



The Summer of Skinny Dipping

By Amanda Howells

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There Are Some Summers You'll Always Remember

Sometimes I wake up shivering in the early hours of the morning, drowning in dreams of being out there in the ocean that summer, of looking up at the moon and feeling as invisible and free as a fish. But I'm jumping ahead, and to tell the story right I have to go back to the beginning. To a place called Indigo Beach. To a boy with pale skin that glowed against the dark waves. To the start of something neither of us could have predicted, and which would mark us forever, making everything that came after and before seem like it belonged to another life.

My name is Mia Gordon: I was sixteen years old, and I remember everything.

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The Summer of Skinny Dipping By Amanda Howells **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—"I was being strong. Even though I felt weak." Grounded, logical Mia is trying to cope with a summer that hasn't been what she expected. Her vacation in New York's tony Hamptons with her extended family was supposed to be about spending time with her firecracker cousin Corinne and her sympathetic aunt as relief from her mother's criticism and her parents' fights about money and status. But quickly the bubble bursts: her aunt is tense and preoccupied while jaded Corinne is more interested in drinking and her cool friends. Adrift, Mia can't help wanting to be part of Corinne's circle, even though she doesn't like these girls. Struggling to remain true to herself, she strikes up a friendship with Simon, the boy next door. Through late-night walks on the beach, the teens become more than friends. A skinny dip after a storm brutally ends Mia's summer—but not the growth she's achieved. Tailor-made for Sarah Dessen's fans, this novel mingles family drama and teen relationships. Over the course of the summer, Mia comes of age as she questions who she is and what she wants from the people in her life. Amid a cast of well-developed characters, her stumbles and achievements keep readers rooting for her. With a lyrical yet straightforward voice and a layered plot, this novel will live on for more than a summer.—*Melissa Rabey, Frederick County Public Libraries, Frederick, MD*

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From *Booklist*

While spending summer vacation with her family at her cousins' fancy beach house in the Hamptons, Mia, 16, wants to join the popular crowd. Instead, she feels like the "frumpy relative"; in fact, even her own mother is a class snob who thinks Mia isn't slim enough to be part of the "in" set. Then she bonds with gorgeous Simon, the boy next door, and they meet secretly at night on the beach, drink vodka, and skinny-dip in the wild ocean waves. The details about what the kids wear and their conversations about what is trendy overpower the story, especially because much of the fashion will date. But many teens will appreciate this first novel for how the dialogue not only captures the dynamics of Mia's standoffs with her peers but also reveals her surprising discoveries about adults. Mia's first-person narrative is right on about wanting to be "cool" ("I couldn't help wishing I was more like them") even as she despises much of what "they" stand for. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman

Review

""The romance is filled with similarities and allusions to The Great Gatsby, and readers of the American classic will predict the tearjerker ending." - ***Kirkus***

"Many teens will appreciate this first novel for how the dialogue not only captures the dynamics of Mia's standoffs with her peers but also reveals her surprising discoveries about adults. Mia's first-person narrative is right on about wanting to be "cool" ("I couldn't help wishing I was more like them") even as she despises much of what "they" stand for." - ***Booklist***

""Many teens will appreciate this first novel for how the dialogue not only captures the dynamics of Mia's standoffs with her peers but also reveals her surprising discoveries about adults. Mia's first-person narrative is right on about wanting to be "cool"."" - ***Booklist***

"With a lyrical yet straightforward voice and a layered plot, this novel will live on for more than a summer.- *Melissa Rabey, Frederick County Public Libraries, Frederick, MD*" - ***School Library Journal***

" found this book a delight to read. I'd liken Amanda Howells to an American Kate le Vann, and anyone who loves Kate le Vann's novels (like me) should definitely enjoy this. More generally, I highly recommend this book to fans of thoughtful, summery and romantic coming-of-age fiction." - **Chicklish Reviews**

"A deep, realistic exploration into first love and, yes, even loss. " - **RT Book Reviews**

"A wonderful beach read this summer from debut author Amanda Howells." - **Minding Spot**

"you'll want to read this book over and over and over ... there's so much to be learned from it ... I'd recommend this to everyone ... no matter your age, you'll adore it. " - **Paranormal Obsession**

"...a wonderful coming of age story with lots of hidden gems hidden inside the story." - **A Buckeye Girl Reads**

"Overall, it was a story of love, coming of age, heartache and unfortunate events. All the elements to create a great, well-balanced novel." - **La Femme Readers**

""The best summer read you won't forget.\"" - **Yay! Reads**

"The Summer of My Skinny Dipping is the perfect beach read. Mia is a well-drawn character with a beautiful clear voice. She is very easy to relate and connect to, and the romance is one that drew me in. I believe that the various relationships between the characters helped make this about more than a summer romance novel. So, if you are like me and want more than a romance novel to occupy your time this summer, then The Summer of My Skinny Dipping will definitely fit the bill." - **Eating YA Books**

"I loved this story about a girl with her family and a girl who falls in love with a boy. What isn't there to love?" - **Book Bookie**

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* was just plain awesome. The ending will have you either crying or pulling your hair out but you will enjoy getting there." - **Books Like Breathing**

"Amanda Howells writing in this novel is incredible. I don't really know what else to say. The emotion that she was able to put in this book is what makes the story so captivating." - **With a Book**

"The writing is so beautiful that I had to reread many passages out loud because I loved it so much. " - **Enchanted by Books**

"laid out so that you don't know what's coming and your just in the moment. The author has created something beautiful that I hope a lot of people enjoy. " - **One Book at a Time**

"I really enjoyed Howells's first YA novel, so I'm looking forward to reading more by her in the future!" - **An Addicted Book Reader**

"I'm stunned by Howells' deftly written coming-of-age tale. There are many YA novels in which the main character spends the summer in the Hamptons, or some similar summer destination, and learns startling truths about herself and the sparkling world that she once thought was so perfect, but I don't think I've enjoyed any as much as Howells' portrayal. " - **The Hiding Spot**

"It's breathe taking." - **Chick Lit Reviews**

"A deep, realistic exploration into first love and, yes, even loss." - **RT Book Reviews**

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* is a novel that is perfect for the beach if you want that "fun summer romance" book, but the depth and realism make it so much more." - **Bookmac**

"The best way I can describe the experience of THE SUMMER OF SKINNY DIPPING is an emotional rollercoaster; one you would ride again and again. Ms Howells has a great way of writing that really makes the reader feel like their skin is sunkissed; like they're slipping through the ocean waves." - **A Journey of Books**

"Howells grasp of teen emotions--the push and pull of them, one extreme to the next, the certainty that what you are feeling right now is all that matters--was deft." - **Poisoned Rationality**

"A great beach read for romance lovers who don't want sex and steam, cute but not over done, and has a touch of real life teen drama. Great for adults and young adults." - **My Overstuffed Bookshelf**

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* is a highly romantic, funny and yes, tearful story about love and life and I'll definitely be checking out more of Howells' future books." - **Book Lush**

"I had thought I would like it a lot, but I was not expecting to love it as much as I did." - **The Book Cellar**

"Sad and happy, dangerous and free spirited, angry and loving and so much more. A most definite read for anyone this Summer and one that should be on high school reading requirements nationwide." - **Yankee Romance Reviewers**

"Perfect for Sarah Dessen fans and the upcoming summer, readers (primarily girls) will gobble up this nostalgic, breezy tale of adventure, family secrets, first love, and loss." - **Bookworm Readers**

"For a debut novel, this one is excellently done. I have not read too many books in the YA category but I thought this one was very enjoyable, easily read and had a lot of great insight into teenagers' perceptions of themselves and the world around them. The story flowed easily with very believable dialogue and characters in an interesting plot that kept me turning the pages. No dry spots here at all! Highly recommended." - **Pudgy Penguin Perusals**

"I especially liked The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* because Mia is very similar to me and I really connected with her. Also, I fell in love with Simon along with Mia and they are now two of my favorite heroine and hero in YA." - **Books and Makeup**

"The realism of The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* makes for an excellent summer read that I devoured in one sitting." - **Writing from the Tub**

"It's an understated love story told by a truly talented author. I can assure you...Amanda Howells is going to be a huge name in the YA genre. I have already referred my best friends to this book and I suggest you go pick it up now." - **Lindsay Blogs**

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* is a book I'd recommend for not only teens, but also adults searching for a sense of nostalgia. A beautiful book that I highly recommend." - **The Fiction Enthusiast**

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* was an exceptional debut, that had me crying, laughing, shouting, and

smiling. It was original and well done, with great characters and a sweet romance. If you're looking for a vivid, refreshing summer read with depth, *The Summer of Skinny Dipping* is the book for you! Amanda Howells is definitely an author to watch out for! " - ***The Book Scout***

"The *Summer of Skinny Dipping* will make you wish for days with nothing to do but lie on the beach and read while giving you issues to think about." - ***Mother Daughter Book Club***

"connected with the characters and still think about them. Thoroughly engaging and bittersweet, *The Summer of Skinny Dipping*, is a thoughtful read which compelled me to finish in just a few days time." - ***Linus's Blanket***

"This is a solid standalone novel that will hook readers any time of year. Hand this one over to your Dessen, Han, and Ockler fans without hesitation." - ***Stacked***

"Howells does a fantastic job of sinking her writing teeth into you and not letting go. She wrote a story that made me smile, made me laugh and broke my heart all at the same time. She wrote a story that I will not ever forget, I'm thinking." - ***Book Binge***

"Mia's voice grabbed me. And the rest is history." - ***The Story Siren***

" is a story that has life lessons and talks of struggle and hardship and moving on. Congratulations to Amanda for her success in this debut novel." - ***Steven's Cybrary***

"This is a touching novel about falling in love, being independent, and learning to believe in yourself. It's definitely bittersweet at times but very realistic. This a terrific summer read!" - ***Teens Read Too***

"I pretty much devoured this book in one sitting. For me this was the perfect book to start off the summer season. As I am reading this it brought back memories to when I was Mia's age (16 years old) and a summer filled with romance and of course drama." - ***Cindy's Love of Books***

"Young readers will be able to relate to both the coming-of-age and first-love themes, as Mia learns to accept herself and situations she cannot control." - ***Sacramento Book Review***

"...the writing was really good. I wasn't totally in the mood for a romance, especially when I wasn't anticipating this novel, but I found this book to be a lovely summer read." - ***Twisted Quill***

" I don't want to compare *The Summer of Skinny Dipping* to anything else, because it's very unique, but I just have to say: It was better than a Sarah Dessen novel. I know, I know. That's saying a lot, but really, Amanda Howells' writing is just as great." - ***The Naughty Book Kitties***

"*Summer of Skinny Dipping* is the perfect summer beach read. You don't have to be just a young adult to enjoy this book; you just have to be young at heart." - ***Cheryl's Book Nook***

"Howells does a masterful job of creating interesting, multi-dimensional characters, as well - and despite many opportunities to fall into caricatures (we're talking about people rich enough to spend their summers in Southampton), Howells deftly avoids this pitfall." - ***Novel Novice***

"Looking for a book that you can lose yourself in this summer? Pick up *The Summer of Skinny Dipping* by Amanda Howells. It's told from the point of view of 16-year-old Mia Gordon - a character you'll surely relate

to. She starts off her summer vacation excited to get to the Long Island shore, hang out with her cousins, and nothing more. See, she's just broken up with a cheating boyfriend and having her heart broken again is the last thing she wants to ruin her break. But Mia's summer takes an unexpected twist when she discovers that she has nothing in common with her cousins and finds herself falling for the boy next door - Simon Ross. He's unlike anyone she's ever met (or dated) and when he encourages Mia to let go of her inhibitions and go skinny dipping for the very first time, well, Mia knows her life is about to change forever! You'll also love the fresh and easy writing style that author Amanda Howells surely perfected as a ghostwriter for series like Sweet Valley High and Fearless!" - *CosmoGirl.com*

"Howells really captured my interest and emotions, taking me on a wild entertaining ride. I would totally recommend this story to readers!" - *Literary Cravings*

"Howells has created a touching love story and an inspirational self-discovery story all in one book. I highly recommended it to anyone who wants to be truly moved by a piece of literature." - *The Charleston Gazette*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Laura Thompson:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great along with important the book The Summer of Skinny Dipping. All type of book can you see on many methods. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

Vivian Nava:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want sense happy read one together with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The actual The Summer of Skinny Dipping is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Kim Deyoung:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is usually The Summer of Skinny Dipping. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Kara Navarrete:

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