



Wild Orchid

Beverley Brenna

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Taylor Jane Simon is 18 years old and spending the summer with her mother in Prince Albert National Park. The holiday has been planned so Taylor's mother can spend time with her latest boyfriend, Danny, and work in the pizza restaurant near the park that Danny runs. Taylor would just as soon stay at home in Saskatoon, but because she suffers from an autistic condition called Asperger's Syndrome, she can't stay on her own. Taylor's mother encourages her daughter to explore the park's possibilities on her own. For Taylor, whose life experience has been seriously limited, this means facing the test of meeting new people who work in the park's nature center - and facing it alone. Summer also holds out the possibility of finding her own boyfriend, though Taylor isn't quite sure what that may involve. What she discovers will change her life forever.

Written as an epistolary novel, *Wild Orchid* is frank but optimistic, literal yet innocent. A courageous wit attends Taylor's gradual emergence as her own person, and the reader will find the exploration of Taylor's mind a revealing and heartwarming encounter.

Wild Orchid Details

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Author : Beverley Brenna

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From Reader Review Wild Orchid for online ebook

Laurie Girmus says

Excellent depiction of an 18 year old young woman diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

Kuljit says

This is a well-written book from the viewpoint of a special needs young adult. Personally, I would rather have read the story in 3rd person, because it would focus more on the main characters thinking and appearance and the character would be more dynamic. I read about 15 pages and stopped. It was too intense but then I end to finish the book because the amount of detail the author put in this book it makes the reader want to red the book more. Overall it was a good book but I think the 3rd person perspective would have been better in order to describe the appearance of the character.

Brenna says

Not for me.

Sam - Spines in a Line says

I really enjoyed this book. It's about a girl who suffers from Asperger's syndrome, and with her blunt nature she describes as Ass burger's syndrome. It paints a new picture for the reader as we can really see her pain to live with something that she can't control and gives the reader a new view on people with this syndrome. The main character is so blunt and sarcastic that it adds humour to the book so it's quite an engaging read. I read this as a MYRCA book and it well-deserved a place on that list.

Regina Kim says

Wild Orchid is a teenage fiction about an eighteen year old girl named Taylor Simon who has to spend her summer with her mother. This is because Taylor has Asperger's Syndrome and has to follow her mother's plans since she cannot stay home alone. Taylor determinedly reaches for independence in life and her mother encourages her to do so and gives her hope. Taylor feels scared and was filled with fear at first but becomes better at standing alone because of people surrounded by her. I want to recommend this book to all teenagers because some teenagers suffer standing alone and being individual. But if teenagers read this book, I'm sure some people can take courage

Lorie says

WILD ORCHID BY Beverly Brenna 5 stars

Lovely, charming, touching, and very clear in helping readers understand Asperger's Syndrome from inside the head of a teenager girl who was born with it.

Taylor is a very intelligent but literal minded 18-year-old who is simply unable to understand the common and usual social interactions and throw-away comments of most people's lives. She finds it difficult to look into people's faces, but easy to remember the Latin names and classifications of numerous plants and animals. She is strongly upset by changes in her routine, but very organized, neat and thorough. We see the world through her eyes as she is required to leave her comfort zone in a large Canadian city and spend a summer with her mother in a national park. Taylor is very distressed by the changes but gradually understands that she actually can take control of many reactions in her life and forge ahead even through fear of the unknown.

It's quite inspirational! As a person who lives with both ADHD and Tourette's Syndrome, I could really relate.

Jessica Figueroa says

Though out this book the readers will get a different perspective into the mind of Taylor who is a 18-year-old girl with asperger syndrome (Mild form of autism). Taylor's mother decides to move to a different town with her boyfriend bringing Taylor along. This pretty much changes everything for Taylor who has her own set routine, and now has to learn to make a new one.

I can get how this book can be difficult to read for some, its very descriptive in the first couple of pages which can get tiresome. I think this is a pretty good portrayal of someone with aspergers. I really enjoyed the book though. It only took me one day to read it. I have asperger syndrome myself and never known anyone else who has it and I loved reading Taylor's perspectives and how alike I am to her. Even though I feel that this book does drag once you get though it, its a pretty good book.

The reason I think it would be harder for people to get through it is because in the beginning shes feeling out of wack and pretty much is trying to get a hold of some routine and because she hasnt figured it out she gets descriptive about everything, gets obsessive with counting, thinks too much and tends to blather on. As it progresses you'll see she'll find some sort of routine and the writing gets better and runs more smoothly.

I would recommend this to people who want to learn different perspectives of others.

Zoey says

I wound up enjoying this, despite it continuing to read like a neurotypical adult doing some research on autism and sitting down to write a book about it. Taylor's symptoms are much more stereotypically male than

female on the spectrum, and her extreme lack of self-perception seems unrealistic to me (but maybe I'm just judging by myself). I liked and empathized with her, however, and that was what saved the book for me. Overall, a quick, sweet read, but nothing really special.

Jessie says

I need to stop reading books that I don't have any interest in just to help in my reading challenge. This was one of those books. I am not into contemporary at all, it's rare that I find one that doesn't bore me.

Ruth E. R. says

Terrific book with the voice of a young woman who has Asperger's Syndrome. I laughed out loud several times. I have some friends with Asperger's, and I could hear them in Taylor's voice as well as her adventures. If not for all the !&%\$% @@@ swearing, I would be more free to recommend this to other young people. I would like to read more books written from the perspective of young men with Asperger's (such as House Rules by Jodi Picoult), since it is far more common in males. However, this book gives a wealth of insight into understanding and treasuring our friends and neighbors who have Asperger's. They have the same dreams and face the same obstacles as we all do, yet in their own unique way. This book perfectly illustrates this point.

Cynthia Frazer says

Short novel, in journal style, of an 18 year old girl with Asperger's Syndrome. Set in Prince Albert National Park.

Anina says

The main character has asperger's (mild autism). I think she does a really good job of portraying how it is to have that problem. Much better than that dumpy incident of the dog in the nighttime or whatever book.

English Education says

This novel is about an 18-year-old girl with Aspergers syndrome. Taylor and her mom have recently moved. The novel is structured as journal entries, and the reader is taken along on Taylor's journey of adjusting to her new home environment. At the beginning of the novel the writing is a little chaotic, but as Taylor finds her place, the writing becomes more structured. Many reviews have stated that this novel does a great job presenting the realities of Asperger's. Students with a learning or social disability may relate to Taylor really well. The novel also offers a unique perspective into the mind of someone with Aspergers, for students who may not understand the disorder.

Alex says

I came into this book with hours upon hours of research into writing autistic characters with the majority of research being articles written by people who are autistic themselves - and this was not like anything I read in my research nor like anything that I have experienced personally.

One example is her hatred of the color yellow. I have never read anything about autistic people hating a color to the point where they can not stand looking at it. I do not want to say that it doesn't exist - there can certainly be visual sensitivity - but I have never read or heard anything like the fact that she cannot stand it.

There are definitely a couple of things I relate to, like her echolalia, special interests, oversharing, need for routine, and her sensitivity to being in the same location with lots of other people. But in terms of the story, it did not deliver, and ended with a disturbing note. I went into this book thinking that this girl would probably end the book getting a boyfriend. I'm not a big romance reader, but I decided to read it for the autistic main character.

If you're looking for a romance novel, this is not the book for you.

Spoilers start here:

-Spoilers below -

While Paul's age is never explicitly stated, I read him as being in his thirties, at least. So when Paul started hanging out with the main character, Taylor - alone - warning bells rung in my head, but I thought "maybe it'll be fine" and continued reading.

Then Paul kisses Taylor. They might both be adults, but I'm only seven months younger than the main character of this book, and I am really disturbed by this. In addition to this, he's married.

The worst part was that the main character didn't see the problem of this, though her mother did, and this is not resolved. Taylor even says that Paul was her boyfriend during the kiss.

If this had not happened, I would have given the book a 3.5. But since this did happen, I'm only giving it a 2.

I really don't like giving books a low rating - this is my first two-star review ever - but I hope my points are clear.

Jesse says

It was fascinating to get into the head of someone with Asperger's Syndrome. I'm not doctor, but it felt very accurate as I was reading. Taylor has just graduated from high school and moves to a national park with her mother and her mother's boyfriend for the summer. While adjusting to the change (never easy for Taylor) she manages to make friends, get a job, and even learn some new things about herself, all while searching for her first boyfriend. I love Taylor's voice and the fact that she is not a cookie cutter character. This is a very good

book, especially for anyone interested in what it's like being different.
