



Toxic

Raquel Valldeperas

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I didn't mean to let everything get so bad.

I never had control over the variables in my life, and that was okay. That's just the way it was. But the drugs were supposed to be my constant, my escape, my refuge. They weren't supposed to pull me under and hold me down, bring me to the brink of death and keep me in that in-between state.

They weren't supposed to turn on me, just like everyone else.

My name is Logan May Reynolds, and this is my story.

*Contains mature content. Recommended for readers 17+.

Toxic Details

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From Reader Review Toxic for online ebook

♥Trish♥ says

This is a gripping story about how drug abuse can be the most ugly and effect a life on so many levels. The tragedy of it is unspeakable. Lo is a girl in a really bad environment that wants her life to be better than her mothers. Logan at a five was unbelievable - can you imagine getting yourself ready for kindergarden?? Dealing with a mother that abused drugs and alcohol and who beat her. As Low grows up into who she does not want to be, her mother.

I found this story dark and completely raw. It details the worst of the worst of addicts and the effect it has on the people in their life. How a mothers bad choices become a child's in a way.

This is a heartbreakin read that made me root for Lo every step of the way.

Really impressed with this book and he author. Can't wait for more.

Sophie says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

The water will come and take me away. I'll be forgotten. I'll serve no purpose. That's okay with me. I'm not worth remembering.

Poor Logan has lived a tragic life. She's suffered from the effects of drugs, abuse and just an awful upbringing in general. So for someone like me, who typically spends her reading hours swooning at the boy-next-door sweeping the struggling girl off her feet, this book was either going to sink me into depression or blow my mind.

And let me tell you, I thought this book was brilliant!

Toxic starts by bringing us back to Logan's early school life. It details the admittedly grim things she had to deal with and it drove me into despair seeing how she was treat by her mum and her mum's fella. You can't help but feel bad for the girl and how she's seen as Toxic.

"Mama, what does toxic mean?"

Just when I'm about to get up and go inside because I don't think she's gunna answer, she puts a hand on my arm and stops me. I turn and look at her because I'm surprised she's touching me so softly. A puff of smoke blows into my face and I hold my breath while I meet her eyes. She's actually looking at me and I don't know how to feel about it.

"That's the stuff you and me are made up of, Sugar Plum," she says. Another puff of her cigarette but she blows it away from me this time. "We're toxic, but only the best things are."

Ever finish a book, close it, look at the cover and think; "Why was it called that?" Well, there's no chance of

that here. This is Raquel Valldeperas' first book and I thought the way she made the title mean so much was incredible. The book from start to finish was written so eloquently that even though Lo's story was heart-breaking, I couldn't help but love it. Should I have been thoroughly miserable at the life Logan was enduring? Probably. But Toxic was written so well that I couldn't help but want to read more and see how things could worsen, just to enjoy more of Raquel's realistic portrayal.

I do want to warn you that this book deals with some mature themes and is recommended for readers aged 17+. Logan's boyfriend contributes a whole lot to these themes, and he had me screaming at the book! What a jerk.

However, with every jerk, there's just a whole bag of cute. And I'll admit, whilst I did think this book was going to lead me away from my swooning, things did become a little sweeter when Nathan arrived on the scene. His character was refreshing compared to the persona Logan, rightfully so, had, and this made him my favourite character.

"You're better than this, Lo. Bad things happen all the time but it's the way you use them that define you."

Toxic threw my emotions everywhere, and for me, that's what makes a great book. Although I did want a little longer of a story to see more things resolved, I'm confident I'll get this in the second installment, and I can't wait.

5/5.

(review also seen on my blog at <http://beenthetherereadthatreviewedthebo...>)

Lily ?? says

A copy of this book was kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Actual rating: **3.5 stars**

"Maybe you'll tell me your story one day."

I shrug my shoulders and say, "Maybe," but I know that I never will. It's a selfish story, full of ugly things that no child should ever have to witness and truths that no person should ever have to learn."

Toxic was, in a nutshell, an incredibly touching, well-written, insightful, and engaging novel. I fell in love with it quite unexpectedly, and even though it dealt with pretty dark topics, and made my eyes sting with unshed tears more than once, it was also immensely beautiful, and instilled a feeling of serenity and peace in me when I had finished it.

Toxic tells the tragic story of a girl named Logan, who was only five years old when her own mother, a drug-addict, started abusing her physically, and later on, in order to satisfy her needs, brought home various men, from whom Logan had to endure sexual abuse. Growing up, Logan learns nothing but abandonment and indifference from the people around her, and she very quickly comes to the realization that life doesn't

have much to offer, at least not to her. Her life changes for the worse when she gets tangled in the web that is Danny, a cruel and merciless guy, who makes her life a living hell. Unable to escape him, she suffers even more abuse at his hands, and is dragged deeper into vicious cycle of drugs, physical abuse, and psychological torment.

I was rendered quite speechless by the loveliness of Raquel Valldeperas' writing, as well as her masterful portrayal of Logan's childhood, and the way she captured its (broken) innocence. She managed to find the perfect balance between being descriptive, but not overly so. Logan's story was dark, haunting, and disturbing, but, page by page, it succeeded in sneaking its way into my heart, and it will probably stay there for quite some time.

I don't want to go into details of the plot, nor the characters, because discovering and experiencing them as I read, layer by layer, was what drew me to this novel, and made it so appealing. *Toxic* is by no means perfect; there are many aspects of the story that could have been more thoroughly perused, but I had the feeling that Raquel Valldeperas had done this purposefully - left a few things in the dark, and let the readers fill out eventual blanks for themselves. The few things that bothered me a little bit were overshadowed by the many extraordinarily written moments of comeliness and tenderness.

"There are so many words on the tip of my tongue but nothing I'm willing to say. I don't miss him, or the way his eyes smile before his lips. I don't miss the way he says my name, like it's a prayer that'll get him closer to heaven. I don't miss his touch or how it has the power to make me forget. His kisses and how they make me feel higher than high."

"I'm anticipating a lecture about choices or blame, but he leans down and kisses me. It's so simple yet so perfect. Sweet and gentle and apologetic and sincere. It's everything I need."

(view spoiler)

Raquel Valldeperas has entranced me with her first novel, and I will definitely be reading the next installment of this series.

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Shannon The Show Stopper says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

WoW! I just finished this so I'm still processing..... This is the first ARC I've received where I was completely blown away by the story. I was just about to give up hope of getting a good one...I certainly did with *Toxic*!

Now I'll be honest, the first 40% had me thinking.....

Not because I was bored but because I kept thinking 'can't a girl catch a break?' The story really drew me in though and I couldn't put it down. Especially once I reached 50%. I read this in one sitting....it was just that enthralling.

There were several plot twists and moments that had me....

In the end, my response to the book is...

This book is unique, it deals with real life issues and overall I highly recommend it! I'm so glad I got the opportunity to review it!

Margaret says

5 Heart Breaking Toxic Stars

There really is no way I could rate this any lower than 5 stars. The main character Lo (Logan) was born to a mother that was abusive towards her, told her from a young age how worthless she is and let her fend for herself from an incredibly young age. To be 5 years and having to get yourself off to school is just unthinkable.

But Lo was not only abused and mostly forgotten about at home, she also had put up with bullying at school too. Her tormentor at school ended up being her drug supplier and abuser as she grew up.

Lo did what any human being would have done in her situation, and that is become a product of her own environment. Lo's self esteem was stolen from her from the moment she was old enough to start to understand the pain her mother was putting her through.

This story made me go through so many emotions. Anger, sorrow, empathy, hurt, happiness and many many tears formed behind my eye lids.

Congratulations to the writer for not turning this story into something light and fluffy. It was anything but unicorns and pink lemonade.

So if you want a story that has raw emotion, sometimes a little difficult to swallow and a lot of moments of OMG, then this is for you.

If you want a sweet candy cane filled story, then please over look this because it's not that all.

This story will give you

Just saying.....

Bianca says

Thank you to the author for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

I was not sure what to expect when I started this story. Typically you can find me with my nose in my NOOK with a romance novel. You know, the one where boy meets girl and she's swept off her feet. Yeah, that. Lately, I've been looking for something different. Something to bring me out of my book funk. This was it.

Toxic is not your usual happy go lucky story. It hurts. It hurts to read. You become so wrapped up in the main character's story. I have never read anything by this author before, but I am now forever a fan. This was brilliant.

Toxic is a story about Logan Reynolds and her life. From a child through her teenage and adult years, Logan had a rough life. The book is written in somewhat of a diary form, where every chapter is dated. I really enjoyed that because it allowed the story to flow nicely and you truly felt like you were on a journey with Logan.

Logan was born to a drug addict and alcoholic mother. Her father is not in the picture. The story begins where Logan has to get ready for her first day of kindergarten on her own. Yes, you read that correctly. She had to do it all on her own at five years old.

“A lot of the smaller kids have their Mama’s with them, but I don’t feel jealous because I don’t want mine with me.”

“I don’t sleep at all. I never do when she holds me because it feels wrong. All I do is wonder if it’s supposed to feel wrong when a Mama holds her baby girl”

My heart went out to Logan. I think I truly enjoyed this story because Logan was real. The author did a great job at character development. You felt the loneliness that Logan went through. Logan had a spirit, a fighting one, however as she got older she stopped fighting and gave in to her surroundings. The story followed her into her teen and young adult life. She succumbed to alcohol, drugs, and abuse. No that is not giving away the story. The events that occur during this time are heartbreakingly sad. The human spirit is strong. Logan is proof of that.

“We’re toxic, but only the best things are”

Were there boys in the story? Yes! But, not like you think. I love that the author involved love and romance but did not make it the focal point. There are boys in there that put Logan in unspeakable situations. My heart broke for her every time.

Then there was Nathan...

“I just want you the way you are”

Oh Nathan. Every girl could use someone like you in their lives. I don’t want to give too much away, but he

is the knight that every girl deserves. He is reason. He is truth.

Overall, I was absolutely blown away by this story. I am so glad I was given the opportunity to read and review this book. It reminded me why I love to read. It reminded me of how strong the human spirit truly is. I really hope there is a follow up to this story or at least an ending. Logan deserves one.

"That's All" Ash says

This review contains spoilers.

Well.

Shit.

Unfortunately for Racquel Villadeperas, she tried to tell a story that's already been told better. As her first book, I guess it was pretty good. But the bad thing was that I could *tell* that it was her first book, know what I mean?

I thought her writing was both mellifluous and robotic, like a bad remix of a pretty song. Though I appreciate her *trying* to write a book that delves into deep subjects like drugs and physical/emotional abuse, and I think she made a beautiful attempt... she just couldn't quite pull it off.

Logan is a girl who's had a very shitty hand dealt her from the get-go. Her mom's a drug addict; the only friend that was allowed to *be* her friend moves away, and the relationship she has with her boyfriend began when he tried to rape her.

So.

To numb her pain, Logan begins taking drugs. Just like that. There really is no transition phase, she just one day decides to take a pretty blue pill and is immediately addicted.

Soon her life spins out of control: she drops out of high school, decides to live with her abusive rapist of a boyfriend, and gets a job as a waitress at a bar. And this is where she meets **Nathan**.

She and Nathan have a kind of *insta-love* thing. And about twenty pages later, she's living with the guy. Again, there's really no transition phase.

Fast forward a little... and Nathan helps her overcome her drug addiction.

The End. :)

Do I recommend this book?

No.

Will I read a book by Racquel Valldeparés ever again?

No.

This reading copy was kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

♥ Barb ♥ says

****4 TRAGIC** stars**

"Mama what does toxic mean?"

**"That's the stuff you and me are made up of, she says
We're toxic, but only the best things are."**

"I know. I'm broken. This problem isn't going to just disappear or fix itself."

*Ok, where do I start? Toxic is about **TRAGEDY, ADDICTION, ABUSE, HEARTACHE, and LOVE.***

*Logan or "Lo" for short, comes from the worst home-life imaginable, her mother is junkie/alcoholic, who beats her on a daily basis. She has never met her real father, and has no other family. At age 15, she goes to a party with her friend, where she meets soon-to-be boyfriend/d*ckhead Danny who takes advantage of her and eventually gets her hooked on drugs. Fast forward 3 years later, and still with a\$\$hole Danny, Lo goes on a job interview for a bartender, and her new boss, Nathan (who I love) hires her on the spot and becomes her savior. THANK GOD for Nathan! Poor Lo, my heart ached for her 90% of the book, but this does end with a HEA, yes it does!!!! There's so much more I could say, but I don't want to spoil it and this book is fairly short. If you enjoy dark reads, then this book is for you.*

His kiss is...It floods my senses and erases all rationale. It takes over and becomes the only thing that matters. Forget oxygen. Fuck breathing. Maybe mom was right. His kiss is TOXIC, but only the best things are.

I betcha that I could read your mind

And tell you everything you're going through

Baby, I cry to find a thousand reasons why

You're alone and acting so cold

Tell me how long you've been this way

Maybe I can open up your heart

See, I've been waiting all my life for someone just like you

And I know you've been waiting too

For someone to love you

All you need is someone who cares

(For someone to love you)

Someone who will always be there

All you need is to say is that you want me to be with you

Girl, I know you waited so long

For someone to love you

Baby, I wish I could be there

For every time you ever shed a tear

Baby, I hate to see a pretty girl like you

Goin' through the things that you do, yeah

Girl, I think you've gone for far too long

Without a good man to make you smile

Now how can I appeal to you and make you understand

That I'm here, what are you waiting for

Someone to love you

All you need is someone who cares

(For someone to love you)

Someone who will always be there

All you need is to say is that you want me to be with you

Girl, I know you waited so long

For someone to love you

Maybe you've been waiting for a man from all your fairy tales

Or maybe just a man from all your dreams

Try and think reality, enjoy the possibilities

'Cause girl, you now you've waited for so long

For someone to love you, you, you, you, yeah yeah yeah

(Someone to love you)

You waited, oh, so long

All you need is someone who cares

(All you need, all you need, baby)

Someone who will always be there

(In the middle of the night, in the middle of the night)

All you need is someone who cares

(I ain't tryna play no game with you, no no)

Someone who will always be there

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review

Lizzeth "Too many books so little time" says

4.5 stars!!

My one complain of this book is that it was too short! I wanted the author to elaborate more about what was happening, but I loved it. I will surely read her next book.

Jen O'grady says

This is quite a sad story about Logan, we meet her as a young girl and immediately you know she's up against it. We witness her life as she grows into a young adult and with it her life spirals out of control. Logan is subjected to abuse and falls easily into a life of drug addiction.

Help comes in the form of Nathan but He has a secret himself.

It's one of those books where you keep hoping that Logan will take the help offered to her. It's an edgy read that makes you want to reach out and help Logan.

It's more of a 3.5 star for me, but I do look forward to reading Tailspin Nathan's story.

Donna says

I purchased this book because I found the title intriguing and the cover stunning (I do sometimes judge a book by its cover). In Toxic we journey through the life of Logan, starting at around the age of five till her early 20s. This is a dark and emotional read about a girl's struggles with an abusive and neglectful mother, an abusive boyfriend, drug addiction, to quite a few near death experiences. Through it all she hopes for a way out, in any way. She has no faith in anyone or anything and believes she is not worthy of anything good that happens to come her way. Discovering that not all people are bad and kindness comes from the most unlikely places is where this story takes you...and it's a hell of a ride getting there.

Nadine Hook Me Up Book Blog says

wow, whaaaaat was that??!! this book blew my mind, seriously. I need a moment -and yeah hurry to my math class-then I'll MOST DEF WRITE A review. what a BRILLIANT STORY.I seriously have a new FAV author ;) Raquel, ur so talented-sweet Jesus!!

Raquel Valdeperas, you just became one of my new FAV authors. Your story hooked me and it was a pleasant surprise, especially knowing that you're a new author! I really enjoyed this book and hope there will be more from you to come :)!!!!

Where do I start....So, Logan had the worst childhood a kid can imagine- no Dad, but an abusive drug-addicted Mom that beats the shit out of her daughter and purposely neglects her. She doesn't care if Lo's dirty, has something to eat or is even alive. Her Mom is a mess and Lo suffers from her Mom's life cause no other kid wants to be her friend. Lo gets bullied at school and endures several beatings there as well. If that isn't already shitty enough, as soon as Lo is a teen her Mom uses her own daughter to buy drugs-simply, by letting her bf's have sex with Lo - wtf, how messed up is that?!?!

Lo figured out, the less she fights with her Mom or with anyone else the easier her life gets. She escapes in a life full of parties and alcohol. The alcohol numbs her and lets her forget the pain. But soon, after a terrible incident Lo isn't the same anymore; from this moment on her life goes down-hill. Alcohol isn't enough anymore to numb her—drugs are what she needs and prefers. She became the one person she never wanted to be—**her MOM!!**

Part of me wants to reach out and grab onto her, feel her hold and hug me for just a little. But I tell that part to fuck off because this *Mom* we're talking about and she's either high or drunk or both and doesn't give a shit about me.

Just to remind myself of that, I look into the mirror and at my black eye that she gave me less than 24hrs ago.

Ooooh yeah there is her boyfriend, Danny. If you can call this *asshole, douche, dick, etc. (you name it!!)* boyfriend. He's abusive and beats her even worse than her Mom did. He's sick, real sick, but read for yourself so he can piss you off too. I don't wanna give any spoilers ;)

The whole way home, I pray. I pray to anyone who is listening to spare me, to keep fist away from me, to keep me alive. Tears gather in my eyes and fall to the musty seat underneath me. I'm helpless, alone, in need of saving. ~ I even prayed that she makes out alive :(!!

Well, and where is a dick is always a hottie, right? Same here, his name is Nathan and all I can say is **YummY**. He's literally perfect lol. I would have too soooo for him fallen ;)

He closes the small distance between us, grabs my face in between his hands. Angles it up that our eyes meet. I may be tall, but nathan is taller, which is the last thought that goes through my mind before his lips come within millimeters of mine. 'Because I care about you, Logan. I care about you a lot.'

Yeah so Nathan is just *aawww* :D It doesn't last more than a few seconds, but in those sweet caresses I catch a glimpse of a future with possibility, happiness, love.

Things don't get easier and Lo is on her breaking point—nothing goes like she wants. I could feel her pain and understood why she wanted to numb herself; always on the search for her next *high*. But eventually her body breaks and she realizes the drugs control her and not the other way around:

I do some sort of crawl-walk thing and make it there in what feels like an hour. Even through the pain and shaking, I think about how glad I am that no one is there to witness this. The weakness, how pathetic and far gone I am. I always thought the drugs were the one thing I could take or leave. How insanely wrong I was.

You wanna know if there's a happy ending? Well I can't tell you that but the end is def heart-warming ;)

Just few things I've to criticize about:

Some scene needed more details, because they felt cut off and I wondered how did they end or what happened in those moments (ie: moment with Danny, Nathan & Lo in the kitchen; why Sam left her—almost—die;...) Oh and yeah I sooooo wished the end would have been longer, you know more details about the love birds—I'm such a sucker for romance LOL— and DEF an epilogue would have been thrilling :)!!! I gladly overlooked the grammar errors tho :p

Overall ladies, the book is a bliss and I REALLY REALLY enjoyed it :)

I end my review with a sweet quote (*totally my fav one in the book as well: You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.*

KAT ? Kitty Kats Crazy About Books ? says

5 huge Whooping Toxic stars from me!!

"Mama what does toxic mean?"

**"That's the stuff you and me are made up of, she says
We're toxic, but only the best things are."**

This book just kept throwing the punches one after another, the raw taboo material engulfs you as you're thrown on the roller coaster of a ride which is Logan's life with no stops on the way..

Sit back and imagine yourself at the tender age of 5 getting yourself ready for your very first day of school, you dress yourself, you make your own lunch?? Or better yet a mother that hits you for no apparent reason just for the fact that your breathing!! A mother who uses drugs on a daily basis..Welcome to Logan's life!!

A tragic heartfelt story about domestic violence, drugs, tragedy, heartache, neglect, survival and love. A dark, raw, gritty read of one girl's struggle to find herself..

I've never read anything like this book, highly recommend!!

Loved the ending and am so glad there was no cliff hanger but in saying that I still can't wait for book 2 to come out!!

Raquel Valdeperas says

FREE 12/2-12/3 IN HONOR OF CYBER MONDAY!

<http://www.amazon.com/Toxic-Better-Th...>

Farah *Professor Dean's Beauty* says

5 Shocking stars!!!!

This is the sad and Oh so tragic story Of Logan- A little 5 year old girl born into a crappy home.

A mom who is a drug addict and a whore, who doesn't care about her at all. No one to feed her, dress her or take her to school. A mom who abused her- swore at her..
Made her feel as if she was nothing but **TOXIC**

A good Kid Lo is, always *Wanting* to be different from the mother and life she sees...

Until different is too hard and the one person that mattered to her leaves...
So she's left with bad company and little choices.

Its easier to give in- to **Blend** in...

Life is easier....
Or so she thought...

To ease the pain and not feel....

We go thru the most horrific things with Lo- the truth about Drugs and what it does to you.

It takes you in and swallows you whole and eats you alive. Making you do things you never imagined yourself doing, accepting things you never wanted for and Stealing things away from your future, things you didn't think you'd want until having them wasn't an option anymore...

And then, after drugs is done with you and has eaten you to an empty shell, it spits you up in the little heap of bones you've become and leaves you to die...

There is an out... A saviour.. But its no use ***Unless You Want To Be Saved***

This book is so brilliantly written, its raw, its real and its scary and more than anything- This is Reality!
