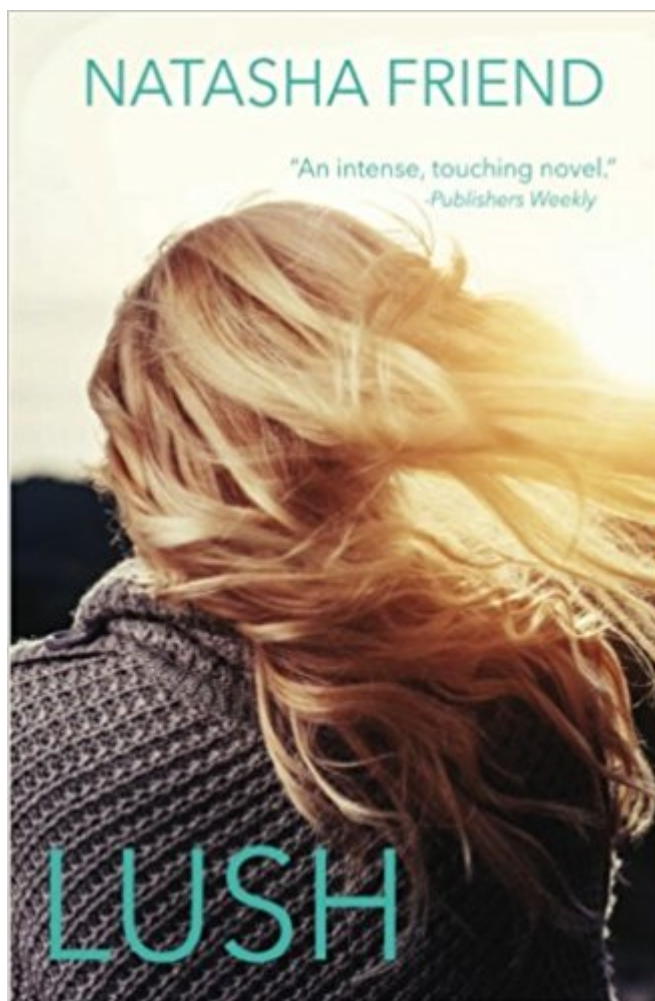




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Lush



Synopsis

Unable to cope with her father's alcoholism, thirteen year-old Sam corresponds with an older student, sharing her family problems and asking for advice.

Book Information

Paperback: 206 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 2nd edition (April 15, 2017)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #714,550 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #227 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #466 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up "To the outside world, 13-year-old Samantha's family seems perfectly happy. However, they are struggling to keep her architect father's alcoholism a secret, and the balancing act of enabling his addiction and protecting their image is becoming more and more difficult. Sam longs to be able to share her burden with a friend and reaches out by leaving an anonymous autobiographical letter in a library book. Her anger and frustration are palpable as she struggles with her love for her dad despite the fact that his promises to clean up never materialize. When Sam is chastised by her mother and grandmother for not believing in his ability to change, readers will sympathize with the injustice of her difficult situation. Yet, the author avoids a maudlin tone by infusing the plot with details of typical teen life, such as Sam's crush on an older boy and embarrassment at her developing body. Witty dialogue and smooth writing move the novel along at a clipped pace, and tension is successfully built and maintained as the teen's father's illness takes a dangerous turn, her budding relationship comes to a head, and her anonymous library pen pal is revealed. Despite the minor appearance of a stereotypical librarian, this is a perceptive novel

featuring a likable protagonist to whom readers will easily relate. As in *Perfect* (Milkweed, 2004), Friend adroitly portrays a weighty topic with touches of humor and grace.â “Rebecca M. Jones, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, FL Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Thirteen-year-old Samantha's father is an alcoholic. When he is sober, he is a great guy, but when he is drunk, he is scary and abusive. With her mother in denial and a four-year-old brother to protect, Sam writes a note asking for advice and leaves it in the library, hoping an older girl she admires will write back to her. So begins a correspondence in which Sam opens up about her father's alcoholism as well as her crush on an older boy. In return, the letter writer, who goes only by initials, reveals some hard truths. As she did in *Perfect* (2005), Friend adeptly takes a teen problem and turns it into a believable, sensitive, character-driven story, with realistic dialogue. The cautiously optimistic ending works because Friend has convinced readers that Sam can handle whatever happens. Friend, who clearly understands and empathizes with young teens, is a writer to watch. Debbie Carton Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

My daughter has read all of Natasha Friends books and they really made an impact on her. She is a 13 year old and I had thought that the content would be a bit much, but after talking to her about the books she could relate some stories of some of her friends that were going through or could be going through some of the same things. It also made her realize that she had it better at home than she thought. (as most kids do). Natasha Friend really does some great writing and really makes it real for the kids that read the books.

Really good

I love this book all that I wonder is what happens with her and Charlie is and her and drew and her and her dad and if her brother has to get the surgery. this book just leaves me with so many questions. I hope there is a sequel to this book. I can't wait to see.

im 14 years old & enjoyed this book. In fact i finished it in about 3 days or so. I think all teenagers/kids have someone in their family or at least a friend who experienced dealing with an alcoholic. The book is a good read and i recommended it to all my friends and even told my english

teacher about it which i later gave the book to her to read too!

This is one of the best books i have ever read! Natasha really outdid herself with this one! My only thing is that make sure young children dont read it the topic is very heavy and it has some adult content.

Love this book, it's amazing!

This is the second time I read this book and I loved it. I might just have to read it again!

Loved the perfect book and this one wasn't as good but it was still amazing. So worth buying!!!

Thank you!

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