



# Charly

*Jack Weyland*

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## **Charly** Jack Weyland

Meet Sam, the straitlaced computer-science major from Brigham Young University. And then meet Charly, the sparkling, quick-witted girl who steps into his world and turns it upside down. Their courtship is a never-ending round of ups and downs- literally. On their first date Charly tricks Sam into taking a Ferris wheel ride, then tells the operator they're engaged! All of this seems to be a little more than Sam can cope with. But he gradually comes to appreciate Charly's point of view. From the girl who loves to laugh, he learns to do the same. He finds out for the first time what it's like to be really alive. Charly is a story of joy and spontaneity, learning and loving, and, most of all, growing.

## **Charly Details**

Date : Published September 1st 1987 by Shadow Mountain (first published May 1980)

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Author : Jack Weyland

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# From Reader Review Charly for online ebook

## Bracken says

I am quite embarrassed that I read this. For one, it is the sappy type of story that I usually try to avoid. Second, there were several moments while reading this that I felt like the author was portraying the LDS faith in such a way that members of the church only look at other people as targets for converting them to their faith. The characters, both male and female, were misogynistic. Comments like "I'm the priesthood holder here, therefore, you should do what I say" made me cringe. Sam, the protagonist is my antithesis. He disgusts me with his shallow views of life.

Unfortunately, with all of the teenage girls in the LDS Church that read this book, it is no wonder that there are problems in the Utah Mormon culture with self-esteem, only caring about people until you find out that they're LDS (or until they find out that non-Mormons don't want to convert), and other cultural problems.

Anyone who is not a member of the LDS faith, please don't think that this is how all LDS people think or feel.

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## Gina says

I was 12 years old. I was attending Grange Middle School and I guess the Chicken Pox didn't catch me as a tot and so I had to suffer from an acute case of it. Not only that, I had a nasty sore throat. So I missed school. One would think "Yeah! I get to sleep in!" but not really any fun when you are miserable. So there I sat in my room in bed, with strep and the little bubbles on my skin had popped and I was in a world of pain, even the bottom of my feet. I was crying a whole lot. Thankfully my mom gave me this book to read. It took my mind completely off of my woes and gave me a whole other reason to cry. A MUST READ!!

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## Rylee says

I loved it SO much...but I also hated it. I hated it because of the sad ending. But then again that is why I loved it! I think Charly is very funny and Sam too and the book has a lot of funny reality comedy. I laughed a lot. Sam does embarrass himself a lot and that made me laugh. I love how they fall in love and how Sam realizes he's never loved anyone but her the entire time he was dating other girls! I love this book! It is very sad to look back on the beginning of the book when you have finished the end. I think they were a cute couple. I love the ferris wheel when they rode it at the end together. I was incredibly sad when she died on Sam's birthday. My favorite part was just when she was about to go to the hospital their son Adam said 'Mommy'

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## Laura says

This book is an embarrassment. A tired formula wrapped in a cliché. It was absolutely nauseating. Now, I recognize that a romance must, in some way, be predictable -- romances are not really mysterious, you don't

have to wonder who the "good guy" is, and we read it because we need to have something pretty and easy to understand; something "feel-good." But there are limits to predictability, and in this case, it was not only ridiculous but actually downright insulting. I mean, when I'm able to predict almost page-by-page EXACTLY what will happen in a story from the very first paragraph...when I can actually predict lines of dialogue before they even happen...that is just TOO darn predictable. It was obvious well past the point of simple frustration. To be honest with you, I actually LAUGHED because it was such a bad book. I had to laugh, because if I didn't laugh I would cry. I only kept reading out of sheer morbid curiosity -- and possibly a bit of masochism.

The characters are NOT witty or original -- far from it -- everyone is so cookie-cutter and flat and completely uninteresting. The book reads like one giant MormonAd (not to insult MormonAds, which are actually significantly more interesting and entertaining than this book) and was overly preachy.

The only good thing I can say about this book is that it was mercifully short. I only had to sacrifice about an hour of my time. Still, it was an hour I could have spent doing more enjoyable activities, like having my teeth drilled.

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### **Rebecca says**

I am sorry to say that I saw the movie before reading the book. But I absolutely loved the movie and when I heard there was a book, I immediately knew I had to read it. Well, I read it. And i hope that my opinion of it isn't because of my opinion of the movie.

This book was fantastic. It's only 98 pages, but it seems longer. Charly is hilarious, and sweet, and so amazing and Sam almost doesn't deserve her. I like Sam, too. He can be a bit "stiff", but he really is like able. Occasionally he made some big mistakes, and said some really stupid things, but all in all he's a good guy.

I bawled my eyes out. As I finished it, I was like "oh I probably cried for the last what, 30 pages?" Yeah, no. I looked and the point I started bawling was page 89. 9 pages before the end. 9! It seemed so much longer. But I bawled for a good 5 minutes after the final page. I did cry at a few other parts of the book though.

Basically, this is the most emotionally wrecking book I have ever read (and is better than the movie). It was so good. Next time I will make sure I have a box of tissues next to me.

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### **Ellee B says**

The book "Charly" by Jack Weyland is a sweet romance novel that enables us to become more grateful for the people we have in our lives today. It starts as the 22 year old Sam gets asked by his dad to go on a date with a new girl in the neighborhood, Charly. Sam reluctantly agrees and starts dating Charly. She shows him how to love and live life to the fullest! This book helped me to wonder what I could do to lighten up and become more like Charly. This book was full of excitement, loss, healing, and love. To show its many emotion changes, I found it unnerving when Charly took off without telling Sam. And the at the same time it was fun and exciting when Charly and Sam decided to make further plans for the future. I thought that the book was well thought out, and though it ended very sadly, I liked the way that the author concluded it. I won't say who or how, but it was very discouraging to watch the characters sitting with each other as one of

them lay on their deathbed. I felt like I could really relate to this scenario. My youngest brother, Sam, was born 3 months early and struggled with many problems, one being that he had pneumonia and his lungs were not yet fully developed. He nearly died several times as his lungs kept collapsing and his heart would stop beating. Thankfully and miraculously, he somehow got through it and is now a 7 year old genius with absolutely no health problems! But it was a different feeling reading it and looking back at that experience. It made me so much more grateful to have my brother today. I really loved this book! I think the reason why I liked it so much was because of the way it was written. Jack Weyland makes you feel as if you are in the book too, like an invisible character that nobody knows, and yet I am aware of their very thoughts. To further expound on the way that I felt so attached to it, Charly was the first book that literally made me cry while reading! It was so good, and I don't think I'd have any problem with reading it again any time soon!

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### **Donna Cook says**

I have a policy of not posting books I'd only rate with one or two stars, but I'll make an exception in this case. I'd hate for someone outside the Church to read this book and then judge me for it. This guy drove me absolutely nuts. N-U-T-S. Was this a story or an advertisement for the Church? The main character was so self-involved, chauvenistic and self-righteous it made me want to hurl. I'd feel better about it if I thought the author had any clue. This doesn't work as a story either. Over and over again the characters did and said things because that's what the author wanted them to do, not because it's what they really would do. Whatever. In general, the book started out okay, and because I didn't go into it with high expectations to start with I was able to overlook minor irritations. By the middle of the book it was just too much to bear. It went downhill right until the very end, and by that time I didn't give a crap about any of it and could only express my joy that it was over. At least it was short!!

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### **Savanna B 1 Boulton says**

Charly was an exciting warmhearted book about love and kindness. Sam is a Mormon that just returned from his mission. He isn't exactly looking for a girlfriend but his father, invites him to take his boss's daughter out for the night. Sam was not happy about this knowing Charly would be a snobby rich girl. But their two personalities are perfect together which they soon realize as they spend more and more time together. I loved this book because I am LDS so I was able to connect with a lot of the religion in the book and Sam's perspective. I loved how Sam was so sweet to her and how they fell in love when I thought that they wouldn't have a chance together as a couple because of their differences. But one thing I didn't really like was the ending. I liked how it ended because it was a change of how romance books usually end but I feel it could have had a little more information. This book was beautifully written and had lots of meaning behind it. It taught me that everything will work out in the end no matter what happens.

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### **Kaylene Faucette says**

yeah that is right. i gave it a 5. this was my favorite favorite favorite book as a kid. i read this when i was 11 and it was one of the very first books that pulled me in and taught me to love reading. it will always hold a special place in my heart.

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## Mallory says

You know, when you read a book involving a romance and a cancer victim, you expect something a *little* sappy - kind of like *A Walk to Remember*. Sappy, but really, really sad - the kind of sad that if you have a heart, you cry for hours (well, maybe not hours - but you at least feel a burning behind your eyes). When Charly died, I was relieved. I saw it coming and I rejoiced. I know it sounds awful, but if you've read the book, and you've got half a brain, you were considering suicide the whole while. I've never dragged myself through a worse book - or, at least, not that I can remember.

The characters were shallow, the plot drab and predictable, the dialogue boring... I could go on and on and on.

The worst part is that usually I enjoy LDS fiction (I mean, sure, it can be melodramatic, and there's a sort-of formula that most follow, but I *like* them), but this was honestly just painful. I only finished it because my friend had loved it and recommended it to me, and then lent me her copy.

If you love life, don't read it. If you've read it, I'm sorry.

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## Isabel says

*\*Spoiler\**(Plot) Sam is forced to go on a date with his dad's boss's daughter Charly. Because she has no friends. After that date with Charly he finds she's rich and a little snobby. After they hung out for a while. They got really close and started dating. Charly didn't care what others thought she'd make up lies and make Sam embarrassed. Soon Charly moved back to New York. Sam missed Charly. Sam went on his mission and soon Charly came back, but she was with another guy. She chose between Sam and the other guy and ended up with Sam. They lived in a little house because they were poor. They ate beans and rice also because of how poor they were. They got married in the temple and went to church. Soon Charly had her baby. Later on Charly got very sick with cancer. And then she died. And it was just Sam and baby Adam.

(Character analysis)

The character who changes the most is probably Charly. She goes from rich and snobby to poor and kind hearted. She used to not care much about others. But then she started a family and cared for them, and their neighbors, and their friends. And she was rich so she got a lot, but when she got married she became poor.

(Theme)

As humans we have a tendency to judge others by who they are. But we need to realize people can change. And instead of looking at someone by who they are and their past you should get to know them. Because everybody can change. And you could really like somebody if you didn't judge them. Be the person to help them. Be the person that changes them for the better.

(Opinion)

I enjoyed reading this book. It was sad, and happy, and just entertaining. This book was really good, and there wasn't a lot of bad things to say about it. Like there were some chapters that were not that exciting, and kind of boring. But overall I enjoyed it and it was really good.

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## **Annette says**

Like a lot of young LDS girls of the 80's, I went through a Jack Weyland phase, where I had to read everything that he ever wrote. After reading several of his books, I kind of reached my quota and I haven't read anything by him in a long time.

Charly was his first novel, it was also the first one that I read. I was a sappy young 12 year old girl when I read it. I remember crying my eyes out while I was reading it and then crying some more for weeks afterward everytime I even thought about it. It probably would have a completely different effect on me if I read now, but I gave it 5 stars for sentimental reasons.

I thought that they did a good job on the movie and I think I went through an entire box of tissues while watching it.

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## **Lacey says**

Why read a book in which you are told on the first page that the titular character dies unless the book is about other characters dealing with the aftermath of said death? I couldn't get attached to the characters at all because I was waiting for Charly to JUST CROAK ALREADY. Books that make me cry - GOOD. Books that try to tug on heartstrings until you cry because of actual physical pain caused by an overdose of sappy cheesiness - reason enough for book burnings.

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## **Lexi Lou says**

"Charly" was a nice and calm, easy read. I enjoyed it because it was a cute story filled with love and adventure.

Sam, a boring, young man with his life planned out, meets Charly, an adventurous, wild, young woman who takes things as they come. He has no intentions of having affections toward her. During Sam and Charly's fun filled days together, Sam finds himself falling in love with Charly and her personality. After they get married, they have a baby, build a house, and go through hard times and trials until Charly departs from this life from terminal cancer. Sam grows closer to God and learns important life lessons during his times of difficulty.

I loved the character of Charly! Her character was built well. She was so outgoing and would do crazy things. The things she did always made me laugh. She transformed Sam from a dull, computer geek, into a fun, happier man.

In this story, I was emotionally hooked on it. I laughed, I cried (literally), and I felt their emotions. Although this book was an easy read, it was a good book for me to read over the summer. You must understand, I am not a reader at all! I was interested in it and read it fairly quickly (for my pace). The writing was plain and simple. There are no big, fancy words. Although the writing is somewhat bland, it has a good storyline. I know some people do not like this type of writing, but it was an enjoyable story.

In my opinion, the theme of this story is enduring to the end. Before Charly passes away, Sam breaks down

and loses faith, but Charly assures him that it will all be well in the end and God has a plan for them.

If you are looking for a easy read, LDS romance, I would recommend this book.

There is a sequel to this, "Sam", about Sam's life after Charly dies. I read this book as well and it was almost as good as "Charly."

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### **Liz says**

I love reading the reviews on here after I finish a book. Everyone's comments made me want to remove the fourth star. But . . .

I'm not going to be one of those people who rants about how tear jerking and wonderfully romantic this book is. And it is far from realistic. But I won't complain about the writing either. From what I understand Jack Weyland is a Pysics professor at Ricks College (I don't know if he stayed on past Ricks, so that's what I'll call it). And I think to myself, for a science brain living in small town Idaho, this is a pretty well written story. And I think the quality of writing matched the narrator well. If Charly had told the story I would have wanted it to be more poetic and thoughtful. But since it was Sam's story I thought the writing suited him.

I read this in one sitting. Took about as long as watching the movie would have. So I can't complain. I'm glad someone summarized the plot of "Sam" on their review. Won't bother reading that. I don't like that these books make women seem like they should stay at home and be housewives, but it was written by a middle aged man in the 80's so whatever.

Oh, the Bishop doing the dishes thing is what really got me. Like no one would really help. Please . . . and like he'd really hesitate to share the gospel just to get out of doing the dishes. A couple other things made me roll my eyes, but overall, I have to admit, I really liked it.

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