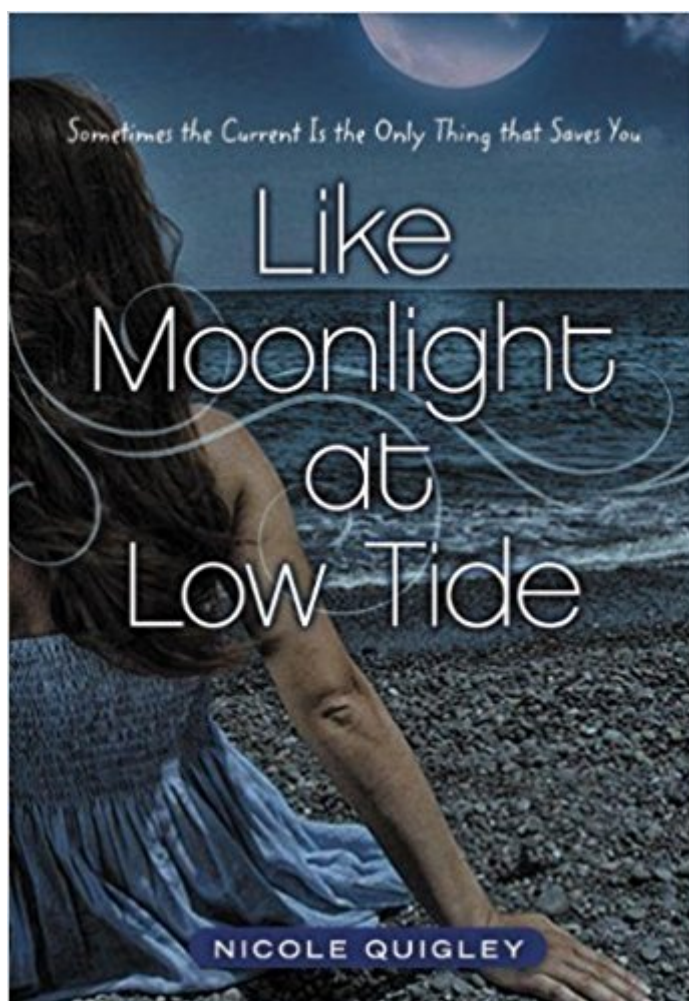


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Like Moonlight At Low Tide: Sometimes The Current Is The Only Thing That Saves You (Blink)



Synopsis

Recommended "Teen Read" by USA Today and winner of the ACFW "Carol Award" for Best Young Adult Fiction. When high school junior Melissa Keiser returns to her hometown of Anna Maria Island, Florida, she has one goal: hide from the bullies who had convinced her she was the ugliest girl in school. But when she is caught sneaking into a neighbor's pool at night, everything changes. Something is different now that Melissa is sixteen, and the guys and popular girls who once made her life miserable have taken notice. When Melissa gets the chance to escape life in a house ruled by her mom's latest boyfriend, she must choose where her loyalties lie between a long-time crush, a new friend, and her surfer brother who makes it impossible to forget her roots. Just as Melissa seems to achieve everything she ever wanted, she loses a loved one to suicide. Melissa must not only grieve for her loss, she must find the truth about the three boys who loved her and discover that joy sometimes comes from the most unexpected place of all.

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Customer Reviews

"Recommended Teen Read" - USA Today "...a darkly poignant inspirational romance that will linger in the mind well after reading it." - USA Today "Quigley makes her debut with an ambitious story about weighty issues teens face: suicide, alcohol, promiscuity, and bullying." - Publishers Weekly "This story is utterly gorgeous. It firmly slammed itself directly into my top ten for 2012 when I read it... Nicole Quigley is an author that is firmly in my sights now and I cannot wait to see

where the rest of her career goes from here." - Lori Twichell (fictionaddict.com)

I wrote *Like Moonlight at Low Tide* to tell the story of what happens to a teen girl after she has been bullied. What happens if you finally get everything you ever wanted? For Melissa Keiser, that means night swimming in the pools alongside the Gulf of Mexico and holding the hands of a big crush in the high school halls. But what happens when even all that isn't enough? If you go on this journey with Melissa, I hope you'll find hope and encouragement by the time you reach the end. I did. I am honored that my first novel has won both the ACFW "Carol Award" and "Genesis Award" for best young adult fiction, and I am even more moved by the messages I have received from young adults who write me with how they connected with Melissa. For me, that's what it's all about.

It was the first couple of pages that really hooked me. I love it when a story is told with the end first. One of my favorite examples is Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Opening with the end, I think, makes the reader ask "how will this happen?" rather than "what will happen?" which brings to life what a reading experience is supposed to be about! If we only care about what happens in the end, then we risk missing out on the journey. I know I've fallen prey to that - skimming madly through a book because I'm made to feel too anxious about what happens in the end. That's not what a book is about, especially not this one. This book is a journey, and we are meant to experience every step. It was brilliant of Nicole Quigley to write those first two pages the way she did. After that, I was hooked onto every word she wrote. I'm not sure if I would classify this as a coming of age story, though Missy's age would put it into that category by default. First and foremost, I think this is a coming of hope and faith story, an awareness story. To anyone who hasn't been in Missy's position, she would seem like a very weak protagonist. She is insecure, broken in so many ways, not sure of anything, and constantly assuming that everything is her fault. Personally, I got her, because I've been in the same position. That only made me want to root for her even more because she's a real character. No, she's not the strong female lead that everyone seems obsessed with these days (not to say that some of those characters aren't just as real), but Missy is a character who reaches through the pages to those of us who aren't as gifted in the kick-ass department, who aren't able to find that courage that people so admire. She is a character that brings hope through her story, in some ways far more so than those characters who find that courage more easily and have a bow-and-arrow or sword or ninja skills to protect them. Bullying is a prevalent issue in our society. The mass media has made sure to make everyone aware of how detrimental it is. What they fail to cover in the news stories and billboard slogans is what lies at the root of the issue and, more importantly, how to

overcome it. This book covers it all - brilliantly, I will add. It would be easy to tell a story about how bullying caused a young person to take his own life, but this story goes beyond that. To redemption and discovery of a truth that is so important in every single human life. Enough philosophizing on that. I'll talk about characters now. I've already discussed Missy, so I'll move onto the three important guys in her life - Josh, the neighbor boy who seems to understand her best; Robby, her brother; and Sam, the boy she has crushed on since middle school, at first to humiliating ends. Each of them served a monumental purpose in Missy's life. Each of them was fleshed out very well by the author and had a distinct voice that guided Missy on her journey. However, my only critique for the entire book is that I wish more had been shown about who Robby was. I've already said that he was fleshed out, so that isn't the problem. And I get that since the story is from Missy's 1st person POV that we couldn't see everything about Robby given he and Missy did not hang out much. But I wish his character hadn't been told to me - I would have liked to be shown more. For instance Missy told us in her thoughts that he was a trouble maker and had already been threatened with expulsion a couple of times... but I only saw one instance of him actually being the wild, rebellious child that we're told he is, and that scene felt kind of strange as a result. Other than that, this was an incredibly well written book. The language - oh the descriptions Nicole Quigley brought to life! - was beautiful and meshed very well with the beauty of the title. My inner sea-lover was not disappointed one bit. I love how organic Missy's relationships with Josh, Robby, and Sam were. They grew at their own individual paces. They didn't feel rushed or too slow because they were the driving forces of the novel, which is how it should be. I loved going up and down with Missy, feeling the emotions with her. The confusion and heart break and self-doubt were all so beautifully portrayed in her. I'm so glad I read this, and I would recommend this book to everyone who isn't offended by the presence of God. Personally, as a person of faith, this story reaffirmed what I believe, and I'm thankful for that.

Like *Moonlight at Low Tide* is a beautifully written book that immerses the reader in the small island lifestyle. For a mountain girl, I loved the glimpse into the life of a teen raised on a Florida Island. It made me want to visit Anna Maria Island. But it was so much more than that. It is a tale of love and heartwrenching loss with an unexpected twist. And the twist truly surprised me. I didn't see it coming and I love it when a book catches me off guard.

"You mean I'm not good enough for him." I held my eyes on his face until he finally turned my way. I willed him to explain it. I wanted to hear him say it for himself: I wasn't good enough to be his girlfriend. I wasn't good enough to be Sam's either. I was the

ugly duckling, with a wild mother and a brother who walked around dazed half the time."It's junior year and Missy is coming back to her home island. Three years away was not enough for the cool kids to forget what a loser she used to be. Only this time Sam King, the popular guy she's had a crush on for years, likes her. Is it worth it? Is there any way to escape being a no one?"Like *Moonlight at Low Tide* is touching and opening. It delves into two topics that are not often discussed in Christian fiction: bullying and suicide. With a painfully true view on both, it shows the way to redemption. Missy doesn't have a father, and her mom is constantly changing boyfriends. With this background, Missy often feels worthless. Ever so slowly she learns that she is precious and loved for who she is. The book contains about half a dozen uses of swear words and two detailed near-sex encounters. I wish there was more about God in the beginning and middle and that Josh -Missy's friend- was less shy about his faith. However, Missy's coming to God in the end was so beautiful.

The last place sixteen year-old Melissa Keiser wants to return to is Anna Maria Island. The echo of laughter and cruel taunts still haunts Missy, even after four years. Her best friend Julie insists that things will be different now, but Missy is too afraid to believe her. Until popular Sam King begins to act as though Missy is the girl for him. She struggles to understand Sam's desire for her and his friend's weird overprotective behavior toward her. Josh, it seems, won't leave Missy alone to make her own mistakes. But when Missy pursues him, he pushes her away or describes his relationship with God, something Missy didn't expect and can't grasp. Just as Missy's relationship with Sam seems ready to take off, tragedy strikes, spinning Missy into a downward spiral of loss and regret. Josh reemerges as her friend and companion, but can she count on him not to bail again when she needs him most? Missy lives with her emotionally volatile mother, her brother Robby and her sister Crystal. Home life is unpredictable and explosive, which Missy makes use of to go where she pleases, when she pleases, often sneaking out at night or lying to her mother about where she's going and when she'll return. Missy's story is peppered with moments of keen emotional insight and turmoil, though some of Missy's realizations seem too far beyond her maturity level. Her spiritual conversations with Josh are at first sincere and different, but at times his explanations seem a little dense and formulaic. Still, Missy's moment of conversion is genuine and as powerful as the emotional pain that make her such an easy character to connect with. Fans of Stephanie Morrill or Laura Anderson Kurk will enjoy this novel.

This book takes you on a journey of what it's like to be a teenage girl who never felt loved, never felt beautiful, never thought she deserved someone to fight for her...and through loss and love discovers something sweet, beautiful, and everlasting. I recommend this book for teens who like romance and adventure. We

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