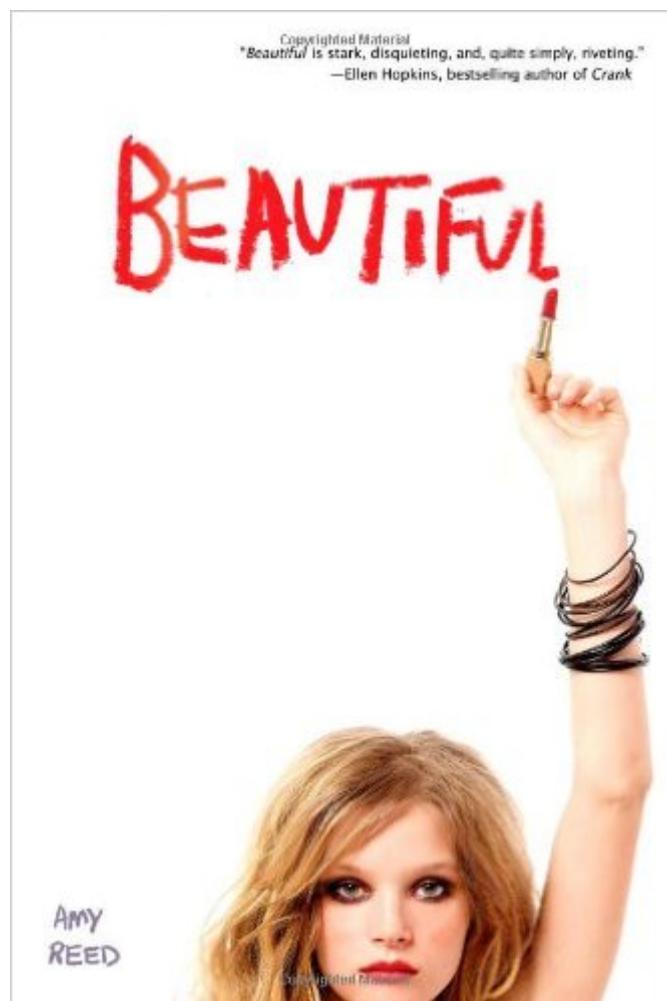


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# Beautiful



## **Synopsis**

When Cassie moves from the tiny town where she has always lived to a suburb of Seattle, she is determined to leave her boring, good-girl existence behind. This is Cassie's chance to stop being invisible and start being the kind of girl who's worth noticing. Stepping into her new identity turns out to be easier than Cassie could have ever imagined...one moment, one choice, changes everything. Cassie's new existence both thrills and terrifies her. Swept into a world of illicit parties and social land mines, she sheds her virginity, embraces the numbness she feels from the drugs, and floats through it all, knowing that she is now called beautiful. She ignores the dangers of her fast-paced life...but she can't sidestep the secrets and the cruelty. Cassie is trapped in a swift downward spiral tinged with violence and abuse, and no one--not even the one person she thought she could trust--can help her now. "Beautiful is stark, disquieting, and, quite simply, riveting."Ellen Hopkins, bestselling author of Crank

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Beautiful was an interesting change from what I've been reading lately. The last few books I've read- The Hollow, Hush Hush...- have all been fantasy. Beautiful was a real book about what could be a real person. Cassie kind of reminded me of Christina in Crank by Ellen Hopkins at first. She had good grades, friends, and a family, but other than that, this book was completely different than Crank or any other book I've read about someone dealing with drugs. From the girl on the cover I assumed Cassie was in high school or older, not the case. Cassie was only thirteen. She was

dragged into the drug world by another girl- one who was equally friendless. Alex hung out with high school age kids, went to wild parties, did drugs, drank, smoked, and never thought twice about doing anything. Cassie, shy, friendless, lonely, and new to the school was tempted to join Alex' excited world, where boys called her "beautiful" and everyone wanted to be her friend. I liked how this book was in first person so I could really see when Cassie began to change and read all her feelings about everything. Beautiful was detailed and original and thoroughly described the life of a girl like Cassie. One thing I didn't really like about this book was that Cassie changed too fast. One minute she was shy and studious, the next she's off partying with people way older than she and doing drugs like she always has. Cassie goes from barely even talking to boys to having sex all the time. Maybe this was too show how when you're taking drugs and drinking your life can get out of your hands, but sometimes I felt like it was a little unrealistic. All in all this was a book that I'm really glad I read. It was informative, sad, scary, and everything in between.

Review in Short: 13 year old Cassie, who's just moved out of her small town and into a suburb of Seattle, is determined not to be invisible at her new school. Instead, she wants to be beautiful, be noticed. This means falling in with the "beautiful" crowd. It means a world of drugs and sex and rough-edged, so-called-friends. This is the story of Cassie's downward spiral and though it's promising with brilliant settings and a great voice, the characters and relationships fail while the too-gritty nature of this book put me off. (Granted, I'm not a person who generally reads about drugs and sex and gritty downward spirals.) 74/100 = CPremise: When 13 year old Cassie moves from her small town to a suburb of Seattle, she leaves her old self behind and determines to take on a new, better persona. She won't be a boring, invisible, good girl anymore. No, now she's going to be beautiful and interesting and noticed, whatever it takes. In her case this means hanging out with the edgy crowd. It means drugs and promiscuity and trading her old self for someone new and surface-level shiny. Though not overly original, the age of Cassie and the fact that this is all so easy for her gives the premise points. 8.Plot: Here the plot is about the same as the premise. Small-town Cassie moves to a bigger school and leaves her good, smart, invisible image behind. She becomes one of the beautiful people, the ones who are too cool to care about grades or parents. She makes a new friend who introduces her to drugs and sex and she grows increasingly involved in the new life she's chosen for herself. I wasn't blown away by the plot - there was nothing I wasn't expecting, but it was done well. 7.Characters: Oy, this is where the book falls short.

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