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In real life, Joss Wyatt is an ordinary teenage girl, with a tight-knit group of friends and a potential boyfriend. But online, she's an art restorer in Washington, DC, a model jet-setting around Europe, a southern beauty queen trapped in a loveless marriage. Online, she's anyone she wants to be.

For years, Joss has maintained a varied set of alternative lives, using them to escape the boredom that is her existence in a generic Arizona suburb. But when she starts receiving anonymous messages threatening to reveal her identity to everyone she knows—both in real life and online—Joss's carefully constructed worlds begin to unravel. Can Joss catch her stalker before all of her worlds collapse?

Bombshell Details

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From Reader Review Bombshell for online ebook

Chelsea says

I love this book so much, it was my second reading and it meant even more to me than the first. Joss' experience reminds me of the feelings all of us have in our adolescence. We all crave a dream palace.

The writing is haunting and relatable, and I know I will come back to this book again and again.

Occasional Gun says

Amazing. Characters so real & true to life, incredibly rich internal conflicts, vivid & honest dialogue, a plot that will keep you turning pages until dawn. This author has done something truly unique & has incredible promise. I want to live in Joss' world forever.

Sara Kiplinger says

I pushed through but was just a little weird to me. The writing seemed a bit juvenile, but I liked the concept.

Mallowmar says

Catfish-ing, drugs, so much infidelity, lying, hypocrisy, breakdowns, stalking, hacking, secrets, inappropriate relationships between students and teachers, and drama. Lord, this was some white girl nonsense! The story was Pretty Little Liars + Girl, Interrupted + The Lying Game levels of crazy. And so I think that's a good thing for people who like young adult thrillers and I think the pacing moved pretty fast. I think readers who are into thriller and mysteries like the tv shows/ movie listed will dig this. And I like a good mystery but not when the main character is an unreliable narrator. She also didn't redeem herself as a character in my opinion and honestly, I didn't find the crew here to be likeable from all the infidelity and drama. I wasn't here for Joss and her 50 shades of cray cray or anybody else, except maybe Kit. I vote for him to be an actual person so I can meet him IRL and the only changes I'd make is 1. No Blue dream/drugs and 2. Older than me, but not by a significant amount. And his guitar is always welcome for jam sessions. It was hard to sympathize with her and most importantly understand why she did EVERYTHING that she did. Thumbs up to this book for introducing me to "Modern Lovers." Four thumbs down for the approval of "Green Day."

Sonya Johnson says

WHAT A RIDE! You have to read this book!

16 year-old Joss makes up worlds. She is a story teller, creating characters and stories to go with them. The problem is, she doesn't leave them in the realm of fiction. She goes on dating sites and posts these fake people as real women. She gets unsuspecting men to fall for them, one for each persona, men who are willing to be involved with someone in cyberspace rather than a person in front of them, and sometimes things get hairy. But one of them is so sweet and so close to what she needs that Joss starts to have legitimate

feelings for him. In the meantime, Joss' real friends are getting disgusted with her because she seems more interested in texting these random guys than spending face time with them. Plus there is a cyber stalker / hacker on Joss' tail, and maybe Joss herself is cracking up, not quite able to perceive anymore what is real and what is not.

There are so many things I like about this book but I'll limit myself to one here: BOMBSHELL shows how you need people to help you get out of messes. They may be friends or family or both. Yes, mostly it's you and only you who has to do the work. BUT! You can't do it alone and you do need help. Most likely it's not going to be only one person doing the helping. Different people, sometimes unwittingly, will help you find your way to sanity and clarity. And sometimes, as BOMBSHELL shows, this help comes from where you might not expect.

BOMBSHELL is a novel for the current times. It deftly portrays the pressures of a high school girl today who is not satisfied with the world around her, an exceptionally intelligent girl with an imagination that unfortunately may become her undoing. It's a wild ride, a real page-turner, with an ending that is both unexpected and eminently satisfying. Like I say, you have to read this book!

Patricia Carrig says

I personally did not like this text. The literary style and the vocabulary used seemed rather juvenile. The techniques that the author used to compose the story were not executed effectively from the perspective of the reader. On top of that, the storyline itself was extremely over-complicated in an effort to seem 'edgy' and 'unpredictable', when all that was really achieved was a mess. It took significantly more energy as a reader to follow what was happening than the actual storyline, in my opinion, is worth. And while some of the 'surprises' at the end of the story were rather unexpected, it was not because of a clever logical jump, but rather a completely disconnected conclusion that had not been at all properly tied in throughout the rest of the novel. The one redeeming characteristic of this novel is the originality of the origin of the conflict (the fact that Joss catfishes people), which I have yet to see in another novel.

TJL says

[Joss had her electronic items removed and was given a flip-phone with no internet access that could only call certain numbers.

Though, frankly, if they'd done that beforehand none of this would have happened.

I was also really delighted with the twist as to who Believer was. Was *not* expecting that. Bravo. (hide spoiler)]

Lee Smith says

Somehow this not teenage author perfectly captured how the inside of a teenage mind operates, then gave it a modern twist with social media. Not only does the author capture all the thoughts the main character has, but she captures how the main character manages the things she CANT control, like an infesting mental illness. This book is so real and with every sentence I was awing at how accurate of a representation this book was of what a teenager was all about. Relationships are deeper, school is the least favorite thing, social media is addictive, teachers are humans too, parents are crazy, and friends are complicated. At times the only thing

keeping this main character from her real self is her online self. Read this to be amazed.

Jon says

Bombshell is a trippy thriller that unravels along the edges of the Arizona desert and expertly captures the bizarre boredom of suburbia and subsequent itching to escape childhood. It's a book that plunges headfirst into a spiraling, chaotic descent into the world of adolescent Internet personalities and avatars. Joss, our young daydreaming protagonist, is constantly on the edge of losing herself to the many different online personas she has created to attract men across the country. She spins these online narrative threads as a vital and oftentimes dangerous way of escaping her humdrum teenage existence in suburban Arizona.

This book is an utter delight. Rowan Maness effortlessly weaves sentences together that frequently leave you in a dizzy spell, awed. Her writing style is sharp, clear, and piercing. The book borders perfection in its ability to express the painful ennui of adolescent longing set against the deep expanse of the desert. Joss may have some close friends in real life - although her relationships are always complicated and complicating - yet her yearning for adulthood and to escape the pains of her past add a vivid lens to the whole adventure. Bombshell balances carefully between Joss's anxieties about responsibility, friendship, and sisterhood with her eerie experimentation of her online desires.

For being a "teenage"/YA book, Maness does an impeccable job at exploring dark and intriguing themes of mental illness, especially the thin veil separating fantasy from reality. Joss stands at a particular apex in her life - wanting to lose herself in increasingly complex fantasy lives of the women she's created online, while feeling burdened by the harsh & persistent realities of her family, friends, and school. As the main plot hurdles toward its page-turning climax, the thin lines between her concocted lives and reality snap apart, allowing the novel to really soar. By the end, as Joss's online personas collide dramatically with her real life, Bombshell deftly reminds us this book is all about one lonely girl just trying to survive the loneliness of being a teenager. It's a masterful novel, one that you will want to re-read and parse more deeply as soon as you've set it down. I can't wait to read what's next from Rowan Maness.

Chris Bird says

This book is a must read! At first I was a little skeptical of this book being very cheesy, however when I read the first few pages I was hooked. As a high schooler, I really connected to Joss Wyatt and this book took me on a rollercoaster ride. There were many twists in the book and it always kept me on my toes and wanting to read more. The way the author ties everything that happens in Joss's life together is truly wonderful.

Rebecca says

Joss - our teenaged anti-hero - is bored. She's lived her whole life in the same banal suburb and has gone to school with the same group of kids who have long ago made their minds up about her. Her only escape is through the characters she invents and animates within the comfortable anonymity of the internet. The only problem is that her escape digs her into deep web of lies with some very real, and very dangerous consequences.

At first it can be difficult to understand why Joss does what she does, but as the story unfolds we see just

how deeply connected she is with the avatars she creates. She uses them to sift through all the possibilities for what her own life could be. Avatar Rosie is the projection of the person she hopes to become - confident, sexy, intelligent, artistic...and deeply in love with someone equally as interesting. Rosie can do the things Joss is afraid to do, and Joss crafts these lies in order to cope with the messiness of the world around her.

Bombshell explores all the uncomfortable realities of adolescence, of slowly understanding the world outside yourself and the (positive and negative) effect you have on it. And, perhaps best of all, it actually takes teenagers seriously.

Allie says

My review is posted on the Hub:

<http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2017/...>
