



The Jerk Magnet

Melody Carlson

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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.

The Jerk Magnet Details

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Author : Melody Carlson

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From Reader Review The Jerk Magnet for online ebook

Paula Phillips says

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.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

"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?"

Series: Book #1 in the "Life at Kingston Hill" series. {There are a total of three books in this series.}

Spiritual Content- When she was eight, Chelsea & her best friend committing their loves to Jesus but both were short lived; Chelsea sends up a "Please, God" and a thank you Prayer; Youth group & Chelsea goes to

a Christian Concert and Prays to become a Christian; Nicholas has a strong Faith & witnesses.

*Note: a mention that a room looks like a shrine to drama.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘crud’, two ‘dumb’s (one being “*dumber than dirt*”), four ‘duh’s, five ‘stupid’s; an offensive word is almost said; some coarse language (and a curse) is said but not written; Sarcasm; a Mention of divorce; Mean & Petty girls.

*Note: Rob P*ttinson & Edward C*llen (Chelsea wakes up from a dream with him in it and calls him “*dreamy*”) and Twilight & Dracula are all mentioned; Many, many brand names, celebrities and movies are mentioned.

Sexual Content- a ‘smoking’, a ‘sl*t’, 9 “*hot babe*”s; 27 forms of ‘hot’; a jerk tries to kiss Chelsea; Chelsea comments how kids at school fall in & out of love all the time; Chelsea asks if Kate is pregnant (she’s not); Mentions of an affair; Crushes, boyfriends, girlfriends, ex-es, dating & on-again-off-again relationships; Chelsea’s dad says that teenaged boys are only have one thing on their minds and that church boys are the worst of them (Chelsea later tells Janelle that her *“dad’s always going on about hormone-driven seventeen-year-old-boys. He thinks they should be locked up until they turn twenty-one.”* “*Does he honestly think they’ll improve by then?”* “*I don’t know. But maybe their emotional maturity will catch up with testosterone by then.”*); A teacher flirts with a student (Chelsea); Bikini wearing & flirting; breasts, lack of them, & bras are mentioned twice; Guys check girls out; Noticing biceps; Wearing outfits that show off curves; a wondering if a couple broke up because of s*x.

-Chelsea Martin, age 16

P.O.V. of Chelsea

217 pages

Pre Teens- One Star

New Teens- One Star (and a half)

Early High School Teens- Two Stars

Older High School Teens- Two Stars (and a half)

My personal Rating- Two Stars

{ Best for older girls who have been in this situation. }

{ Rating *might* be higher for those in Public School. }

As a Home Schooled High Schooler, this book didn't really pertain to me as all of it is centered around Public School and drama there.

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com>

*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

Michelle says

I don't know what it is about Melody Carlson's YA books published by Revell that I love so much, but it probably has to do with the relevant, timely subject matter and how well she puts everything together in a story that anyone can relate to. If the rest of the series is half as enjoyable as this book was, then I'm reading them all. In fact, I read this story through in one sitting. I didn't get out of the chair until I'd turned the last page. Not even to take a break. That's a great book if I don't want to put it down for any reason.

I loved the theme in this book about how people treat each other based on outward appearances and that all people, good-looking and unattractive alike, have feelings that shouldn't be messed with based on preconceived notions people may have about them. I discovered when I was a teenager that acting like myself and having a brain didn't attract boys. But ramp up the appearance a bit and play the ditzy blonde, and then I couldn't get them to leave me alone.

I've been at fault myself for judging people based on their outward appearance even as an adult. I assumed once back in the 1990s that our new pastor's young wife (who was my age) had plenty of friends because she was pretty and nice, only to find out everyone else thought she had plenty of friends, too, and for the same reason. Come to find out she had NO friends. Everyone assumed wrong. We ended up becoming friends and bonded over the movie "Sense and Sensibility" with some other ladies at church who had also judged incorrectly and we finally got to know each other. I'm glad we did.

What I enjoyed most about this book was how it showed that beautiful people have emotional insecurities too. While everyone says they want to be that way, the truth is if guys only wanted to date you because you were beautiful, and no one wanted to commit to you because they felt you were too pretty, you'd see it's a pretty lonely life. And no one likes to be surrounded by catty, competitive women, even as adults. So this book was a great reminder that even Christians fall into that trap, though I can honestly say that at my church I feel like we all blend very well and befriend each other with no biases, but I'm sure that's not always the case.

Regardless, we need to get to know each other on the inside first, and let that be the measuring stick we use to determine whether or not we want to get to know someone better or not. The Jerk Magnet did a great job at presented all sides and reminding the reader not to be shallow and judgmental, but to love each other as Christ loved us. And most of all, to give each other a chance. We're all flawed, but we're all loved by the same God. Because this book spoke to my heart and I couldn't stop reading it, it's making my favorite fiction list for 2012. So far what I've been reading has been amazing for 2012. I'm sure it won't stay that way forever, but I'm enjoying it while it lasts.

Gabs {My Full Bookshelf Reviews} says

Melody Carlson...this my 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 it's slightly more mature themes; (I'll be honest, they are pretty slight compared to what else is out there) I liked that Ms. Carlso handeled 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!

This review can be found on <http://myfullbookshelfreviews.blogspot.com>...

Lisa says

Pretty girls don't always get the good guys, high school junior Chelsea Martin learns.

A geeky frump, especially since her mom died, Chelsea suffers from awful teeth, hair and skin, and hides from her image. Worse than zits, her dad blindsides her with a double whammy: he's getting married again and they're moving. Chelsea barely knows her new drop-dead gorgeous stepmom2B and grudgingly accepts her advice for new clothes, skin and hair treatment and confidence-building exercises. Realizing she has the chance to start all over in a new city, Chelsea decides to go for it and by the time she's made friends with the new neighbor girl Janelle and others in her church youth group, school begins.

Since she understands what it feels like to be the one never chosen, a complete makeover from the outside in helps Chelsea deal with prejudice from a direction she never considered. While most of the guys hover over the new hot-babe Chelsea, the girls keep her at arm's length. Janelle comes clean when they have a heart2heart. Chelsea's attracting jerk guys who want more than clueless Chelsea can provide. The two of them cook up a scheme to give their friends a lesson they can't learn in class, but Chelsea's new-found faith in Jesus may be the only true friend she has left if they bomb.

This is a such a sweet book. I wouldn't hesitate to give it to the girlchildren in my life. There are lots of tips about what really counts in life, how to read hormonal guys and to consider a person's true motives. Empathy and sympathy go hand in hand in good relationships. Melody Carlson has a huge, lengthy career, and her high school fashion and talk feels natural to me, although I know the bits and pieces of high school life she shares are more what I wish than reality. With teachers in my family, I dislike the portrayal of predator teachers, but I know they're out there and the students' instincts and actions are correctly portrayed in this piece of fiction. The pacing of the story kept me turning pages, the premise achieved without feeling like every loose end is tied up in a pink bow and delivered with sweets.

Available January 2012 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

Melanie says

A little too much high school drama for my tastes, but it was an okay read. It showed that looks aren't everything and you need to be comfortable in your own skin.

Jennifer Madero (Boricuan Bookworms) says

Rating: 3.5 stars

Synopsis: Chelsea Martins is a big time geek. When her dad announces he's remarrying and moving to San Jose in a matter of weeks, she thinks that her life couldn't get worse. But it actually takes an unexpected turn when she starts to like her step-mom-to-be, specially when she's making a make-over of her appearance. When Chelsea and her Dad get to San Jose, Chelsea makes a friend trying to act a different and more confident way than she's used to, becoming a Jerk Magnet. She thinks that's great at first, except when she gets interested in a boy that detests her for how she looks.

I'd divide this book in three sections:

- One being her transformation
- Second being her attracting the boys attention. Yes, we get it. She attracts a lot of guys...
- Three how people treat her indifferently and a reflection.

I have to admit this book was good in a way. While reading it I became bored, hoping for some real action to happen. When it came to the plot, it wasn't what I expected from what I read on the description.

Though I have to give credit to the author. The book was nicely written and it gives us a good message. Not all books do that.

While reading it might it look lame, but once you finish, the pieces fall together. Chelsea is mistreated for being a nerd and not caring much of her appearance. But when she goes to the other extreme of being overly hot, it's also bad. She tries to be someone she's not, constantly acting and over-calculating her moves. That is an example that we shouldn't be what we aren't. that we should be, behave and look comfortable and be happy with it, not caring what others say about it.

At the end of the story things become more interesting. It makes us reflect on how we judge others by how they look without thinking of how they feel towards that. It makes a big emphasis too that Christians aren't perfect people, but that they try to be better people and that God loves us for how we are inside, not outside.

And I think that this books is good on that manner, on showing us that not everything is as it seems. We can't judge by appearances, rather by how a person is once we decide to know them.

If you like things related to God, read this book.

If you like things related to social behavior, read it.

If you like a read that makes you reflect once you finish, read it.

If you hope to find something romantic to read, don't read it.

Other than that, it was an entertaining and fast read.

Cheryl says

Sixteen year old Chelsea Martin's life is about to get turned upside down. Chelsea's father informs her that his job has transferred him and he is getting remarried. Chelsea wants to part of her dad's plans and she especially does not want to get to know her soon to be step mother, Kate. Though, once Chelsea does get to know Kate she likes her. In fact, Kate takes Chelsea on a shopping spree for a new make over. The transformation is great. It seems that others have noticed Chelsea's make over as well. The others being guys. Chelsea has never received so much attention from all these guys. This would not be such a bad thing if it weren't for the simple fact that the guys are jerks!

The Jerk Magnet is book one of the Life at Kingston High series. I have read several books by this author. She writes for the young adult genre. I think that Melody does a good job portraying the emotions and what type of situations a teen goes though.

I felt bad for Chelsea. While, the make over her step mom gave her was nice, Chelsea was not ready for all the attention she received right away from the guys. Though, I thought Chelsea handled herself really well in these situations. She never flirted with the guys to lead them on. She was up front with them about just wanting to be friends. It was just that as the title of this book is called The Jerk Magnet; Chelsea could not help it that all the guys that hit on her were "jerks". Reading this book, it is sad though that we as a society put so much emphasize on the outer appearance versus what someone is really like on the inside. This was a good book to start of this new series from author Melody Carlson.

Katie says

The Jerk Magnet
by: Melody Carlson

I read the jerk magnet this book is about a teenage girl whose name is Chelsea she lives with her dad because her mom recently got in a car crash about 5 or 6 months ago. Chelsea is a quit outgoing girl who is like a normal girl from school the acne sometimes braces but once all of this started happening and her mother died all the people from school started ignoring her. Plus her best friends have they only gone to her birthday party because they felt bad. Then a little later in the book Chelsea's dad decides to tell her that she is imaged to a new girl named Kate and they are going to get married soon and like normal teenage girls most of them don't take it very well speaking of which she doesn't really know her that much either on the down side. As they start a relationship Chelsea and Kate. Kate decided to take Chelsea shopping and to get her all pretty up Chelsea doesn't take that very well and she thinks that she likes herself for who she is and not on the outside that counts. Chelsea decides to go with the flow with Kate and let her do everything her makeup hair and even tanning. Chelsea the once brown hair acne faced and old clothes is now turned into the blonde hair tanned skin new clothes and new you. When they go out to each Chelsea's dad could hardly recognize her she was totally different even the guy that watered there table did he was nice then he was before. Soon after all of this happens Chelsea and her dad move to San José and Kate has to stay home to sell her condo. Chelsea and her dad stop at many places along the way hotels restaurants rest stops. Soon they stop at a hotel

not far from San Jose. Chelsea decided to try on this swimming suit that Kate got her it shows way too much as she tells herself but decided to wear it anyway then this boy down at the pool won't leave her alone until her dad shows up then we all know where that is going at haha. As soon as the morning arrives they are on their way to San José they make it and find a house they move in a couple days later and Chelsea meets a friend named Janelle she's about the same age in the same grade and she pretty. She invites her to youth group and they meet more people Chelsea soon realizes that there's more than skin deep when she realizes that the boy she really likes doesn't like her. To summarize my book there is more to a person then looks you can't always judge a person by their cover you actually have to read the inside to know what's up.

The End

Stormi (BMReviewsohmy) says

The Jerk Magnet was a cute, interesting look at what happens when a young girl goes from a geek to a hotty, and how it changes her life.

Most girls, might say that if they could be as hot as the other girls in school, they wouldn't turn into those mean girls. We think we will be just like we were before, but it doesn't always turn out that way. Chelsea, always thought of herself as a geek, she even thought her and Dracula had something in common, they both hated mirrors. Then her soon to be step-mother helps her transform from a plain Jane to the girl all the guys want to love.

At first Chelsea is very uncomfortable in her new skin, she was never use to guys taking notice, but it doesn't take long for it to start making her feel good. Chelsea didn't realize being pretty would gain the attention of ever teenage jerk around, being pretty does have a downside after all.

The one guy that Chelsea would like to have some attention from though doesn't even act like she exist, so how can she get his attention?

The Jerk Magnet, deals with an issue that a lot of young ladies struggle with as they are growing up. Can your outer beauty, corrupt your inner beauty, or can you still be just as beautiful on the inside as on the outside.

It was a fun, teenage Christian novel and I would recommend it to anyone who has teens.

Caroline says

2.5 Stars

Reading the blurb on the back of this book makes it seem **RIGHT** up my alley.

Frumpy girl gets makeover, now she's suddenly hot and has to figure out how to deal with the new attention. Awesome! Right? Wrong.....

Suddenly, this fun, easy reading book turns into a preaching Christian religious book with a morality tale on every page. I liked the characters, I liked the plot, but I did NOT like having God shoved down my throat every other page.

Promote this book for what it is. Christian Fiction.

Oh, and the dialogue sounds like it came from the script of an after school special. Not realistic at all. This could have been more like Mean Girls, but it ended up more like-as I said-an after school (church) special. :\

The good news was that it was a **SUPER** fast read.
I will not be reading the rest of the series though.

Helena says

I think that this was a great book. It looks at teenage friendships, self esteem, modesty and some effects of lack of modesty, the way people can judge and withhold friendship based on appearance (without getting to know them).

Helena

Off Market578 says

Not my thing. If you're religious you will like it.

Jerry says

Synopsis: Chelsea Martin is a big-time geek. Not only does she focus on academics and other "nerdy" subjects, but she is very socially awkward, and guys don't really take notice of her. However, she is in for some big changes: Her widower father is getting married, and she is moving to San José, California! To prepare Chelsea for her new life, her fashionista stepmother-to-be Kate gives her a makeover, which causes her to be the belle of the ball at her new school. However, Chelsea's new-found good looks are attracting some of the wrong guys and causing some of her female classmates to despise her, and it's making her uncomfortable; with the help of her friend Janelle, they show everyone the **real** truth about physical appearance.

Story: 3.75/5

We've all seen the movies where the homely girl turns into a knock-out; anyone remember *Princess Diaries* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*? Still, instead of just using the female lead as a showpiece, this story makes a good point that I refuse to give away in this review.

Writing: 4.25/5

Though there were some rough spots, Mrs. Carlson's writing is just as good as, if not better than, it usually is. I've read some of her other works--the first few *True Colors* books, every *Carter House Girls* novel except for the last one, and even some of her Christmas fiction--and this is right up to par with all of that.

Content: 3.25/5

If you have a "Y" chromosome, you might find some of the descriptions to be too much; if you don't, you'll likely understand where the characters are coming from. Discussions of Chelsea wearing "skimpy" swimsuits, all of which are worn around guys, appear several times, though she is uncomfortable with it every single time, and ends up deciding not to do it anymore. Also mentioned are overly tight bras and deep cleavage. I realize that a twenty-five-year-old guy such as myself isn't exactly the target audience for this novel, and most female readers will likely laugh it off; still, I felt it worth mentioning.

Conclusion: After enduring some terrible novels, *The Jerk Magnet* was a breath of fresh air. A captivating, engrossing story with great writing? How much better can you get? Though the book wasn't perfect--see above for why--it was still an amazing read that read like a Disney Channel Original Movie. Fans of Christian young adult fiction should check this out immediately!

Score: 4.25/5**Abbie Riddle says**

The ugly duckling turned swan, the wall flower turned center attraction. What if you could become something that you never were before? What if you discover first hand that beauty really is more than just skin deep - because you are the transformed one - the overlooked that becomes the looked upon? That is just what unfolds in this teenage drama.

Chelsea Martin has long been the one to fade into the background. She has managed high school by just blending into the crowd, where no one notices her. That is until her father decides to marry a woman that is both beautiful and fashionable. Kate, the soon to be step-mom sees herself in Chelsea. Wanting to connect with her step-daughter she offers to give Chelsea a make-over, and what better time than when they will be

moving to a new state. Chelsea has the unique opportunity of truly starting over.

Little did she know how different her life would become when she changes her appearance just a little.

This novel brings about a very interesting topic that most girls will be able to easily relate to. The very question that most girls struggle with is inner beauty enough, and can you have outer beauty and still be just as beautiful on the inside?

Chelsea goes from being the one that people pity, avoid or overlook to the one that people flock to, drool over, and even envy and hate. She quickly learns that being beautiful on the outside isn't what it was cracked up to be when people don't even take the time to get to know who she is on the inside and being overlooked isn't great for the same reason. So, how do you find the balance - what is it that Christ has called you to do?

This is a great teen novel. Once again Carlson has done an excellent job of tackling the subject of self-esteem and the struggle of becoming who you were always meant to be.

Thank you Revell for this review copy.
