened to be her mother. Linnie's mother explained to her that in life, people make mistakes. The only way to succeed in life is to make mistakes and then learn from them. She also told her that Linnie's father was doing everything he could to make Linnie happy. All he wanted to do was bring joy into her life. He didn't want to lose his daughter like he lost his wife.

When Linnie became conscious again, she knew that what her father had been doing all this time was for her own benefit. She finally understood that her father truly cared for her and would never stop. In the end, a new car was not something she longed for, but her family and friends were.

This story was magnificent. I had so much trouble putting it down. I have already recommended this story to numerous people and will continue to suggest this book to more people. This story taught me that family is what really matters. Be thankful for what you have because before you know it, those things will be gone.

Greg says

Book Review

The Noah Confessions

10/27/10

Want a book about a child's mother she barely met? and her horrible childhood?

Lynnie learns from her mother's mistakes and she learns about her mother. She was just a normal girl. Who wanted a car for her birthday. Instead she receives a letter, written by her mother that Lynnie did not know for long. At first Lynnie puts it away and won't read it. After a day or so she starts to read it. This is where the story starts.

This book was more amazing than I thought it would be. When I first started reading it I thought it would be this girl Lynnie just reading this boring letter about her mother and her past and her little boyfriend. But Barbara Hall wrote this book so much better than that. Lynnie learns all about her mother, who she barely knew that much. Lynnie learns a lot about her mom and it is wonderful to hear all these stories. But it is not only the letter, Lynnie has a lot of problems and drama going on in her life

Debbie says

3.5 stars This YA fiction was much better than what it appeared to be by the teaser on the back cover - a girl who attends a private all-girl prep school is disappointed when her father doesn't give her a car for her 16th birthday. Oh please. Nice twist to the story. Would never have read it without the recommendation of the librarian. Definitely for 8th grade and older readers.

Makayla (Books Galore) says

Review

The Noah Confessions By Barbara Hall was an amazing book that I could not put down. The cover is what drew me to this book. I want to know how the ocean and the fire played a part in this book, and who the girl is on the cover. In the end I looked at the cover again and I could tell you what the cover was telling you. I won't tell you what it means, you will just have to read the book yourself, you will not regret it. I even have my sister reading the book, and she is not a book reader.

Throughout the book you learn about Lynnie's dark family's past, and what they did for true love. It was a heart-warming book, that had you feeling strongly for her mom, though all the pain she went through in her life.

I hope that you all give this amazing book a try. Barbara Hall has a way with her words, with the letter within, that tell you about things that you can't believe. I rated this book a well-earned 5 out of 5.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Sally Kruger aka "Readingjunkie" for TeensReadToo.com

Does the name Barbara Hall sound familiar? It does to me because she has written and produced a number of my favorite TV shows - Judging Amy, Chicago Hope, and Joan of Arcadia. I knew she had also written some books, but I hadn't read any. THE NOAH CONFESSIONS caught my eye at the bookstore, and then I saw her name and snatched it up pronto!

Lynn Russo doesn't remember much about her mom, but she's about to learn way more than she ever thought there was to know. Her mom died in what everyone refers to as a "bad car wreck." Having a dead mom puts Lynn in a special category at her private L.A. prep school. Everyone there is known for something, and this is Lynn's "something."

A sixteenth birthday in Lynn's neighborhood means a new car. Lynn's expectations are not necessarily new, maybe a modest used VW, but definitely a car. Surprise! Her dad hands her a small box. Car keys? Nope, just a cheap looking charm bracelet with birds on it. You've got to be kidding. Where's the car? Dad says there isn't one.

There is something else though. Lynn's dad also gives her a manuscript. It is a letter written by her mother back when she was fifteen, almost sixteen. It is supposed to explain her mother's life. All Lynn knows as she begins to read the lengthy letter to some mysterious Noah person; it is not a car.

Barbara Hall takes readers on a journey with Lynn as she discovers a huge secret about her mother's life. Imagine thinking you know the people who have surrounded you for your entire life only to discover a whole other world full of secrets. THE NOAH CONFESSIONS will suck you in before the end of the first chapter.

Francesca says

3.5 stars

So I saw this book at a bookstore for \$3 and thought "why not? It sounds interesting." I am so glad I bought it! It was better than I thought it was going to be and very intriguing. I loved seeing the main character develop and realize that some of the things she wants don't matter. Good book.
