



# Lean on Me

*Candy Crum*

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## Lean on Me Candy Crum

Sixteen year old Bri comes from a wealthy family, allowing her an expensive pass into the popular crowd, though it never much mattered to her. She's on the basketball team and track and is the top in both.

Bri has everything a girl could want, but she longs for a traditional family that loves one another deeply and would do anything for one another instead of the one she was gifted - cold and very distant. Growing up this way has left Bri alone and forced to raise herself.

Bri's parents pressure her to be the best at everything instead of just being the best that she can be. As a result of trying for the perfect life for her parents, hoping that it will one day impress them, Bri finds herself in an abusive relationship for title rather than love with the high school football star and pressured into doing what a lot of teenagers are pressured into doing.

When Bri becomes pregnant, her entire world is turned upside down and she has no idea who she can trust anymore. Bri struggles to find a place in this world for herself and for her baby - the baby that she is desperate to have and watch grow. Along the way, Bri is given an opportunity to completely change her life and the life of her child - but it may hinder the life of someone incredibly important to her ... binding him to a future he was never meant to have, just for her. Bri is forced to grow and grow stronger as she fights for her baby and learns how to be a good mother.

## Lean on Me Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Candy Crum

Format :

Genre : Young Adult, High School

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# **From Reader Review Lean on Me for online ebook**

## **Jennifer Kirkwood (Levac) says**

The original review was posted on Genuine Jenn

I received a copy of this e-book in exchange for an honest review.

This is the first book I have read from this author and enjoyed her writing style, I did find the characters to be older in their ways than their age. Most teens wouldn't be as mature in these situations as Bri and her friend Matt. Sometimes I forgot they were only 16 and not in their 20's. Becoming a teen mom is anything but easy but to have your own parents disown you would be the worst especially in that time.. I can't even imagine turning my kids away if they made a big mistake in their lives.

The author does a wonderful job with the story line and developing each character. I really loved the relationship between Bri and Matt. They have have been friends since they were little and as they grew their friendship grew into something more that neither realized until Bri was pregnant. I had so many emotions throughout this novel. It is really a touchy subject but the author did a great job and did it very tasteful for the subject. Bri is really a tough girl with her head on straight, even with the hand she has been dealt she will succeed with what she wants in life. This was a great read.

I give this book a 4 out of 5 stars. I look forward to reading more by Candy Crum in the future.

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## **Bethany says**

Review of Lean on Me

4 stars

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

An uplifting story about a young teenage girl, who is to become a mother, fighting for her and her little girl and having to go down an extremely tough road to do so.

I enjoyed this story, it was a perfect read for a rainy day and a story that made me smile and lift my spirits up.

Bri was a wonderful character. Despite getting pregnant at such a young age, she was mature, realistic, strong and loving and reading the story you knew that no matter how young she was, she would be a great mother and she deserved to get a happy ending.

Matt was also wonderful. A little older than Bri, he was a knight in shining armour for her and was so responsible and supportive of Bri. As was his lovely family.

The plot surprised me, when I read the blurb for the book I didn't expect so much drama, especially in the form of Mike. But it definitely kept me hooked and wanting to keep on reading to find out what would happen next and if he was going to go after Bri.

It was unrealistic but I'm a firm believer that books are there as an escape and sometimes we want to read a story that's unrealistic and would only happen in a fairytale. And because I still really enjoyed reading this book it didn't bother me that it wouldn't ever happen in real life.

Overall a quick, easy, and in the end happy read which is exactly what I was looking for.

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## **Momma says**

**\*\*Spoiler Warning\*\***

This was my first novel by Candy Crum. I was initially drew to it due to the subject matter. As a former teen mom, I wanted to see how she would handle a teen pregnancy. Boy, was I ever in for more than I expected!!

The story itself was well written and had wonderfully developed characters. This is one of those stories where someone asks you what it's about and you launch into a 10 minute speech of everything that happened and how emotional it was. Just ask my husband.. ha. He won't be asking me about books for a while.

### Characters:

I loved Briana. She is such a strong personality. Only 16 when she becomes pregnant, yet she has the force of will to stand up to her parents (who immediately disown her) and get herself out of an abusive situation. She is pretty much my hero.

And then we have Matt.. The best friend. Matt is the type of guy that we all want our daughters to fall for. Loving, responsible, always there to take care of Briana and protect her. He's pretty much perfect.

### The Drama:

Oh the drama. This book surprised me with the sheer amount of various dramas that were put forth. Most authors focus on one specific drama and go from there.. Not our Candy.. She manages to tackle teen pregnancy, abusive relationships, finding love, abortion, difficult decisions and pregnancy complications. Any of these topics would have made for a wonderful story and IMO it takes a special author to be able to take on them all and write a novel that astounds the audience.

From the very beginning you will fall in love with Briana.. I did . You will most likely want to strangle her parents.. I did. You will hate Mike (abusive boyfriend) and spend lots of time wondering how justice will be served and cross your fingers that he gets what's coming to him. I am still amazed at the evil that is Mike. You will root endlessly for Matt and Briana to finally be together.. And towards the end, you will struggle with the decision that Matt must make and wonder if you would have made the same one..

The Moral:

As I said above, I believe that Candy managed to encompass many things in this book.. -Teaching us about teen pregnancy in a more realistic view- it's not all smiles.

-Teaching us about abusive relationships and how we should be strong and get out.

-Teaching us to be strong - like Briana- and stand up for what we believe in. No matter what.

- Teaching us (as parents) that we should support our children no matter what. Everyone makes mistakes.

In conclusion, I was deeply moved by this book. I recommend it for anyone who likes a good story. While it does tackle difficult situations, it is a wonderful young adult/new adult book. Initially when I saw that subject, I thought to myself - No way would I let my young adult reader be reading about pregnancy ect.. But there are no sex scenes and it's very clean in that regard.. I immediately had my teenager read it (she too fell in love).

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## **Becca says**

I am a new reader of Candy Crum and let me tell you how happy I am that I had the chance to review this novel. Lean On Me is one of those novels that you will cry throughout but be happy that you did. I finished it in a couple of days over the weekend because I was so intrigued by this author that I knew nothing about. The book grabs you as you journey along with Bri through her story. Her journey that she travels is so touching and heartbreaking at the same time that you will have no choice but to feel for her. The emotion that runs throughout is phenomenal and definitely makes me want to see what else I have missed out on from this author.

This story is all about a sixteen year old that finds out that she is pregnant. Not that I was that young, but I was nineteen when I found out with my first child. I know what it's like to not yet be an adult and to be scared of what is to come. Dealing with her parents and even an abusive boyfriend are her worries as she works through this life changing situation. She also goes through a lot of judgement from her community about her situation. I was lucky enough to only have had the scorn of my parents (until the baby was born of course) so I am not familiar at all with EVERY situation that Bri went through but I could just imagine the pain. Bri chooses to keep the baby no matter what. It is a choice that would be hard for any young mother to make and I would have made the same one.

I loved that the author featured Bri and all her maternal glory and instincts even at the age of sixteen. Bri also falls in love along her journey and I was happy to see her have that after all that she had been through. Romance is something that I enjoy from time to time and this one was no exception. The hardship and triumphs that Bri faced made the read even all that much more interesting. Your emotions will be exploding all over the place as you read this novel. If you haven't read Candy Crum, you need to, and I will now be reading more of her works that I never knew about before. FIVE stars all the way!

Disclosure: I received a copy of this novel in exchange for my review. All opinions are my own.

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## **Hayley Guertin says**

I absolutely loved this book. From the characters, to the story, to the way it was written, it was absolutely perfect. Candy Crum really knew how to express the feelings of the characters and have them portrayed the way she wanted them to be.

The characters were wonderful. I loved the chemistry between Matt and Bri. Their attitudes and comments towards each other made me laugh and kept me wanting to read more. I loved their relationship and their personalities themselves.

The story itself was really well written, and well formatted. I loved how the story evolved, and the way the book ended was just how I wanted it to be. There were a lot of things not expected in the book, so that definitely kept it interesting.

The ending was exactly what I wanted it to be. Of course, some things that occurred shocked me, as I didn't actually think they would happen, but they did. I loved the book, and would recommend it to anyone wanting a fast read that can keep you interested. I have to give this book 5 out of 5 stars! :)

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## **Amanda says**

You are all in for a real treat! I was lucky enough to get to read *Lean on Me* before it was released. I have been a fan of Candy Crum's for the last few years and I adore all her work, but she has blown everything that came before away with this book!

I cried many times though *Lean on Me*, which I finished in a single day. The strength of the raw emotions in this book grabbed hold of me and didn't let go until the end. I felt as if I was making Bri's extraordinary journey right alongside her.

*Lean on Me* covers the life of a sixteen year old girl finding out she is pregnant. She has to deal with her parents, an abusive boyfriend and the scorn and mockery of her school and town. Bri could have chosen the easy way out, but against all odds, she chooses to keep her baby, no matter the cost. I can imagine many young mothers making the same choice.

Bri has to endure some true horrors through this book and she manages to do it all with grace. She shows more love and maternal concern at just-pregnant sixteen than some full grown mothers I have met. Bri exemplifies what it means to be a true mother, no matter the age.

Throughout all the ordeals and obstacles that Bri must overcome in this book, she manages to fall in love as well. Not the typical sixteen year old puppy love, but the steal your breath, make your heart skip a beat love. Candy writes every moment of it spectacularly, pulling the reader into the minds and hearts of all the characters.

While I usually prefer paranormal fiction as opposed to contemporary romance, I loved this book. The characters grew and fought for what they cared about. Each triumph was hard won and Bri's story moved me.

I would highly recommend *Lean on Me* to anyone with a taste for contemporary romance and happy endings. Candy Crum delivers both in spades. *Lean on Me* will grab your emotions, tie them up into a tight little ball and play pinball with them before coming to a spectacular finish. You'll laugh, you'll cry, but most of all, you will FEEL.

5/5

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## **Jennifer Treviño says**

An unideal situation turned masterpiece!, March 17, 2014

Where to begin?!? I am not new to Crum's awesomeness, but this was the first non-paranormal. WOW! Talk about an emotional roller coaster ride! This story began a bit troublesome hitting on some serious topics and tugging some major heartstrings, but as always Candy Crum went above & beyond! She takes us to an unideal situation and bumps it up a few notches by incorporating abusive relationships, teen pregnancy, abortion topics, complications, the importance of decision making, & figuring out what real love is all while dealing with the most unsupportive "parents" EVER. I loved Bri the whole way through & she ends up being the role model I would vote for. Showing that life isn't perfect, things happen, our choices come with consequences, but never give up. She learns that ultimately our decisions will make us or break us. Standing up & choosing to fight for what we know is right ... that will complete us ... even if it's not the ideal situation.

I love her support system too! They added so much to this story & it makes you appreciate who you have in your life. Can you imagine if we were all surrounded by "those friends" like in the beginning of this story? I would not wish that on anyone!

I applaud Bri for finding the real meaning of unconditional love & refusing to give up no matter what!!

<http://jenisbookshelf.blogspot.com/20...>

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## **Felicity Nichols says**

Candy Crum is a first time author for me and I truly enjoyed her story. Lean On Me follows the story of Bri. Captured in an emotionally abusive relationship, Bri becomes pregnant and embarks on her journey through hell. Watching Bri stay strong and focus on her baby really motivated me to continue reading. Mike is her abusive boyfriend determined to keep her from having a baby and ruining his life.

Her bestfriend Matt swoops in to save her and protect her. Sealing a relationship that the two of them never realized was there, Matt realizes he wants to help her heal and grow strong. As he spends more time with Bri, it becomes evident that he is in love with her and is willing to protect her at all costs.

Candy Crum takes you on an emotionally roller coaster with Lean On Me. She touches on sensitive subjects bringing them to light. This is definitely worth asking your teens to read because it helps them to understand the depth of how bullying, emotional abuse, and teen pregnancy really are. I give high praise to Candy for writing such an inspiring story for us. I would love to see more about Bri and witness her growth.

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## **Amanda says**

### **4 UPLIFTING STAR THOUGHTS**

What a beautiful and uplifting story! It is an escape from reality, when a beautiful girl with an unexpected pregnancy finds the support she needs and is able to overcome so many obstacles. It is not usually like this in real life, but a boy like Matt is exactly who I hope my own daughter falls in love with someday!

Bri is sixteen years old and from the outside it seems like she has it all. Wealthy parents, star basketball player, popular student, and she's dating the high school football star. But things aren't always how they seem. Her parents have always been cold and distant and left Bri to raise herself, while still maintaining their standards.

"She'd loved him until the moment when he'd struck her, ultimately betraying her trust."

She thought she was in love, but then she found herself in an abusive relationship and was pressured into having sex. Which ultimately left her pregnant, abused, and alone. When her parents abandon her, she is left alone to figure out who she can turn to. Matt has been her best friend forever. They have always had a special bond and she adores his family. Matt is there for her when no one else is.

"God, I'd forgotten how you were when your mom was pregnant. You're a worrier." He smiled. "I worry about my girls. What can I say?"

Bri wants to stay in school and keep her pregnancy a secret so she doesn't get hurt. She is already in love with her baby and will do everything it takes to keep her safe. Matt is always there at every turn to protect her and soon new feelings begin to blur the lines between them. She doesn't want to hold him back and drag him down by having him take care of her and her baby. But Matt won't give up.

"You look just as beautiful to me as you always have. The wounds will heal and the baby will grow, your belly will grow, and your beauty will grow. Never think otherwise."

Can Bri protect herself and her baby? Will she be able to stand up for herself and heal the physical and emotional damage others have caused? Will she let Matt be there for her, or will she run away to keep him from a future he was never meant to have?

This story will probably never happen in the real world, but I have to believe good things CAN happen. And a book is meant to be an escape from reality. I loved all of the characters in this book, and I am a sucker for a story about best friends who fall in love!

**\*\*Gifted A Copy for An Honest Review\*\***

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## **Ashley says**

This review and cover reveal can also be found at <http://chiquitablogger.wordpress.com>

So, before I review this book. Let me just state that this story was 300% unrealistic and could only happen in fairy tale land.

HOWEVER, with that said, I totally enjoyed it. I love a good unexpected pregnancy, just the right amount of angst, and best friends falling for each other. I thought the baby's name was a horrid choice, but overall, I really liked the characters and story, and thought the story was just fabulous!

Definitely check this one out!

**\*Received an ARC for honest review.\***



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## **Renee W. Tyler, Battery Operated Book Blog says**

I was given the chance to read this book and give an honest review. I found this to be an amazingly written story that covers so many topics and still manages to keep you hanging on.

This is a story that covers lots of topics that most seem to want to sweep under the rug. I liked how Candy Crum not only wrote about them, but she did them in a very good way that also gave her characters great depth. This is a great book for any young/new adult to pick up and read and to probably relate to in some way or another.

In Lean on Me we are introduced to Bri Grace finding out that she is pregnant. She is trying to figure out how to breech the topic with her very demanding over the top parents. When she decides to bring it up to them she is surprised that her father brings up the topic over dinner about one of her classmates. After the comments made by her mother Bri decides to keep her pregnancy to herself until she is far enough along that abortion will not be a choice.

When one of Bri's classmates, who is supposed to be her friend, happens to find out about the pregnancy she goes straight to Bri's so called boyfriend Mike. When he confronts her she admits that she is indeed pregnant with his child of which he denies because they had only had sex once. ( and we all know you can't get pregnant if you only do it once right). Well due to the fact that she refuses to get an abortion, Mike decides to take matters into his own hands. When Bri's parents tell him that she is at the local gas station Mike shows up with a few of his friends and beats Bri with in inches of her life all while trying to kill the baby. When she arrives at the hospital she is unconscious. Upon coming to she immediately asks about her baby, which catches her parents off guard. When she firmly states she is going to keep it her mother then decides to leave Bri to herself so that she will have to be on her own. During all of this her best friend Matt continues to stay by her side and is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that Bri is taken care of physically, mentally, and financially.

This book is amazing because it not only is a good sappy read, but it really opens the doors for conversations about teenage pregnancy. Domestic abuse that can happen in any age range and shows that it can be emotional as well as physical. It also touches base on abandonment and bullying. I love that Candy Crum put this story out there covering so many of the taboo topics and used her characters to portray a positive message that no matter how hard life may be to always stay positive, don't give up, and be willing to work to achieve your dreams and goals even when there are set backs. Again this was a beautifully written story that really gets the message out there and should be a story that many young adults should read and parents should read and talk about with their teens. I think it opens your eyes to the things that kids today are faced with and how do they deal with them. Also I think it is a good way to bring up the topic of teenage sex and how important safe sex is as well as open communication between young adults and their parents.

I hopet Candy Crum will give us another book even if just a short story following the journeys of this young couple

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**sue says**

LEAN ON ME. Let me say, looking at the cover you would think this is your straight 'run of the mill' typical love story, boy meets girl. Let me tell you, it is not.

I thoroughly enjoyed this story.

Bri has had to practically bring herself up. Her Mother was not close to Bri, she didn't seem to have the motherly skills in bringing her up and kept herself halfway removed from her. This of course harmed their relationship. When Bri finds herself to be pregnant, which was brought about by a forceful boyfriend, popular boyfriend who no one believed to have a harmful bone in his body, Bri was not believed that she was forced into having sex. Consequences, pregnancy. Her Mother wanted her to have an abortion. Her Father was a weak man who although didn't agree with his wife, was too shallow to stand up for his daughter or what he himself believed in. Bri was disowned and cut off without a penny.

She always had a friend in Matt.

Its not a straight forward story, as not only does Bri want to keep her baby, she is now homeless. Her ex abusive boyfriend doesn't want her to have it and goes to plenty of lengths to keep that from happening, Bri has to go through many problems and abuse to escape.

How can she get the Police and everyone to understand that her ex boyfriend, who is so popular with people and school, be responsible for a crime?

He makes a big mistake! Now she and others can bring him to justice, or can they?

Does Bri escape and have her baby unharmed?

Does she fight for her life, her baby? Where does Matt and his family come in?

How did she survive with being cut off with no means of support?

I thought Bri to be a strong character, she had to grow up fast.

No ties were left dangling, the conclusion was all tied up at the end and as I say, I thoroughly enjoyed this story.

I wouldn't say this story is unrealistic at all. I knew a story similar to this.

The author did a very good job on the insight to how Bri was feeling, I loved Matt. We all need a Matt, what a boy!!! You could tell he came from a 'good strong family' background, Mother, Father, solid relationship with a good marriage of his parents that grounded him. He was taught how to respect women.

Thumbs up to Candy Crum for a fantastic read.

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## **Sandra "Jeanz" says**

A journey through lots of emotions . . .brilliantly written!

### **INITIAL THOUGHTS**

So what was I thinking approaching this book? Mmm I'm interested to see how well the abusive relationship

is covered having been involved in an abusive marriage I wonder how realistic the book will be. I am reviewing this one for a blog tour too so am reading it for many reasons and I'd say I am apprehensively looking forward to it.

## MY REVIEW

Basically Briana one of the "popular girls crowd" is in a relationship with "the popular crowd guy" which all sounds great but Briana's boyfriend is both emotionally and physically abusive with her. Briana is trying to find a way to break off the relationship when Mike decides its time their relationship went to the next level of having sex. Mike feels like he has waited long enough and pressures Briana into having sex with him. Then Briana finds out she is pregnant . . . what should she do? Her mother is very pro-abortion to get rid of "little problems" and her father will do as her mother demands, so Briana feels she cannot tell them. Briana wants to keep the baby despite how he/she was conceived and all the hardships she will endure to keep her child.

Luckily Briana does have a close male friend called Matt and his family to help her through. Matt's parents are initially mortified when they find out the truth of what Briana has been going through. Matt's parents are the type of parents everyone would wish for. Though Briana does try her best to go it alone to show everyone that she can cope.

Briana suffers a lot, from being ridiculed at school to being beaten up by her babies father who wants the "little problem" to go away.

As time goes on and Brian struggles after her parents remove support of any kind she is drawn closer to her close male friend Matt, could they be more than just friends?

Though the two are close friends they have both with held secrets from each other, can they learn to trust each other again? Can they remain friends through all the drama?

This book flowed really well and covered more than one difficult subject, teen sex, abusive relationship being just two of them. I really didn't want to put this book down until I had finished it. I was of course rooting for Briana for everything to work out for her. At times I wanted to shake her parents. I also thin the character of Matt was brilliantly written, everyone need a friend like Matt in their lives. Though I have only mentioned what happened between Mike and Briana there is much more depth and drama to the story.

So did I enjoy the book? Yes, the book really drew you in and made you care about Briana and her baby.

You really want her to succeed and do it her way. As a reader you always want to see justice served to Mike.

Would I recommend the book? Yes, if by teens reading it, the book prevent a teenage pregnancy, or being pressured into having sex then its moral has been delivered well. The book also contains messages for a more adult audience too about not staying in an abusive relationship, getting help from others as well as being supportive to your children too. Would I read other books by Candy Crum? I'd certainly read another of books in this genre and I thin I may give her paranormal/fantasy titles a go too.

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## Gina's Library says

This book was so much more than I thought it was going to be. I read it in a day. I just could not put it down and couldn't let go of Briana. This book will tug on your heart strings. I found myself feeling many different emotions while reading.

Being a teenage mother is hard. You never know who is really a friend and who is just a friend for appearances. Briana has to fight very hard to keep her child. She is determined to keep her baby and still have a good life.

Matt and Briana have been best friends since childhood. Some say they are more than just friends. They have

a bond like no other. Is he there for Briana when she needs a friend the most? Or is one of the many that turn his back on her too?

There is so much I want to say about this book but it would be a spoiler. This is definitely a good selection for a book club so you can discuss all the different dynamics of it with others.

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### **P.A. Warren says**

Lean on me is my first book by Candy Crum. I enjoyed reading it. I had a slight problem when reading the changing POVs occasionally a character would just jump in out of nowhere( i.e the principal) and just some of the dialogue was hard to get into. Loved the subject and many young girls deal with this and I hope they read it and know that they can be a strong young woman with a baby. Oh and the ending was pure awesomeness!

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