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Notes From A Spinning Planet--Mexico



Synopsis

Madison Chase's holiday break is drawing to a close and she's eager to leave the gray Washington winter and join her Aunt Sid on a warm vacation to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Maddie is pleasantly surprised when her good friend Ryan McIntire shows up to enjoy the trip with them, and she looks forward to spending time with him. But when Ryan runs into his high school crush, the beautiful Shelby Wagner, Maddie's jealousy threatens to spoil their sun-drenched days. Unsure of her relationship with Ryan, Maddie distracts herself by befriending a local girl, Francesca Tarrago, who is both intelligent and hardworking but lives in deep poverty. As Maddie does what she can to help Francesca, she discovers a secret that Shelby has been keeping from all of them. Can Maddie put aside her conflicted feelings and love Shelby enough to help her? This third book in the Notes from a Spinning Planet series invites young women to the romantic beaches of Mexico to explore a love deeper than simple affection and the meaning of true sacrifice. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Maddie is going on yet another trip with her Aunt Sid. Except this time its for fun and relaxation in beautiful Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Maddie is prepared for beaches, sun, and tropical drinks and is even more excited when Ryan is due to show up. However, the vacation is not all that's cracked up to be. First the timeshare location is rundown and not managed well. Then Ryan's ex girlfriend shows up making Maddie feel like a plain Jane third wheel. But Shelby has a secret that puts the pretty face facade to shame. Maddie has to fight feelings of jealousy in order to help her do the right thing. I think that this was my favorite book out of the series. With this story, Maddie was able to enjoy herself and seek out social justice at the same time. The whole situation with Francesca's sisters and the orphanage sounded really sketchy. I wonder how many similar situations take place and it makes me worry that people will not use money correctly. I was really glad that the subject of binge drinking was brought up. In previous books, drinking one or two beers was not seen as a problem. However with this book, Shelby has become an alcoholic and refuses to admit it until Sid threatens her with drastic measures. Even an allergic reaction that almost kills her doesn't stop her. Sadly this is how many teens view their own lives. They don't care if something harms them as long as it makes them feel like it's giving a good time. But I really love how I can relate to these books. The feelings that Maddie had whenever Shelby was around her and Ryan, I think almost every girl has felt that way. And no matter how Christian a guy will be, just like Ryan they will always seem to give more attention to the prettier girl that seems to flaunt herself. It's a typical guy thing that will sadly never change, lol. I found the timeshare bit quite funny. I don't think I could get out of one of those as well as Sid could have. I really hope there will be another book in this series. There's so many other places that Maddie and Sid should travel to. I would highly recommend this book for older teens.

Madison Chase is getting bored during her holiday break when she receives a welcome call from Aunt Sid, who offers her an escape vacation to Mexico. She jumps at the chance to spend some time with her favorite aunt and travel companion. Before she realizes it, Maddie is onboard a plane and then subsequently learning firsthand how slow the pace in Mexico is when they encounter one delay after another upon arrival. Even once the duo arrives at their hotel, cultural differences abound. Both Maddie and Sid keep their eyes and ears open, alert to dangers from locals who have had enough of rude Americans. While the sun and water are enticing enough, an unexpected phone call from Ireland sets both women's hearts racing when they find out that Sid's Irish boyfriend, Ian, is coming for a visit and bringing Maddie's good friend, Ryan, along for the New Year's holiday. Before

the guys arrive at Cabo San Lucas, the girls find themselves sympathizing with their hotel clerk's difficulties and try to help her find better employment and housing. Little do they know how Francesca Tarrago has been influenced and controlled by the couple who ran the girls' home where she lived. Again, cultural differences make another appearance. Maddie does the best she can to help rescue Francesca from a dire future, and God orchestrates a rescue mission of His own that has the women responding in grateful awe. Once Ian and Ryan arrive, the entire mood lifts from the serious to the seriously fun and romantic --- until an old girlfriend of Ryan's settles in front and center, and a sad and disappointed Maddie is temporarily pushed aside. The plot takes another turn, as the women end up sharing space with Ryan's ex-girlfriend and are placed into a situation where they play rescuer of another sort to the troubled young woman. Readers will enjoy Melody Carlson's third installment in the Notes from a Spinning Planet series as she continues to offer a deepening complexity, both in terms of plot and character development. As always, her fictional characters are utterly relatable, winsome and full of human foibles, which makes for a gratifying, lighthearted read. --- Reviewed by Michele Howe

Review by Jill Williamson This time Maddie and Aunt Sid are on vacation. The timeshare Aunt Sid's friend bought isn't much of a vacation, though. Still, the ladies vow to enjoy themselves in beautiful Cabo San Lucas. In a surprise visit, Ian and Ryan show up. The guys have a great hotel, and Maddie is enjoying the visit when beautiful blonde Shelby--a girl from Ryan's past--saunters into the picture. Maddie is jealous, but she and Ryan really aren't a couple. So she preoccupies herself by helping her new friend Francesca find a better job. This was a frustrating story! Shelby is annoying and she steals Ryan away from Maddie early on in the vacation. Maddie deals with it very well. She doesn't go crazy with jealous anger, fits, or revenge. She simply goes on with her own life, trying to do what's right and have fun. It isn't easy for her, but any guy who has his priorities straight wouldn't be blind-sighted by Shelby's act for long. Ryan is no exception. What I loved about this story was the fact that Maddie behaves so lovingly toward Shelby. It's not only the right thing to do, but it's attractive to Ryan because guys want a girl who is about something. Girls, if you want to catch a great guy, don't chase him and put on an act. Be yourself. Maddie comes to the conclusion that if Ryan is really into Shelby and her wild ways, he really isn't the guy for her. Too true. You've got to read this one to see how it all works out. Highly recommended.

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