



All You Get Is Me

Yvonne Prinz

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A summer of love, loss, justice and chickens.

Things were complicated enough for Roar, even before her father decided to yank her out of the city and go organic. Suddenly, she's a farm girl, albeit a reluctant one, selling figs at the farmers' market and developing her photographs in a ramshackle shed. Caught between a troublemaking sidekick named Storm, a brooding, easy-on-the-eyes L.A. boy, and a father on a human rights crusade that challenges the fabric of the farm community, Roar is going to have to tackle it all—even with dirt under her fingernails and her hair pulled back with a rubber band meant for asparagus.

All You Get Is Me Details

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From Reader Review All You Get Is Me for online ebook

Heather says

Roar has anything but a charmed life, but it's a life she has become accustomed too, that is until her father has an existential crisis, quits his job as an attorney, and plucks her from her city home to grow organic produce on a ramshackle farm in the middle of no where. Now Roar's days are filled with dirt, farm stands and small town folk, some of which aren't too hard on the eyes.

While Roar grips the remnants of her old life with an iron fist, most notably her hobby as a photographer, she slowly adapts to the lifestyle associated to small town life. Farming proves to be strenuous, and financially un-rewarding, but there is an earnestness and sense of camaraderie that comes with working hours on in planting seedlings, picking crops and selling them about town. But as Roar soon finds out, small town life doesn't always equal simple.

All You Get Is Me was a pleasant surprise. I suppose it is frilly in its own way. I'm becoming more and more annoyed to discover that just about every heroine in nearly all the books I've read of late have some sort of artistic ability. Nevertheless, I found the recounting of a modern day farmer's lifestyle and struggles truly fascinating. Even more surprising, this book possesses a social conscious, bringing to light the very current hot button topic of illegal immigration. While I have always been akin to open boarders, it was nonetheless eye opening and thought provoking to see just how significant of an impact illegal workers have upon this country's economy. Reading about the conflicts encountered by those who work in the agriculture industry made me feel an extreme gratitude for their hard labor and gave me a special appreciation for the earth as a whole. Sounds sort of lame I'm sure, but I think you'll understand what I mean if and when you ever read the book. It's an enjoyable coming of age tale.

Katie says

All you Get is Me is a book the deals with some heavier topics, illegal immigrations, immigrant rights, and love is one of its lighter topics.

Roar is our main character is this book. To me, she was very hard to connect to. There was just something about her that I just couldn't figure out. She was a nice girl but I never felt like I knew her. Nothing about her made her relatable to me.

The romance and the love interest were very well done, though! Roar and Forest were adorable. This was probably the only time that I could connect to Roar. But Forest was a cutie. They were always doing the cutest little things. Plus their romance is a tad forbidden. Forbidden romance never fails to make a story interesting.

The only other complaint I have is the pacing. At times I was captured in the pages of All You Get is Me. At others I was bored out of my mind. It wasn't a very pleasant experience. The story had me interested but sometimes the pacing was just a little off.

Speaking of the plot, I really liked how Roar's dad was fighting for immigrants from Mexico. You see,

Forest's Mom killed an illegal immigrant in a car crash, which gets Roar's dad upset. This also makes their romance "forbidden."

It makes the book have something that a lot of books don't have these days. Roar does her own part to support the immigrants and her exchanges with them are heart-warming.

In a sentence, All You Get is Me is a book that broaches things you don't see a lot of in YA. Even though the main character and the pacing weren't always amazing, this proved to be a solid book. I'd definitely recommend it if you're looking for something different in YA.

Rating: 3.5 stars

Angela Fristoe says

This was one of those random books I picked up. There wasn't anything that particularly inspired me to read it beyond the fact that it was a new release for the library. The cover was nice, but no wow factor for me. Even the blurb was just okay. Despite this I was willing to read, mainly because I needed a break from all of the paranormal and zombie books I've been reading lately.

In All You Get is Me, Prinz attempts to tackle some serious social issues and manages to do so without coming off as preachy. Illegal immigration is a touchy point with me as I am an immigrant myself. But I didn't feel like she was trying to promote illegal immigration, just make the reader aware of how those people are viewed by some.

Prinz also has a great way of bringing a setting to life. This works wonderfully some of the time, and in fact the first few chapters really held my attention, so much so that I stayed up until midnight on a work night reading. After the opening chapters though it became a bit too much. I lost interest and began skimming. I don't like skimming books, mainly because it's too easy to miss conflict and then you end up confused and just need to go back and read it anyways. Not the case here. There was so little conflict that I could have skipped over multiple chapters and not gotten lost.

Roar's relationship with her father feels the most realistic and important. Even though many of their conversations are only described, it's easy to see the resentment Roar feels for him and how he has absolutely no idea how to interact with his teenage daughter. When she discovers he's been hiding information about her mother from her, I was disappointed that there wasn't more anger and hurt from Roar or more regret and sorrow from her father. He talked about still loving her mom and it was evident that he was grieving about that, but his actions made me think he was trying to protect Roar. Yet he didn't seem to grieve the fact that his daughter was suffering from a second abandonment from her mother.

The romance between Forest and Roar was just blah. There was no spark there, and although Forest started out a bit mysterious, he was just a basic, nice, overly perfect boyfriend. There was no drama between them, even when he finds out that she's been hiding the fact that her dad is filing a lawsuit against his mom. The ending was too girly. He's been recording the process of falling in love with her since before they even spoke and now he wants her to read it? but wait, even better is the fact that he'll wait a year and he'll come and work on her family farm the next summer to be with her? Gag.

There was also an over abundance of secondary characters. Characters that kept popping up and have long,

boring interactions with Roar, yet never lead anywhere. Her best friend Storme is only there to constantly bring up Roar's "extra-virgin" status, Steve provides a bit of eye candy that we never get to see, and there are so many others that popped up that I can't even keep their names straight. It was all just filler. The hardcover comes in at 288 pages and could easily have been closer to 200.

Perhaps the most annoying thing about the book was the names. Roar (Aurora), Forest, Storme? Really? It just screams trying to hard to be unique.

Wouldn't bother reading this one again, and I'm doubtful that I'll pick up any thing else from this author.

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Wendi says

All You Get Is Me

By Yvonne Prinz

Published By Harper Teen

All You Get Is Me is a coming-of-age story about fifteen year old photographer Aurora 'Roar' Audley who moves from the city to a small farm town with her father who left his law practice to become an organic farmer. When a terrible car accident leaves a local immigrant dead, the entire community is thrust into chaos.

Aurora's father pushes the widower of the accident victim to file a wrongful death civil suit against the driver if the car who caused the collision. Straight forward enough until you consider that the victim and her husband are illegal immigrants and the driver is a wealthy white woman. Complicating things even more is the fact that the driver in question is the mother of Aurora's new paramour.

Unfortunately, the story falls a bit flat for me. What could have been a profound and weighty piece of fiction, especially in this day and age, was overly simplified and watered down. While I realize this book is meant for YA ages 14 and up, I feel the author doesn't give teens enough credit for their ability to intellectualize sociological issues. And yet, at the same time, she feels these same young readers are mature enough to handle the loss of the main character's virginity in the front seat of her boyfriends car.

I would have loved to read more about the ethics issues surrounding the lawsuit and a lot more character development, exploring the other characters' reactions and feelings through Aurora's eyes. While the story was OK, I really think there was a missed opportunity here. At the same time, I do realize the author was probably making a conscious decision NOT to make this only about a political issue.

Kerri says

This book surprised me. Right off the name 'Roar' put me off until I read that it was short for Aurora - what a relief! I'm glad that I decided to give this book a go. It was a fresh well-paced book that was believable. I loved the strong lead character and her quirky side-kick. This was a good moralistic coming-of-age story

without being too overbearing. Throw in a hot tortured love interest and what's not to love? I highly recommend this book.

Rebecca McNutt says

It's really easy to relate to this book and I love the way Roar's surroundings and personality are described, as well as the way it captures the rural lifestyle.

Catalina Sennett says

I received this book through the Goodreads First Reads program!

I quickly got into this book from the first page. I am pretty sure it had to do with the fact that I can relate to it a lot. It is a story about illegal immigrants and as I live in New Mexico where roughly thirty percent of our population is mexican immigrants, I can associate with the culture and language. I really enjoyed the writing, I love the writing of novels most, so I was so excited when I saw how rich in details this novel was.

Roar moves with her dad to a farm. She has not the first clue as to how to work a farm, seeing as she has been nothing but a city girl her entire life. But things changed the day her mom never came home. Now she is living on a farm her father owns, making friends with the illegal immigrants he hires to work for him. One day on their way to town, Roar and her father are witnesses to a car crash, in which a young mexican mother is killed, leaving her child behind. The other car belongs to Connie, a somewhat prissy woman, who Roar instantly doesn't like. Roars father is a lawyer so he helps the father of the little girl in the crash put a lawsuit against connie. While Roar is at the hospital the victims are taken to, she sees a guy, Forrest, who happens to be the son of Connie. What follows is a story of first love and second chances.

This was a heartbreak story. The romance was sweet. I hate endings where I have to guess what happens to the characters, and so I was a bit dissapointed you know. Reading this book made me think of To Kill a Mockingbird, so if you are a fan of that one(which I believe almost everyone is) you should enjoy this one. I know I did.

Cara says

I whole-heartedly thought I was going to love this book. I waited and *waited* for the library to get this and I stopped all the other books I was reading so I could read this. It had an interesting premise, and I did read through the night because it tackled a lot of social and personal issues people face. It excelled in some places, but it disappointed me in others.

Roar (whose full name is Aurora) lives with her father on an organic farm in California. It isn't something she wanted to do, her dad just decided one day they needed to leave their old life. No input from her, not a single warning sign, nothing. At first Roar is doubtful; I mean how can her father, who worked as a lawyer, become a farmer? She shouldn't have underestimated him or herself. We see Roar when she's already gotten used to life on the farm, and she basically is a farmer chick who has a passion for photography. One day she and her dad hop onto the truck to sell their goods at the farmer's market, but they are witness to an accident

that will unknowingly play a huge role in changing both their lives.

I give major props to the author for tackling the issue of immigrants coming from Mexico; the author actually portrays them as real people, not as something detached from everyone else. Nowhere does she describe them as illegal aliens like there are something that we can't recognize. She represents them as people who come with dreams and how hard it is for them to be treated like human beings. I'm glad she did this because it's an issue that isn't really explored in young adult literature, but it is something prevalent today and she put a spotlight on it. Again major props. She also describes organic farming and the food so well. You feel the camaraderie between the workers and her dad, and you know how much they care about what they do. I literally felt my mouth-watering with some of the food that was described. There was also the ever present story of how her mother left her and how she and her father deal with it. It was good to see her come to terms with this and how her relationship with her dad grows. As you can see there were aspects of the book I loved. But...

Unfortunately there is a but. I don't think this is spoiler, but there is a love interest. And I thought maybe there would be more tension between them. I won't spill the details, but definitely more could have been done with their relationship to make it more interesting and explore the complexity of a situation like this. Now, their relationship is sweet and good for both of them, and as the reader you can tell they support and genuinely care about each other. They both grow and have to come to the decision if they want to take this beyond the summer vacation.

That being said I did enjoy reading it, just not as much as I wanted to. I would read something from this author again, and I always love the message of learning to accept the past and moving forward.

Princess Bookie says

My Thoughts: We are introduced to Roar who is a photographer. She loves to take pictures and carries her camera around everywhere with her. I have a bit of a photographer in me so I totally understand where her passion is coming from. She moves on a farm with her dad after her mom leaves and they become farmers. One day, while on the road, they witness a lady (Connie) getting in a car accident resulting in another lady's death (a non-american) Sylvia. The lady (Connie) had given Roar's dad the finger, and wasn't paying much attention and that's when the accident occurs. Roar and her father witness it and her father decides to contact Sylvia's husband Tomas. He offers him a job and he comes to work on the farm.

While this is all happening, Roar's father gets a lawsuit going to sue Connie for Tomas. A lot of the other farmer's are against it. They figure if one worker can file a lawsuit over something, all the rest will want to as well for minor things. Roar then meets a boy. A city boy just here for the summer. His name is Forest. She starts to have feelings for boy. Boy is lady's son and the drama starts. Roar also has to testify against Connie (Forest's mom) if the trial goes to court. I'm going to stop there so I don't give away the whole plot and spoilers.

If you want to figure out what happens between Roar and Forest, read the book. If you want to know what happens with the lawsuit, read the book.

Overall: It took me a while to really get into this one, but I ended up really liking it. I enjoyed Roar's love of photography and the moments spent between her and Forest. I even enjoyed learning more about Connie and

her situation and why she acted the way she did.

Cover: I really love the cover. I like how she is holding a camera and its such a neat camera!

What I'd Give It: 4/5 Cupcakes

www.princessbookie.com

Mandee says

Oh my gosh, I cannot believe I just won a book that only had two winners! That's definitely a first for me. Thank you so much, Yvonne, for picking me to get your book!

I'm so intrigued by the giveaway blurb: coming of age story that includes a legal battle that's To Kill a Mockingbird for our times. Hope that doesn't give it too much to live up to, but since I haven't yet read TKaM (seen the movie though) it shouldn't have too much affect on it for me. So looking forward to reading this. Thanks again, Yvonne!

Updated: 11/30/2010

3.5 stars

I really struggled with how to rate this book, because while for me 3 stars is a perfectly good rating, others may see it and think, eh, doesn't look that good, think I'll skip it. But a 4 star book for me is a book I really loved, but that didn't have that little something extra: that 5 star earth-moving, soul-touching aspect. A 3 star book is a book I really liked and enjoyed, but I didn't love like a 4 star. And I had to be honest, while I really did like this book, I didn't *love* it, so that's why it's getting 3 stars for now (but I reserve the right to change it to 4 stars in the future if I change my mind ;P).

I'm glad I read this book, even though it was flawed in my opinion. I didn't mind the subject matter, and yeah, there is an agenda, but it didn't feel like I was being preached at or coerced in any way. It felt like we were viewing what was happening through the eyes of a 15/16 year old and we were experiencing it in the way she would. We were also limited by that too, but that's the risk an author takes when writing in the first person. Despite that, I felt like Yvonne Prinz did a really good job showing the other characters' development through Roar's eyes.

I loved the first chapter of this book. In less than 16 pages Prinz had me, I was feeling real emotion. I knew the trial plot was going to come up at some point, but I was halfway expecting the trial to be about gay rights, so it was a surprise when I was wrong. I love that, when a book takes me by surprise, in a good way. In fact, if I had to chose an overall theme for me while reading the book it would be unexpected. And I think it's because of what I felt about Roar after reading the first two chapters. The second chapter is Roar's back story. Chapter one and two made me feel Roar was a certain way, but in the rest of the book I felt she was different. I don't know, but for some reason that made her, and the story, more realistic. That was kind of how I felt overall after finishing the book, that it felt very real to life. Like everything that happened in the

story is what would really happen in real life. And I respected the story more because of that. Sounds weird, but that's how I felt.

Prinz did such a good job showing small town life. I've lived in Southern California and I've lived in the country in Washington surrounded by agriculture, and she did a great job showing all the little quirks of living in a small town, like how most people read their own town's little newspaper, rather than the big national paper. She also did a great job showing what the migrant worker experience is like, illegal or not.

I remember one time I was with a friend whose dad was a foreman of a farm and he asked her to drop something off at one of the worker's houses, but when we got there she said to give it to a guy who was in the orchard right around the corner, so we drove into the orchard. It was one of the most shocking and eye-opening experiences of my life up til then. As we drove between the trees I saw what was a little tent town hidden **inside the orchard**, but there were no real tents. It was all tarps and sheets set up as make-shift tents. And there were kids in there too. Apparently I had lived a very sheltered life because I had **NO IDEA** that this existed in our little town. And you know the funny thing is, besides the kids, one of the most disturbing parts of it was what the guy looked like that came up to our car. He was our age, tall, and very good looking. He could have been any one of the guys we went to school with. I had this idea in my head of what a migrant worker looked like and I was so wrong. They were just regular people. But they lived a different existence than most Americans are even aware of. At least most modern Americans, because from what they taught in school that kind of lifestyle was not uncommon to Americans pre-WWII. It's easy to forget though.

I remember being so shaken by that sight, but one of the things that struck me as we were leaving was how did they live out there all season without running water and stuff, and so I asked my friend and she said they usually used the bathroom at the house we stopped at around the corner.

It all still shocks and boggles my mind.

*This is a good book that I think is appropriate for most young people to read. There is something that happens that some parents wouldn't like their younger kids to read, but honestly just 'cause you don't let them read it doesn't mean they're not gonna do it. The better thing to do is let them read it - it's something that's perfectly natural (they're all gonna do it someday) and TALK to them about it. That's the better way to handle the situation in my opinion. Like I said earlier: the book has a very realistic feel. Everything else in the book is very appropriate (and probably important) for all young readers.

Updated: 12/05/2010

**I just wanted to say thanks again to Yvonne for picking me to win her book through gr First Reads! I forgot to add this before because as I was just about to finish writing my review, and about one sentence away from clicking save, something happened to computer and IT CRASHED! and I completely lost my review. Ack! So when I was trying to remember what I wrote (while totally worried about my computer), since I now had to completely rewrite the whole thing, I forgot to add another Thanks :). Soooo... Thank you, Yvonne.

Kat says

Things were complicated enough for Roar, even before her father decided to yank her out of the city and go organic. Suddenly, she's a farm girl, albeit a reluctant one, selling figs at the farmers' market and developing her photographs in a ramshackle shed. Caught between a troublemaking sidekick named Storm, a brooding, easy-on-the-eyes L.A. boy, and a father on a human rights crusade that challenges the fabric of the farm community, Roar is going to have to tackle it all—even with dirt under her fingernails and her hair pulled back with a rubber band meant for asparagus.

- from Goodreads.com

I sort of hate this blurb because sure, that's vaguely what the book is about but it makes it sound a bit hokey. Roar is definitely not hokey. A talented photographer, she's a city girl at heart but trying to make this whole farm thing work for her dad's sake. Her mom fell into a deep depression and started leaving their house for days at a time until finally she just left. Her dad, heartbroken, bought the farm as a way to start over.

At first Roar is skeptical but without meaning to she sort of falls in love with farm life (and so does the reader). The farm is located in California and a lot of the workers are illegal migrant workers. When a Mexican woman gets hit by a developer in an SUV and is killed, Roar's father convinces her husband, an illegal worker, to sue. This gets all the farm workers and farmers up in arms and tears up their little farm community.

To make matters more complicated, Roar is falling for Forest, the son of the SUV-driving developer. They meet at the hospital and then, in the manner of small towns, keep meeting. Through Forest she learns more about his mother and how there's always more than two stories to everything.

Prinz's attention to detail sort of steals the story. I want to see Roar's photos because I can see them so clearly in my mind that it feels like I should be able to search for them on flickr. I really enjoyed hearing about organic farming and aspects of that life that I had little knowledge of like the migrant worker situation.

Also? Can I just tell you how much I loved Roar and Forest's relationship? From the beginning, it's clear that Roar has a thing for him and I love how unapologetically in love Roar is. She doesn't beat around the bush but doesn't swoon annoyingly either. It's just a fact of her life, she's totally head over heels. For instance:

Forest is carrying a box of beets over to the truck, his pale, lean arms straining. He and Tomas are laughing about something, which is also strange since they don't even speak the same language. I am absolutely lovesick for this boy.

- page 80.

It's that whole, 'it wouldn't be special if it was anyone else but since it's him/her, it's amazing' that teens are so good at. Lately I've been reading books where it takes teens a little while to figure out their feelings so Roar's matter-of-factness was refreshing. Their whole relationship, actually, is refreshing. It's just a boy and a girl and they think each other is amazing. They treat each other with love and respect and honesty and I may be pining a little bit now for them. There is some drama - Forest is leaving for NYU at the end of the summer - but neither ever really doubts that what they have is real. It's fantastic.

So if you can't tell, I really enjoyed All You Get Is Me. I fell in love with Roar and Forest and weirdly, organic farming. And you know what? Yvonne Prinz sent me a packet of seeds as a book promo and I'm ridiculously excited to plant them and have wildflowers on my balcony in the summer.

I wish this one was released in the spring because it really does feel like a good summer read. If you can wait that long and savour it then, I think you'll really like it.

(and since Yvonne is Canadian, this counts towards my Canadian fiction challenge! Yay!)

Nancy says

Things were complicated enough for Roar, even before her father decided to yank her out of the city and go organic. Suddenly, she's a farm girl, albeit a reluctant one, selling figs at the farmers' market and developing her photographs in a ramshackle shed. Caught between a troublemaking sidekick named Storm, a brooding, easy-on-the-eyes L.A. boy, and a father on a human rights crusade that challenges the fabric of the farm community, Roar is going to have to tackle it all—even with dirt under her fingernails and her hair pulled back with a rubber band meant for asparagus.

My Take: I was surprised at how much I liked this book. The book has an agenda. Aurora is a witness to a fatal car accident which is caused by a suburbanite - a woman with fake boobs who is part of a development eating up the farmland - killing an illegal immigrant. To add tear-power to the story, the illegal immigrant has a heart-broken husband and a baby who survives the accident. Aurora's dad happens to be a human rights lawyer and wants justice. Just when you think the story can't get any cornier, enter the suburbanite's handsome teenage son just to sully the waters.

So we have a book with an agenda which I abhor, characters who seem to lack depth (fake boobs and all and evil developer) and teenage behavior that, as a mother, I do not condone. So why did I like it? I don't know!

Deconstruct: Some of the characters develop different dimensions. They become much more likeable and the court case ends the way it would in real life. The dialogue was fun (cue Storm), the protagonist and the protagonists' love interest (who is NOT brooding, thank goodness) developed a relationship over time spent together. It was rather sweet and reminded me a little of my own teenage summer romances. The teenager buried deep related to the relationships and the insecurities.

Just to clarify, the mother in me did not find a lot of behavior I am against. Overall, Aurora is a model teenager. There's just that *one* thing, one time. Is it sex, drugs, rock and roll? I'll tell you if you ask me. I won't ruin it here.

Shannon (aka The Tale Temptress) says

Okay, this was one of those that I really wanted to like, and actually thought I would like. Aurora "Roar" is a 15 year girl who loves photography and carries her camera with her everywhere. Reminds me of my daughter. Yay! That's where my interest stopped, unfortunately.

The premise was very interesting and had me buying the book... the idea of a girl falling for a boy who happens to be the son of the woman who just happened to be responsible for killing someone you know by reckless driving....loads of conflict, right? It just didn't go anywhere for me.

The author could have done so much more with that conflict, but in many ways, I think she took the easy way out. For instance, Roar keeps it a secret from Forest that her dad is suing his mom. What happens when he finds out? He's not outraged at all on his mother's behalf. Even if you don't agree with something your relative has done, you're going to want to be defensive, at least a little bit. At the very least, go away angry and come back and give it one of the old, "I've had time to think about it and..." moves. I just didn't find his complete agreement and acceptance realistic.

That is something I could overlook. The biggest problem to me was pacing and detail. There seemed to be a lot of random stuff in the book that had nothing to do with anything important. You could have left Storm out of the story entirely and you wouldn't have missed anything... not because she's not an interesting character but because her storyline with Roar was completely irrelevant. Nothing tied in together.

I just had trouble maintaining interest in general. Will I keep this book? Probably not. Will I ever read another book by this author? Of course I will. I like the author... one book I didn't care for won't turn me off entirely. And there were elements I did enjoy. I liked her friendships with her coworkers, life on the farm, and her photography. I just wish the author had done more with this.

Prashansa says

I really liked how the author wrote this book. The characters that she put into the story fit in very well with the story. The plot was pretty interesting as well. I loved reading about her life as a city girl to a farm girl and realising how everything was different.

Tyler says

i'm a little worried that the girl's name is Roar...but maybe that's just me.
