

# THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY

by Jenny Han

Published in 2009

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary/Realistic



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

This novel tells the story of Isabel (Belly) Conklin and the summers she spends in Cousins Beach with her brother Steven, her mom, her mom's best friend Susannah Fisher, and Susannah's two sons. Susannah has a beach house and the kids spend every summer riding bikes, eating ice cream, and swimming in the clear blue ocean. This summer is different...Belly isn't a little kid anymore. She's all grown up and she's finally "pretty". Typically invisible, suddenly Belly is being noticed by both Fisher boys: fun-loving, flirty Jeremiah and older, brooding, Conrad. Belly has secretly been in love with Conrad her whole life, so will this be the summer that changes it all for her?

I loved this book! The beachside summer atmosphere was refreshing and nostalgic and the writing transported me to Cousins Beach. I enjoyed the themes of friendship, coming-of-age, and self-discovery. I also thought that the love triangle was well done. Belly undergoes a lot of growth and she begins to see the people around her for who they truly are. I like that all the characters (especially Belly, Conrad, and Laurel) are very dynamic and have many layers.

This is part of a trilogy, so this book does end on a cliffhanger. Jenny Han balances all the different aspects of this book while keeping it fast-paced, addicting, romantic to read. I highly recommend this book to fans of *The Summer of Broken Rules* by K.L. Walther and Anna and *the French Kiss* by Stephanie Perkins.

By Celeste O, 12th grade, enjoys reading contemporary, fantasy, historical fiction, & romance