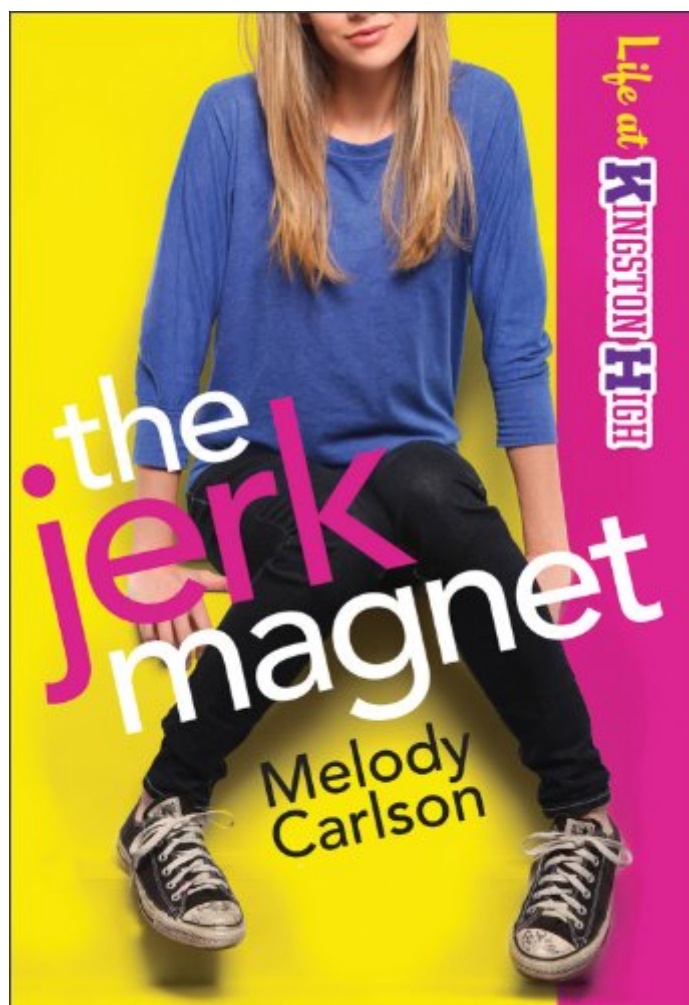


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The Jerk Magnet (Life At Kingston High Book #1)



Synopsis

When Chelsea Martin's future stepmother helps her transform from gawky and geeky into the hottest girl at her new school, Chelsea is pretty sure it's the best thing that ever happened to her. But her hot new look has a downside. She's attracting lots of guys who all have one thing in common: they're jerks. And stealing the attention of all the guys in school doesn't endear her to the girls either. Chelsea finally finds a true friend in Janelle Parker, and a non-jerk, Nicholas, catches her eye. Janelle keeps telling her to be herself, but Nicholas is the only guy around who doesn't give her a second look. Can Chelsea and Janelle come up with a plan to get his attention? Or will Chelsea's new image ruin everything? Teen favorite and bestselling author Melody Carlson helps girls uncover the real source of beauty in this true-to-life story of young love, friendship, and being yourself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

(This review is also posted on Goodreads.) Chelsea Martin changed her image when she moved to San Jose, California where her dad is being assigned. Not only that, her soon-to-be stepmom helped with her make-over. Determined to come out of her stereotypical academic nerd image,

Chelsea surprised not just herself but her family too. Now in a new school with new friends, Chelsea finds her hot-babe image is attracting the wrong kind of guys, and the one guy whose attention she hopes to catch is avoiding her. With the help of a friend in a Christian camp, Chelsea exposes the different treatment she received as the hot chick Chelsea and her plain Jane disguise. Jerk Magnet has a moral to it and values that are worth pondering upon, especially for teens. However, I feel that it is leaning strongly on the hard sell rather than the subtle approach which I find more effective in delivering messages related to personal religious beliefs. Stumbling through all the tiny preachings in the story makes me feel like I've picked up an inspirational book rather than the outline that described the story. It's derailing. The story is short, thankfully, and progresses quite quickly so there's no time to be bored. I think though, that it takes an unfair hit on the teen males. I do not think you can stop young raging hormones when faced with young ladies exposing more skin than necessary. That said, girls who like to dress sexy should expect that kind of attention from guys, but should cultivate proper behavior to demand respect from everyone, if they want any respect at all. Ultimately, it's not what you wear, but how you behave that will give you the reputation you deserve. Even a primly dressed person would be subjected to lecherous attention if she is notoriously imprudent. That I think is a universal truth anyone can relate to, Christian or not.

Have you got an author that you love so much, that whenever they release a book - you just have to sit there and read it. For me, one of those authors is Melody Carlson. Ever since I read her book "Finding Alice" at 16, I fell in love with her writing and since then plowed my way through her numerous series. So it was just natural, that when I saw she had a new series out that I purchase the book to read. Her new series takes us to the world of Kingston High, and in Book #1 we meet Chelsea, ever since her mum died when she was eleven. It has been her and her dad, and in a way she has referred herself to being like Dracula - afraid of mirrors as she views herself as a wallflower - a plain, ugly and unattractive on the outside but within herself she has a sparkling and awesome personality but having the great personality doesn't get you the confidence, friends and guys. With her dad marrying again, her stepmother to be is trying to win Chelsea's affections by swooping in to be her Makeover Fairy Godmother and changing Chelsea's outside appearance and making it as beautiful on the exterior as in the interior. The transformation is definitely one for the books as she goes from Ugly Duckling to the Beautiful Swan. However, Chelsea is about to learn the hard way that when you are striking and beautiful - people judge you only on your looks and you become what is known as a "Jerk Magnet" - attracting all the wrong attention. With the help of her new friend Janelle, the pair of them will try an experiment and show really whether people - even Christians

judge a person from the outside without taking much stock on what type of person they are in the inside. Like most of Melody Carlson's books, each of them teaches the readers a lesson in *The Jerk Magnet* which is a great read. It is definitely one of those books that makes you think and re-evaluate to see whether being beautiful or plain is really what it is cracked up to be and whether it is better to have a beautiful exterior or interior.

If you are a devout Christian this teen book is for you, otherwise not. It is also pretty boring but has good shopping tips. The title is misleading.

Melody Carlson...this may be my favorite book by you yet. It was just so good. I'm serious, guys, I was contemplating giving this 5 stars, but there was one plot element that I wasn't okay with. I'll get to those in a second. This book handles teen issues from a Christian perspective. It's probably the edgiest novel I've ever read; I'm not saying that it IS edgy, I'm saying that I'm not edgy at all. Even slightly. I still stick mainly to the Juvenile section, honestly. But this book didn't bother me at all with its slightly more mature themes; (I'll be honest, they are pretty slight compared to what else is out there) I liked that Ms. Carlson handled them from a Christian perspective, instead of just doing an average, safe Christian novel. The one thing that I didn't like is that the plot kind of hinted, to me at least, that if you wear really cute clothes you'll attract a bunch of jerks. I get what the author was trying to say- that you shouldn't judge others before you get to know them- but still, it did bother me. Anyway, I would recommend this to teens ages 12-13+. It's a great story with a good message, for the most part. I am definitely going to read on in this series!

Melody Carlson is a great Christian author but I was very disappointed with this book. She tried to make a good point that appearance isn't everything but ended up saying the exact opposite. One of the characters in there is named Olivia and is overweight and Carlson's comments about her can crush any girl who struggles with her weight. "Olivia sounded like a nice person...but she was quite chubby and, in Chelsea's opinion, not very pretty or fashionable. Naturally, Chelsea felt curious as to how this frumpy-dumpy girl had attracted someone as hot as Nicholas." "....chubby but funny Olivia..." These comments really got on my nerves. Overall, the book implied that only pretty girls get the hot guy and visa versa. Not a good book for people who struggle with self-image.

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