



What a Boy Needs

Nyrae Dawn

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A companion novel to WHAT A BOY WANTS.

Jaden Sinclair knows he'll never amount to anything...so why would he deserve a girl like Priscilla Mendoza?

Since last summer, things have been screwed up between Jaden and Pris. He knows it's his fault, but that doesn't stop him from wanting to go a few rounds with her new boyfriend. He also knows he's the loser his dad calls him, but it doesn't stop him from wanting her.

After getting a huge bomb dropped on him, Jaden lashes out and lands himself in jail. Everything in his chaotic life is turned upside down and to make it worse, his mom kicks him out in order to side with his dad. Yeah, he's totally a prize for a girl like Pris.

Sebastian, Aspen, and Pris are all going places in their lives...and he knows he can't keep tagging along for the ride.

The group has one last chance for The Epic Adventure they've been looking for: a road trip to New York, where Jaden's friends will be going to college. Unfortunately, the more time Jaden hangs around Pris, the harder it is to keep the carefully constructed walls between them so she doesn't find out what a train wreck he really is.

When the trip ends, Jaden has to decide if he's ready to say goodbye to his friends, and the girl he loves. He knows what he needs, but will he be man enough to go for it?

Contains mature themes. Some sexual situations and language.

What a Boy Needs Details

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From Reader Review What a Boy Needs for online ebook

Isabella says

OOOOOOH Jaden!! <3

OMG!!! YES!! Can't wait to find out more :DDD

Melissa says

This review and others can also be found at [The Nifty Novels Blog!](#)

Another sweet book by Nyrae Dawn. I just have to say right off the bat -- Nyrae can sure nail the teenage boy voice with her narrators. In *What a Boy Needs* Jaden gets to be the star as the first person narrator of the story, and he is a fun person to get to know in this story. And by fun I guess I really mean fascinating. Jaden is a boy who is the product of a completely sucky home environment. Is he abused? Not physically. But the mental abuse thrown at him daily by his "father" is horrific. No child (even if he is now an 18 year old child) should have to endure the words thrown at him by this man. Jaden is constantly told that he is worthless and unwanted, and after years of hearing this over and over again Jaden is pretty sure that this is true.

Jaden is fascinating to me because he has this crazy mix of over-the-top cockiness and surety mixed with a severe lack of self esteem. This boy who can walk into a room like he owns the place, do outrageous things, and constantly make comments about his own awesomeness is secretly battling feelings of insecurity. He doesn't feel as if he is good enough for even his own friends who have been rocks to him his entire life. Chalk that up to the man Jaden believed was his father. He tells Jaden that he is only a mooch and a burden to his friends, and Jaden believes him. Why is it that we are so quick to believe the people who care least about us in this world and not listen to the people who love us most? I think that the issues brought up with Jaden's life in this book are issues that young people face all the time in this world. And that's why I enjoyed seeing how Jaden was going to work through all of this. Jaden hides his insecurity through his cocky attitude with others, but his friends are able to see the vulnerable parts of him. However, Jaden won't let them in to really see how hurt and ashamed he is. He doesn't want them to know -- even though they already do. Nyrae does an amazing job of painting the two parts of Jaden's personality, the public and the private sides. I loved that about this book.

This book is not just about Jaden. It is about his relationship with Priscilla as well. Priscilla seems to have a life that is a polar opposite of his. Her parents are wealthy and successful, and they give her whatever she wants. That is how it appears to Jaden at least. In reality Priscilla's parents mask their neglect with displays meant for others, not for Priscilla, so she feels almost as unwanted and unloved as Jaden does. But neither of them can realize this until one of them opens up to the other. So much of this book was about Jaden hiding his true feelings, in the process creating a rift in his friendship with Pris that gets deeper and deeper. She likes him -- a lot, and he likes her -- a lot. But Jaden will not allow himself to form any sort of romantic attachment to her because he believes that she is too good for him. As he tries to push her away for her own good he ends up hurting her over and over. Seeing the two of them work through the issues of communication that come because of Jaden's insecurity was a great part of this book.

What I absolutely loved the most -- Jaden's internal thoughts as he tried to figure out Priscilla. I have five brothers, so I am very familiar with how boys work, and I have to say, this portrayal of Jaden and his confusion about all things girly was spot on. I could see any one of my brothers thinking the exact same things. Why do girls do the things they do when dealing with boys? It makes sense to girls, but it is a mystery to boys. I could read about Priscilla's actions and know exactly why she was doing what she was doing, but Jaden was at a total loss. Sometimes when I'm reading a book this can be frustrating to read because it drives me crazy when the two love interests in a book don't communicate. But in this case it was done perfectly. Sometimes it was absolutely hilarious to see Jaden try to figure things out. Other times it could be touching as I saw Jaden's eyes really opening and seeing just who Priscilla was and what she meant to him. Some of my favorite scenes were those when Jaden pushed aside all of his overthinking and allowed himself to just be there for Pris and comfort her and talk to her. Loved those scenes!

I do have one small complaint (and it's small), but I felt as if the ending of the book was rushed a bit. Things played out wonderfully for everyone, so I loved that. But I really wanted to hear more about things with Jaden's family and Priscilla's family. I don't think that this story deserved tons of extra time -- I mean, the two families really were atrocious in their own special way. But I just felt like I wanted more closure with everything. I would have especially loved to read more about Jaden's introduction to his real father. But, like I say, it was a small complaint, and I still really enjoyed the story without any expansion.

So overall I really enjoyed this second book about this group of four friends as they head off into their futures. It is a story of the power of friendship and love to overcome the junk thrown at us in life. And it is an amazing story of getting inside the head of a troubled boy and watching him find exactly what he needs. Four stars!

Christy says

Loved Jaden's story! So good- the dynamic of the foursome is great! I liked this one better than the first... didn't want it to end.

Kelly says

What A Boy Needs is the companion book to What A Boy Wants, the first one followed Sebastian and this time it's his friend Jaden's turn to tell his story.

OMG! I loved this book! It made me cry, laugh, cry some more, and then end up in a really happy place!

I really liked Sebastian in What A Boy Wants but I loved Jaden more in What A Boy Needs! There were so many times during this book where I just wanted to reach in and give him a huuuuuug hug.

The story starts with Jaden having to deal with Pris, the girl he loves but has never told, having a new boyfriend and it hurts like hell.

"It should be me sitting with Priscilla right now. My hand in her hair. My lips on her neck. I should be stealing food off her lunch plate ... I want to be with her ... I want her way more than I should, but I also realise it's a no go. She deserves way better."

He's then on the receiving end of a massive bombshell of news. Like life altering news. A brief spell in jail, after assaulting his mean, verbally abusive father, and a broken hand later and Jaden's a mess of self-doubting, insecurity and vulnerability, as well as homeless.

After hearing time and time again from his dad that he's a loser who's worthless Jaden believes that to be true.

"You're not worth it. You're not worth anything." His words hit home everything I already know ... It's not like he's telling me anything I haven't known forever.

My heart ached for Jaden and I hated his parents. His dad for verbally abusing him and treating him the way he did, and his mum for just letting it happen without a word to his dad to stop and to see that it wasn't right. Obviously Mr Sinclair's controlling ways had had an effect on her too, I can see that, but no matter what, if I was treated the same way she was I would NEVER let that happen to one of my children, just soo hard to understand how she didn't see who her loyalty was with.

Then along comes the road-trip he's been planning for ages with his 3 best friends, Sebastian, Aspen and Pris. They drive across the country to get to New York and it's one hell of a journey of self discovery for Jaden.

He shuts his friends out so that he can protect them for his worthless self. He cuts off and doesn't share anything that he's going through, which only makes his strained situation with Pris worse... until... he start's to open up to her, and when he does there's no stopping him!

You'll have to read what happens from there as I hate giving the ending away in reviews, really kills it for someone who's yet to read the book. All I will say is I highly recommend you read this book, I loved it and had to force myself to stop reading to go to sleep the evening I started it!

Nyrae Dawn has done a fantastic job at writing from Jaden's POV. You'd never guess it was a woman writing a boy character, and that to me shows how good she really is. I'm really looking forward to her future work, hopefully it will be soon!

Ps... She's also REALLY nice on twitter too so you should follow her here --> @NyraeDawn

dluvsbooks says

Can't wait!!! Gonna read this as soon as it's available (hopefully sooner rather than later). Which means I'm going to drop EVERYTHING for it!!! That's right. Nothings gonna stop me.

Autumn Review says

I didn't think it was possible to love Jaden more than I already did, but seriously.....FANTASTIC!!!!!! I adored What A Boy Wants, but What A Boy Needs blew my mind. Full review to come soon!

My Summary:

The end of senior year is approaching and Jaden Sinclair feels like he's stuck. All of his friends are getting ready to head off to college in New York and Jaden was originally supposed to go, but his college plans didn't work out and he doesn't have the money to last long in New York. Then to make matters worse, he has to watch Pris with her new boyfriend.

After an altercation with his dad, he learns some shocking information. He's arrested for assaulting his dad and as a result his mother kicks him out. Jaden goes to live with Bastian for the remaining school year. Because of this latest event, he really feels like he's just not good enough to stick around his friends and decides not to go to New York.

Bastian, Aspen, and Pris talk him into making the trip East with them for their last big adventure together. Along the way, Pris tries to tear down Jaden's walls. He's always been the jokester, the one to hide his feelings, especially when it comes to Pris. Jaden has wanted Pris for so long, but has never felt good enough for her. As the trip progresses, their feelings for each other surface. He wants to be with her more than anything, but since he plans to leave, holds back. Will Jaden listen to his heart and stay with the girl he loves and the friends he doesn't want to leave behind? Can he finally figure out that he's good enough?

My Take:

I really don't know where to start. When I read *What A Boy Wants*, I met Jaden. I really liked him in that story, so when I found out he'd have his own story, I was jumping up and down. Literally. I really love these books. I love that they are written in first person from a male perspective. Nyrae captures the male voice perfectly. The tone of this book is completely different than *WABW* though. Jaden has some serious issues, so even though the humor is still present, it is a heavier story. I laughed, I cried, and I seriously SWOONED.

Let me begin my gush on Jay. I love all of these characters and I've placed them into my life in a particular way. I adore Bastian, he's the cute guy that you love to have as your pal. Aspen is a true loyal friend. Pris, accepts you for who you are and stands by no matter what. Jaden.....he's the guy that I would want as my boyfriend. Yes, it's true I have a slight soft spot for the tortured souls. Seriously though, this guy is special. I was deeply touched watching him go on this journey of realizing that he IS special and that his friends love him, that Pris loves him. Jaden needs people to love him. He had me melting in a puddle of goo throughout the whole story. I really could go on and on and on.....about how wonderful he is.

As I said before, even though it is a deeper story, there are so many funny highlights that I feel necessary to point out without giving anything away. As you read this book, keep your eye out for these key moments.

1. Graduation
2. "Do it harder!"
3. Cherry Coke
4. Ice Cream
5. Chicago

Once you read the book, you'll understand why I felt I needed to spotlight those special treats.

Nyrae Dawn has a true gift of capturing the voice of her characters perfectly. She makes you feel like you're part of the family. It is such a pleasure to read her work. I know I read fast, but I got this book Tuesday afternoon of this week and immediately opened it. I had it completed before midnight that same night. That alone should tell you how fantastic this book is. Please go read these books. You won't regret it!

Steff says

Great! I'm the first reader that added this... but after I finished What a boy Wants, I couldn't help it. I have to read the next book!!!

Nyrae, you have just joined my favorite writers list!!

My Thoughts After reading:

This book was fun and heartwarming. I was mesmerized from the beginning of the book -we know how is it that Nyrae can reflect so easily what a friendship that turns into love feels like given that she married one of his high school friends- The only thing that I didn't like too much was that it is so short that I feel it ended to soon.

This is one of the best books I have read this year.

Jolene Perry says

This book lived up to everything I wanted it to be.

Another FABULOUS guy POV.

A little deeper than What a Boy Wants, but it was SO fun to see Sebastian in action again.

Some great schmexy scenes.

LOVE the love story, and love what Jaden had to overcome.

Nyrae's awesome at creating some laugh out loud moments, some sweet moments, and some swoon worthy ones as well.

Well done :-D

Deea (Andreea) says

Holly smokes this was a whole new level of AWESOMENESS! <3

I can't write a coherent review right now (you know it always happens when I get emotional over a book;)), but I loved it! Jay's story was beautiful and heartbreaking and powerful and sweet and inspiring and funny at times (I could go on and on here)... I may or may not have cried there at the end and I may or may not be super jealous of these four friends relationship and I may or may not have felt like calling my high school friends in the middle of the night and I may or may not have laughed out loud a few times because Bastian and Jay have the best lines and... Ok, I'll shut up for now. I need to recover or something.

Anywaaaays, great book!<3 **4.5 stars**

P.S. Valerie, I owe you one for 'introducing' me to Bastian and Jay and their stories! I'm totally joining the fan club!;)

Ornella (Nyx) says

I think I liked Jaden's story more than Sebastian's, but I loved both of them anyway xD

What really grabbed at me was Jaden's struggle of always thinking that he wasn't worth anything and his friends being there with him even when Jaden didn't think he wanted it. Their unyielding support was amazing, especially Pris's. She was kick-ass, she knew what she wanted and even though her parents gave her crap, she made a life of her own and knew who she wanted to be. Jaden had more to go through but he was finally able to overcome it and realize that he was someone not only worthy of love but of the amazing friends he had, and that he could be whoever he wanted. And he did it. Worked for it and made himself what he wanted to be.

Excellent book! :)

Andrea says

Recently, I read a great book, WHAT A BOY WANTS (my review). I immediately fell in love with the story, the characters, and author Nyrae Dawn's ability to tell a great story and feel so much for her characters. So you can imagine how happy I was when I learned Nyrae was writing a companion book from Jaden's point of view, WHAT A BOY NEEDS. I received an advanced copy of this book and dove in wholeheartedly. I was thrilled to revisit the gang and to learn more about Jaden.

What I learned....broke my heart. Jaden's home life is so devastating. There were hints that things weren't good in WaBW. But to actually face it was wrenching. This poor, sweet boy who appears to be carefree and always up for a good time, he endures so much. The constant onslaught of verbal abuse, being told he's nothing, a mistake; it starts to play with Jaden's mind and causes him to lose himself. He begins to believe he's not good enough for Bastian, Aspen, and Pris.

Pris. She has loved Jaden for so long. But he didn't see her that way. Then, when he finally did, Jaden didn't think he was worthy of her love. It's easy to see why Jaden is so in love with Priscilla. The girl is straight-up intense. She's funny, fiercely loyal, strong, and does not care that her family has more money than sense. The girl who appears to have it all, is lacking the one thing she wants the most: someone to love her and put her first. She wants Jaden. Wants him to be open and trust her. Jaden loves her, but can't open up. Their struggle towards one another is intense and beautiful. And what I love about Nyrae Dawn's storytelling is that she uses the "quiet" moments to as much effect as the big gestures. The little things, like knowing which eyebrow ring they would like best, or making sure the person you love gets the right drink (Cherry Pepsi, sigh...), those are the pieces of the puzzle that make a great love.

So yeah, WHAT A BOY NEEDS is intense and dramatic. But it is also laugh-out-loud, hysterically funny. Exactly what you expect when Jaden and Bastian get together. Gah. I love those boys. I'm not going to spoil it, because I honestly busted out laughing while reading it, but GRADUATION!! (I'm looking at you Autumn and Val!) Another big moment was packing the car. (DO IT HARDER!) I've seriously been tweeting that line to Autumn a lot. Classic.

I am so happy with WHAT A BOY NEEDS. I cried for at least thirty minutes after I'd finished. I was sad for Jaden's past, but hopeful for his future. I was sad that the story was over, yet thrilled beyond belief with how it ended. The story comes to a full, beautifully written circle. A true treasure that I will not soon forget. I loved WHAT A BOY WANTS so much. I loved Bastian and Aspen. I still love that story. It was funny and heart-warming. Believe it or not, I think I may love WHAT A BOY NEEDS even more. Just do me a favor and don't tell Bastian, okay?

Favorite Quote:

I chose two quotes; one funny, one heartbreaking.

" 'First of all, you're nuts. I'm way hotter than you and second, I'm being serious, man. We're like, Batman and Robin. Scooby and Shaggy. Acutally, none of those duos have sh*t on us. We're Sebastian and Jaden.' " (pg 36, eARC)

"Before he fell for Aspen, Sebastian didn't believe in love. I always wanted to - I just didn't know if I was worthy of it. But when she says it? This girl who can do anything? It's like a law. If she can love me, I must be worth something, right?" (page 124, eARC)

Sheryl says

OH.... MY..... WORD!!!!!!!!!! As i've always said, a true mark of an awesome read is wanting to devour it, in one sitting which i did with this book.... Jaden... wow... he just tugged at my heartstrings... this was such a different vein from its companion novel What A Boy Wants, it was so full of sadness and anger BUT man oh man did i still LOVE it!! And have i said that i am a SUCKER for male POV's? Well... just like What A Boy Wants was all in Sebastian's POV, What a Boy Needs was all in Jaden's POV... *LE SIGH*. CANNOT WAIT to see what's next from Ms. Dawn!

Jenn says

The summer after HS graduation Jaden and his 3 BFF's take a trip across country to NY where they plan to live and attend college. On this trip he will also take his own private journey on the road to self discovery. On his private journey he will find out who's important to him, what makes a true family, who he loves, who loves him and most of all he will discover that he is **worth** everything he has always dreamed he could never be or have. He will also get a bonus full of love at the end of his private journey, not just from his friends, but from a special person he may never have realized he has always wanted it from. In the end, he will see that he was always where he was supposed to be and with the people who love him best.

Parts I LOVED:

1. The boys silly pranks
2. The funny comments the boys make
3. The friendship between the 4 friends

4. When Jaden discovers his self & his self worth
5. The very end of the epilogue

What I didn't like:

The use of the P word. (I had to mind block that word).

What pushed the book from a 3.5 to a 4 star rating would be the wonderful surprise I had hoped for at the end of the book that put tears in my eyes. I had hoped for it, but didn't expect it. It made me happy.

Katie says

Just as cute as the first one. I'm not sure if I preferred Sebastian or Jay as a narrator. But this one is a lot more serious than the first one, since Jay's parents are basically terrible people.

The romance was also on the steamier side, which I suppose fit with the more serious tone. *What A Boy Wants* was essentially clean, besides language, but this book isn't. (Just a note there for any readers who are concerned with content.)

Overall, I'm just really impressed with Nyrae Dawn, and I'm not sure how she pulls off a boy first person narrative so well. She's definitely in her element here, and I can't wait to read more books by her!

I'm also really excited that she's got a book coming out from Entangled in 2013 that she co-authored with someone else. So glad to see a great indie getting more exposure!!

Karla says

5 Stars!! You ARE AWESOME Jaden and so is Nyrae Dawn!!

This follow-up book to *What A Boy Wants*, is a little darker in tone, but just as wonderful and appealing! Heartbreaking and heartwarming, it's a beautiful journey about self-discovery, self-worth and friendship!

What Jaden needs is to know that he is loved. Oh and he is, by so many people, but not by the two people who should love him unconditionally, the love he craves, the love he **NEEDS**! Jaden is the unfortunate target of his father's verbal abuse, the man is just plain old mean, condescending and humiliates Jaden every chance he gets. He is relentless and his mother stands by and does nothing! **NOTHING!!** I wanted to punch his father in the face and bitch-slap his mother! If not for his best friends Sebastian, Aspen and Pris, I believe he would have lost himself completely.

Pris, the girl he's loves and his friend for as long as he can remember, barely maintains her friendship with him. He won't allow her into his heart. He's so damaged from being the victim of verbal cruelty at the hands of his father; he feels he has no self-worth. What Jaden doesn't know is that Pris' charmed life is not all that it seems and they are more alike than they are different. Now all four of them are off on the journey of a lifetime as they travel across the United States, and Jaden and Pris try to find their way back to each other.

I've always seen her. Always. I've just been trying not to.

I adore these four loveable teens, their wonderful friendship and how they look out for one another. Being back with Sebastian and Aspen was delightful. One year later and these two childhood friends are head-over-heels in love. Nyrae Dawn makes their relationship sweet and believable. I wish I had a Sebastian or Jaden when I was that age. She is in tune to every detail and writes a boy's point-of-view as good as any I've ever read. She's spot on with the antics and the thoughts of an 18 year old boy, how they view girls, the way they speak and how easily their self-confidence and hearts can be shattered.

"You're nothing." Mike's words come back, but that can't be true. I can't be nothing if she loves me."

Not to worry, there is a well-deserved ending for Jaden, it brought tears to my eyes and made my heart feel full. I'm having a hard time letting go of these characters and hope that Nyrae will somehow find a way to continue their story. This reader **NEEDS MORE!!** I want to see how cool it can be.

I highly recommend this book and What A Boy Wants, but be sure to read them in order, or you'll miss out on the beginning of this awesome journey!

Jaden Sinclair
