



Being West is Best

Monique Bucheger

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Twelve-year-old BFFs, Ginnie West and Tillie Taylor, are matchmaking geniuses. Together, they maneuvered Ginnie's widower-dad into proposing to Tillie's divorcee-mom. Sweet! Certain they are well on their way to sisterhood, each girl is floored when Tillie's lousy-excuse-for-a-father puts in an appearance after a six year absence. Too bad "lousy dad repellent" doesn't come in a can. Even though Tillie's dad has sobered up and is determined to make amends, Tillie would rather he just disappear again. If he stays, "Operation: Secret Sisters" may need to be renamed "Operation: Not Gonna Happen."

If that's not bad enough, the biggest bully in seventh grade comes over often and wishes he could call the West's farmhouse "home." When the bully's abusive dad shows up as well, Ginnie thinks it's time to change her family's motto from "When you're here, you're family" to "There's no more room at the West's."

Being West is Best Details

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From Reader Review Being West is Best for online ebook

Lu Ann says

Being West is Best is Book 4 in the Ginny West series, is the best book of the series! It is the last book of the first set of four but, hopefully, not the end of the very entertaining series! It definitely leaves the reader wanting more!

Many youth (girls especially) will totally enjoy this series! Author, Monique Bucheger, has an unique talent of adding the right amount of humor and adventure to make this drama enthralling. There is still much one will wish to experience with this family saga.

Much of the concerns, situations, and drama of the other three books are culminated in Being West is Best. The only negative opinion I had with any of this series, was the conversations. They felt too juvenile for twelve year olds. In this fourth book the conversation problem of the 12-year-old youth has been resolved. It reads perfectly for this age level. A surprise situation arises and was very predictable, yet, didn't take anything away from the story content. Perfect for ages 8 - 15.

My review of this book gives a Five Stars rating.

*This book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review, of which I have given.

Spunky N Sassy says

~~~Dee's Review~~~

Excellent drama and action story. Tillie must face her worst nightmare, the return of her abusive father, Jasper, after six years absence. Jasper has reformed and wants to get his family back. He soon learns they have moved on to the West family.

The interactions among the various family members is spellbinding. The reader can see the differing perspectives of past events, selective memories, misunderstandings and deep emotions that Tillie experiences. The story also reveals Tillie's growth into a more mature attitude of understanding and compassion.

The only " fly in the pudding" is the poor editing and sloppy formatting of the text. This interfered with the flow of the narrative. And therefore loses one star. I was given this book in exchange for an honest review.

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\*ARC provided for an honest review.

### **Charlie says**

Things get heated in the fourth installment of the Ginnie West Adventures!

The girls and Toran have had the moment of their lives: Todd proposing to Amanda. They are all on Cloud

9...until Ginnie and Toran try to cover up a message on the answering machine.

Aunt Roni is still in town, and she provides the motherly figure that all of the kids are in need of since Amanda has her hands full with dealing with Tillie, Todd and her ex-husband, Jasper. If Jasper stays around, what will happen to OSS...and Todd and Amanda's engagement?

It's hard on all of the members of the West family, because Jasper used to be just as much a part of the family as Jake and Todd are – adopted in through the love of Uncle Ben and Aunt Sadie. For Jake and Todd, having their “brother” back home after six long years is a bit of a shock, especially when Jasper is adamant about getting his wife and daughter back.

It all but crushes Tillie. Poor Tillie is in a tailspin nearly the entire book, and I can't say I blame her. I think I would act quite the same if I were in her shoes. Ginnie is also left out of the mix by her father and Uncle Ben. She has always been Tillie's protector, but this is one issue that Tillie has to come to grips with on her own.

All of the events of those nights of Tillie and Amanda's life before Jasper left have all been told through the eyes of Tillie in each of the books. As children, we often see things a certain way, and, like with selective hearing, see and remember what we choose to, sometimes through no fault of our own. Sometimes we disremember things that happened and how they happened...and this is one of those things Tillie has to understand in order to move forward. All these years she's believed that her father left, that he didn't want her: he threw her away. Discovering how deep a parent's love for their child is – and the sacrifice that one will do to keep their loved ones safe, even from oneself – is hard for young Tillie to accept.

Jasper isn't the only visitor to the West farm. When things seem to have settled a bit, the former bully that Ginnie, Toran and Tillie have befriended shows up with his frightened mother – and gives Jasper and Tillie their own moment to shine and put some of the pieces of their love back together.

With all that's happened, and Aunt Roni by the family's side, Ginnie gets a promise from her father that renews her faith in him, her family, and will reunite her with the mother she so yearns to know better.

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### **Tifani Clark says**

The author does a great job of showing her character's unique personalities. *Being West is Best* would be a good read for an older middle-grade reader--especially if they love horses and the outdoors. Some tough themes are tackled, so beware if your child is sensitive.

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### **Andilyn says**

*Being West is Best* deals with two twelve-year-old BFFs, Ginnie West and Tillie Taylor, who previously matched up their single parents, Ginnie's dad and Tillie's mom. Now everything seems to be working out for the girls when the families get an unexpected phone-call from Tillie's ex-father, claiming he's cleaned up his act and wants to make amends. The girls worry that long-lost-dad showing up will ruin their plan to become sisters, so they fight the reunion, while the well-meaning parents, uncles, and grandparents try to help them see that there is enough room for everyone in the West family.

Being West is Best is a book full of high family values and classic 12-year-old drama. It brought me right back to my uncertain, brace-faced youth and kept me locked in with delightful characters (Ginnie's long, lost aunt being my favorite), just enough plot twists, and a healthy serving of girl power. It took me about a day-and-a-half to read it (sticking to after kids went to bed and nursing the baby for reading time), but the story and lessons still stick with me, even having read it a month ago.

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### **Cynthia says**

I found this to be a wonderful clean book for teens. It is a book about teens going through life trying to find their way. It is about our life today, abuse, alcohol abuse, remarriage and kids that go through the everyday life of remarriage to fathers trying to get their family back together. It is a trying time for kids and all they have to deal with and overcome. I highly recommend this wonderful read to all teenager who love horse and the west life.

The author has a wonderful writing style that gets to the heart of a teens life. With wonderful characters that will reach out to you. You will not want to put the book down. It is a continue on book so I guess you would call it a cliffhanger but for me it wasn't. It was just a nice read that will be continue to see if the main character marry and how they deal with having young teenagers.

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### **Inderpreet Uppal says**

This is the final book of the series and boy! Does it have a lot to say! Even though it has fewer chapters than the previous book. This is a fast read! The novel is so engrossing and has so many twists and turns that you can barely take a breadth and I enjoyed it as I read it.

Monique had managed to tie in all the loose ends and make everyone happy too. I only missed not being able to know more about Queenie's father, it would have been fun. But perhaps Todd had a lot on his plate.

The incidents and setting for the novel add to the depth of this tale that teaches us about second chances and that everyone must keep their hearts open and minds unbiased. A great read.

Ginnie is the show stealer here too! She manages to be calm, understanding and a good friend and child. Even Tilly gets inspired from her, and manages to stand up for herself. Calliope and Ginnie have fun here too!

The abused kid Pierce and his family are also given a second chance as does Jasper. All the characters come together seamlessly and the end is befitting the series. Do grab your copy and read the whole series, you and your kids will love it.

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### **Rebecca Lamoreaux says**

I was very pleased with this book. It allowed the reader to see the reality that middle grade kids face today without making it depressing or scary. There was tension and dealing with hard moments including facing fears, standing up for what is right, and learning to forgive. But there was also the joy and love of family. I thought Monique did a great job of allowing us to see the realities of facing fears and trials through the eyes of teenagers and allowing us to remember that no matter what the difficulties there is always someone to turn

too. Plus I loved the upbeat attitude of the book and the idea of hope no matter what the kids face. I would easily recommend this to any teen or adult. I loved it and I'm 30 :)

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### **Peggy says**

I can't say enough just how great this is a great series for kid, yes adults too. Again, each book has it's own story that kind of goes into the next. But this one pulled at me emotionally. If you haven't read these books yet, you really are missing out!

\*Received for an honest review\*

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### **Jane Ritz says**

Being West is Best deals with a lot of issues that today's children may face. Tillie deals with rebuilding a relationship with a father who deserted her. Todd and the children with the prospects of becoming a blended family. Ginnie, Tillie and Toran deal with the new friendship they have established with Pierce, the school bully. Pierce has to deal with an abusive father. There are lots of different relationships in this book. This series is great for those ages 8 and up. I think girls would particularly like it.

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### **Tonja Drecker says**

From all books in the series, I found this one to be one of the craziest- in a good sense. Like in the rest of the series, another difficult family problem strikes and the Wests (mostly Ginnie) need to handle it as well as possible. This entire series would make a lovely soap opera for young girls, and especially this book shoots off in this direction.

Finally, the hoped for marriage proposals takes place, but as things get going, Ginnie has reason to believe the wedding might not take place after all. She follows her first gut reaction, which of course, isn't the best and ends up tumbling into more trouble. The characters in general act very appropriately, if not always clammily, which offers a ton of humor and adventure as they work things out.

Again, I can recommend this to girls 10+ who enjoy drama, humor and family craziness.

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### **Amy Miller says**

I loved this series. The West family is a family I would have loved to have. A family of great values, and morals they really stand out to me. They seem to have their hands in everything and everyone's life and helping making a difference. I love that this broaches subjects that kids face today and the feelings they have about them, and how to handle the situation and the feelings they are having. When I was reading this book and the entire series, it brought back memories of my mom dating and remarrying (although I didn't have a Tillie) A definite must read for a young teen.

