



Serious Moonlight

Written by Jenn Bennett

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Table of Contents

Serious Moonlight Tour	1
Serious Moonlight Book	2
Serious Moonlight Trailer	3
Serious Moonlight Travis Strikes Again	4
Serious Moonlight No More Heroes	5
Serious Moonlight Lyrics	6
Serious Moonlight Ending Explanation	7
Serious Moonlight Song	8
Serious Moonlight Ending	9

Serious Moonlight

By Jenn Bennett

Serious Moonlight Tour

After an awkward first encounter, Birdie and Daniel are forced to work together in a Seattle hotel where a famous author leads a mysterious and secluded life in this romantic contemporary novel from the author of *Alex, Approximately*.

Serious Moonlight Book

Mystery-book aficionado Birdie Lindberg has an overactive imagination. Raised in isolation and homeschooled by strict grandparents, she's cultivated a whimsical fantasy life in which she plays the heroic detective and every stranger is a suspect. But her solitary world expands when she takes a job the summer before college, working the graveyard shift at a historic Seattle hotel.

Serious Moonlight Trailer

In her new job, Birdie hopes to blossom from introverted dreamer to brave pioneer, and gregarious Daniel Aoki volunteers to be her guide. The hotel's charismatic young van driver shares the same nocturnal shift and patronizes the waterfront Moonlight Diner where she waits for the early morning ferry after work. Daniel also shares her appetite for intrigue, and he's stumbled upon a real-life mystery: a famous reclusive writer "never before seen in public" might be secretly meeting someone at the hotel.

Serious Moonlight Travis Strikes Again

To uncover the writer's puzzling identity, Birdie must come out of her shell, discovering that most confounding mystery of all may be her growing feelings for the elusive riddle that is Daniel.

Jenn Bennett has been my favorite YA contemporary author for a while now, and this book just kept her position at the top! A boy that likes street magic and a girl that wears flowers in her hair made my eyes fill with hearts.

At first, I must admit, I was annoyed with Birdie. But she grew up rather sheltered, so her personality fit with that. As the book went on, she really grew as a character, and I started to like her. Daniel was just a bucket full of sunshine and sweetness, and yes there's a secret hidden there, but it made me love his character even more.

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Bennett knows how to write character driven stories and she knows how to breathe life into every single one of her side characters, too. No one ever feels like they are there for no reason. Always a purpose. Plus, we also get quirkiness and swoon which I love! Can't wait to read the author's next book!
...more

Serious Moonlight No More Heroes

I had to hold off on publishing this review or even my rating because Gabby would've shot me if I had at all told her the tiniest reaction to this book... but luckily she got her butt in gear and read it this weekend so I am now at liberty to say that this is one squishy book of cuteness. I was craving a feel good novel and this 100% hit the spot.

(NOTE: Gabby also read this as an eARC from NetGalley and you can click here to read her review. It is far more **feels** laden than mine!)

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The story follows 18 year old Birdie who lives in Seattle with her grandfather. Birdie lost her mom at the age of 10 and is now coming to terms with the recent death of her grandmother. In to the mix of all these emotions of grief and loss comes a boy, 19 year old Daniel who Birdie has an immediate connection with... But then she freaks out and doesn't know what she wants or if she even likes Daniel at all. The story then follows Birdie as she tries to figure out just exactly who she is and what she wants from life.

I loved this book. There was a lot of daftness with the plot at times, especially when Birdie and Daniel took up their mystery case and became young sleuths akin to Nancy Drew.... but it somehow worked! I mean I **could** be biased because I grew up on a steady diet of Nancy Drew and very much idolised the teen sleuth in my younger years....

But what was also nice is that for a cute and fluffy romantic book there was a surprising amount of depth to the leading characters. I liked that both Birdie and Daniel both brought emotional baggage to their relationship that felt genuine and not just there for the sake of story. I didn't see Daniel's storyline coming at all and I must confess to shedding a few tears as he revealed more of his past life to Birdie.

The book is also fantastically sex positive which is definitely something Jenn Bennett has always rocked at. And the story really highlights the influence of a support structure be it family or otherwise in a teen's (or indeed adult's) life which is so great for YA as frequently familial support structures seem to be conveniently absent for ease of plot. My one gripe was the characterisation of Aunt Mona. At times I

Serious Moonlight

just found her to be a little bit overdone with her *quirkiness*... One too many stereotypes for my taste?? But by the end of the book I found myself developing a soft spot for her!

So overall this was a super cute YA read and really made me feel warm and gooey. After the disappointment I felt after reading 'Starry Eyes' I'm so happy to say that Jenn Bennett is back on form and this has definitely become my favourite book by her. It's got all the sweetness of Alex Approximately and Night Owls but with much more authentic characters.

Three and a half to four stars

An e-copy of this book was kindly provided to me by the publisher, Simon and Schuster UK Children's, via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Is there anything better than a Jenn Bennett book with all her quirky characters, irresistible friendships, and swoon worthy romances?

There might be but you will be hard pressed to find them!

I adore Jenn's book, I mean, honestly, who doesn't that has tried them? They are so much fun. They are real, raw, and so very very addicting.

And as weird as it may sound, I love that in all of them, there is always a very strong adult presence. Whether a parent, guardian, loved one, someone. You don't find Is there anything better than a Jenn Bennett book with all her quirky characters, irresistible friendships, and swoon worthy romances?

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And as weird as it may sound, I love that in all of them, there is always a very strong adult presence. Whether a parent, guardian, loved one, someone. You don't find that very often in YA period and I love that her's are always there, cheering her characters on, supporting them and most of all, just being there, involved in their lives.

This was such a cute and fun read. Filled with mystery, a sweet romance, and some very real, very tough social, emotional, and even physical issues and I loved it for it.

Once again Jenn shows why she writes so well in this genre. Why her books stand out and why they are ones I will always be auto buying.

Serious Moonlight

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. ...more

Serious Moonlight Lyrics

4.25/5 stars

The ARC of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.Â

[Full review here](#)

This review contains spoilers.

This was my second book by Jenn Bennett and I really loved it. It had a lot of great elements that I enjoyed very much.

First of all, there was a cute romance between the two main characters, Birdie and Daniel. After an unusual beginning the two of them reconnected and started dating. I liked their relationship and how it developed. The 4.25/5 stars

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First of all, there was a cute romance between the two main characters, Birdie and Daniel. After an unusual beginning the two of them reconnected and started dating. I liked their relationship and how it developed. The fact that they solved mysteries together just made my heart melt. It was so cute. And donâ€™t get me started on their first official date at that live-action Clue game, it was such a thoughtful idea.

The main mystery was all about the inscrutable persona that is the famous author Raymond Drake. I was very interested in the mystery even though it was not the main aspect of the novel and I must say that I did not see that plot twist coming at all, it didnâ€™t even cross my mind until they were there talking about it.

I appreciated the author including some representation and diversity. Daniel, one of the main characters, is Japanese and heâ€™s unable to hear from one of his ears because of an accident he had. He also suffers from depression and has attempted suicide when he was in high school. Birdie, the other main character, has a narcolepsy disorder just like her grandpa. I think that all of these aspects were dealt with a lot of care and I really appreciated the characters talking freely about mental health

and about going to the doctor and taking care of themselves.

Another remarkable thing these characters did was talk about safe sex which is something that often gets glossed over in most YAs. There was talk about teen pregnancy and Birdie and Daniel talked about protection. So overall this book was very sex positive.

Also props to Jenn Bennett for creating such multilayered characters with interests, background stories and hopes for their future. Birdie had a lot of grief from her past to deal with it and I was happy to see that she had her grandpa and aunt Mona to lean on to. Family was also an important aspect of Daniel's life and I very much liked the little moments we got to see of his mom and grandparents.

This book might just seem a cute romance filled with mystery but it's so much more! The characters are amazing and they drive the story forward. I highly recommend this novel. ...more

NOTE: My love of this book may be swayed by the fact that Bowie is mentioned several times, once in relation to Labyrinth and his bulge...which is everything. Seriously, Bennett is the Queen of subtle amazing pop culture drops!

I adore Jenn Bennett's contemporary novels for so many reasons but a few are that they're always sex-positive and diverse and this novel is no different. Birdie and Dan are precious and I want nothing but the happiest of futures for these two kids.

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Birdie is a girl who is in love with mysteries and solving them, who has been home-schooled by her late Grandmother and lives with her narcoleptic grandfather because her mother passed away eight years ago. She's got a mother figure and badass feminist role model in her mom's best friend Mona, and together the trio makes the most of what life has handed them. So when Birdie throws caution to the wind and has a one-night stand with a handsome boy she meets at her favorite diner, she panics a bit. Nothing prepares her for showing up to her new job only to see her mystery guy there.

The antics that ensue from there are genuinely adorable. Daniel is a kind, compassionate, and very self-aware kid with a troubled past of his own living in a commune and indulging in his passion for magic and for Birdie. Their romance comes with a lot of seriously open communication about abandonment, the fear of being left behind, and insecurities about being able to handle one another's baggage. They each never met their fathers, they each understand what it's like to be left, lost, and feel unwanted or unworthy. Dan and Birdie are heartwarmingly flawed and wonderful and I loved reading about their discovery of themselves and one another.

Did I mention that our MC may or may not have narcolepsy passed on from her grandfather but is afraid to go to the doctor to confirm or deny this suspicion? That our main love interest is mixed race (half Japanese and half white) and also deaf in one ear? Did I mention that i love and adore them both?

Again, Jenn Bennett delivers a fantastic message about the value of self-care, health, and wellness (both physical and mental), sex, relationships, and family. She will forever be one of my favorite contemporary authors and she hit another one out of the park with this novel.

Trigger warnings: Death of a parent, health problems (narcolepsy & episodes related to prior), suicide attempts, depression, abandonment by a parent, loss of pregnancy, and grieving. ...more

Serious Moonlight Ending Explanation

It breaks my heart to rate this so low (why I always feel more guilty over three stars vs two I don't know..) but I just didn't love this the way I've loved Bennett's books in the past.

There's a lot of brilliant diversity and representation in SERIOUS MOONLIGHT and this author is always including such fabulous dialogue surrounding safe & consensual sex-positivity content but.. I didn't really love the plot (mystery surrounding the identity of a crime writer) and I kind of saw a few things c
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There's a lot of brilliant diversity and representation in SERIOUS MOONLIGHT and this author is always including such fabulous dialogue surrounding safe & consensual sex-positivity content but.. I didn't really love the plot (mystery surrounding the identity of a crime writer) and I kind of saw a few things coming that the MC, a sorta Veronica Mars-esque character didn't, and additionally I'm not sure I liked any of the characters?

I loved the idea of our love interest, I felt for some of Birdie's struggles and adjustments and emotional hang-ups, but.. I never lost myself in this one. It wasn't as funny, not hardly as swoony, and unfortunately the ending felt kind of rushed. There were definitely sweet moments and I was never bored or annoyed or anything. It was just.. fine.

The best part of this read, however, is that it's made me want to reread ALEX, APPROXIMATELY and STARRY EYES. And kinda makes me want to award extra stars to the latter. And maybe I will!

My feelings about this upcoming release aside, however, don't change the fact that I will a) be forever excited about whatever this author puts out and b) read all aforementioned things this author puts out. I love her quirky characters and her banter. This one just didn't quite stick the landing the way the others have.

** I received an ARC from NetGalley and the publisher (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. **
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Serious Moonlight Song

View this review and others on my blog!

Thank you to NetGalley and Simon Pulse/Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing for sending me a free advanced reader copy of this book for an honest review. Serious Moonlight debuts April 16th.

You know when you see a perfect cover, and you think to yourself, well, the book can't possibly live up to THAT, could it? They're compensating for something, right? Well, banish those fears! Serious Moonlight is a cozy contemporary that pairs an adorable romance with memorable characters and a Pacific Northwest setting. In my opinion, this book is exactly what new adult should be: kids post-high school taking their first steps into adulthood, with sex present, but not in an erotic way. It has a YA contemporary voice, but the MCs are just a tad bit older. I also truly appreciated how Bennett placed her characters in a non-school setting. I've heard so many calls from people in publishing asking for manuscripts featuring MCs navigating college, and I'm just not really interested in that?

Thank you to NetGalley and Simon Pulse/Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing for sending me a free advanced reader copy of this book for an honest review. Serious Moonlight debuts April 16th.

The pitch is that the MC, Birdie, hooked up with a cute guy in his car, then totally freaked out and literally ran away from him. She's doing her best to forget all this, but then said cute guy, Daniel, happens to work at her new job. Gotta be fate, right? But both Birdie and Daniel are going to have to work through a lot of things before they can get their happily ever after. Oh, and there's a mystery in the book as well! I use quotes here because the mystery aspect really isn't that big of a focus; we're all just here for the developing romance between Birdie and Daniel. It's cute, they're cute, the setting's cute, everything's cute, cute, cute! Love it.

All this isn't to say that the book is perfect. Daniel is a bit too much of a nice guy for my taste; he treats Birdie like gold at every opportunity, giving her all possible outs from their relationship. That didn't come across as caring to me so much as unsexy; I was hoping he'd grow a spine. But Daniel did grow on me in time, especially as he plans one awesome date after the next. The one with a Clue focus? (Trying not to give anything away.) I was Googling if anything like that existed in my area. (Unfortunately looks like I'd have to travel to Boston, so meh.) There was also some cringey, wooden dialogue I could have done without the awkward scene. But these are just small quibbles; the setting, the characters, the found family aspect, the pitch-perfect new adult feel all added up to a thoroughly enjoyable read, so I will definitely be checking out Bennett's other books.

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Serious Moonlight

My thanks to the author, publisher and NetGalley for a free ARC of this book in exchange for an honest opinion.

I have always been a fan of author Jenn Bennett. She is quirky, down to earth and writes very well. In Bennett's latest story, eighteen year old Birdie is still recovering from the recent death of her strict and judgmental grandmother. Birdie also lost her mother when she was ten, and never knew her father. Everyone she loves dies, it seems to her. So, when she meets Daniel after a job My thanks to the author, publisher and NetGalley for a free ARC of this book in exchange for an honest opinion.

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The slow burn of this romance will have you pining for poor besotted Daniel: he is such a lovely Book Boyfriend!.

Daniel (who has Japanese ancestry) could never forget the pretty girl he met and made out with at the Moonlight Diner. He even posts a romantic, beseeching ad in a local paper, hoping to find Birdie and mend whatever set her into flight mode. Daniel is described as having long black hair that he ties back in a messy knot. Yum! We later discover that Daniel suffers from depression and there are some tense moments involving a secret from his past that may frighten Birdie away for good. He will need all of his amateur magic skills to keep misdirecting Birdie's attention while he slowly finds a way into her fearful heart.

Birdie, who is of Scandinavian ancestry, wears a lily in her hair (in memory of her mother) and is addicted to mysteries. When Fate brings the two lovers together again - they both end up working the night shift at a ritzy hotel a few blocks away from the diner where they had their fateful rendezvous! - Daniel makes sure to use every element of mystery at his disposal to lure Birdie away from her fear of "loving and always losing" and get her back into his arms. There are quite a few twists and turns in this often hilarious story. Is it fate or coincidence that these star-crossed young lovers shared so much pre-history - read the book and find out all the cute little "almost meets" that occur in this story.

I always recommend Jenn Bennett's books: Starry Eyes and Alex, Approximately being two of my favourites - and now Serious Moonlight! Enjoy! (I miss Daniel and Birdie already!) ...more

Serious Moonlight Ending

I swear Jenn Bennett can do no wrong.

I'm 1000000% here for anything Jenn writes and I don't really read the synopsis any longer.

I loved Birdie and Daniel. They're both such good people who are maybe struggling a bit more than they want to let on. I enjoyed their connection and their (mostly) open conversation. The family aspect was interesting: I especially enjoyed the mama bear scene with Cherry and Mona was a delight.

Plot wise, it was a whole lot of cute (hello, live action Clue game). The mystery part was interesting, but really I'm 1000000% here for anything Jenn writes and I don't really read the synopsis any longer.

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Plot wise, it was a whole lot of cute (hello, live action Clue game). The mystery part was interesting, but really I was invested in it because I wanted Birdie and Daniel together all the time. There were a few things I didn't see coming and I loved that I was able to be surprised. Have I been clear that I absolutely loved it?

Overall, it was another fun read from Jenn that was mostly filled with fluff. Whatever she writes next, I'm here for it.

FYI: talk of suicide and depression

****Huge thanks to Simon Pulse for providing the arc free of charge**** ...more