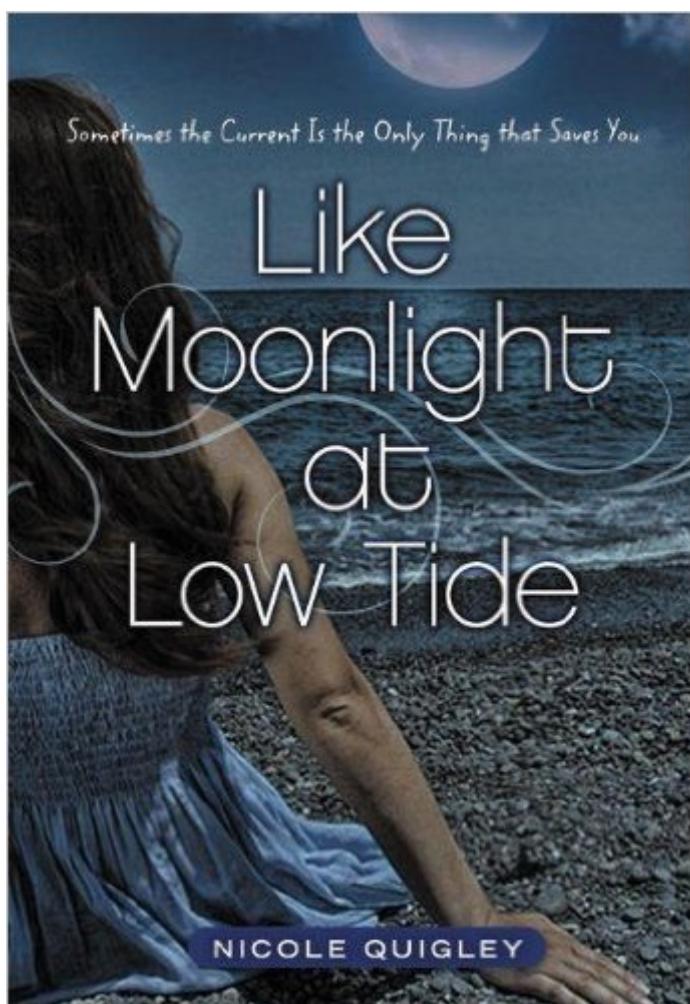


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Like Moonlight At Low Tide: Sometimes The Current Is The Only Thing That Saves You (Blink)



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like Moonlight at Low Tide, written by Nicole Quigley, is a well-written, young adult novel that tends to sweep its reader along. The main character, Missy, is introduced as a scared, insecure, high school junior who is returning to the Florida town she grew up in after having been away for a few years. All she can remember is the cruel teasing she endured during junior high, and she dreads going back to her tormentors. Sure that nothing's changed since seventh grade, she braces herself

for the rejection she's sure to face. But her best friend, Julie, tries to convince her that things are different now. Classmates have matured, and Missy's gotten pretty hot since she's been away. If Missy will just open her eyes and recognize her own allure, she could rule the school. Desperate for love and acceptance, Missy grasps for what's she's always dreamed of--popularity, admiration, and her long-time crush, Sam King. But her life remains far from perfect as her mom switches from boyfriend to boyfriend and her brother drifts farther away. Her one escape is found in the hidden cottage pool behind her neighbor's house, and also, in a way, in her neighbor's grandson, Josh. But when tragedy strikes, there seems to be nothing that can save her. The world she's built around herself crumbles, and she finds herself overwhelmed by guilt and grief. Will she ever find love and peace and forgiveness? Like Moonlight at Low Tide is a story of rejection, love, and redemption. Its themes are mature, including family dysfunction, bullying, peer pressure, and suicide. But these themes are balanced well as they meet life's challenges head-on and yet offer hope at the same time. I found Like Moonlight at Low Tide a very enjoyable read.

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.

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