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The Family



Synopsis

Just like any average seventeen-year-old, Twig loves her family. She has a caring mother and a controlling father. Her brothers and sisters are committed to her family's prosperity. All one hundred eighty-three of them. Twig lives in the Family, a collective society located in the rainforest of Costa Rica. Family members coexist with values of complete openness and honesty, and they share a fear of contagious infection in the outside world. Adam, their Father, prophet, and savior, announces that Twig will be his new bride, and she is overjoyed and honored. But when an injury forces her to leave the Family compound, Twig finds that the world outside is not as toxic as she was made to believe. And then she meets Leo, an American boy with a killer smile, and begins to question everything about her life within the Family and the cult to which she belongs. But when it comes to Family, you don't get a choice. Praise for *The Family*: "Fascinating and chilling, *THE FAMILY* takes you past the armed guards of a secluded compound where individualism is punished, technology is forbidden, and a charismatic leader plays God through terror and control. The novel's relentless plot and vividly drawn characters will suck you in, but be warned: once you're in the Family, it's almost impossible to escape." • Anna Schumacher, author of *End Times* "Eerie and suspenseful, Kennerson gives us a fascinating look into the psychology of cults and the meaning of Family." • Bianca Turetsky, author of *The Time-Traveling Fashionista*

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Customer Reviews

I try to avoid giving negative reviews unless I really feel offended by something. I know how difficult it is to write a good story. This had some elements of a good story -- at first. The more I read, the less and less realistic I felt it was. None of the characters were deeply drawn, not even the main character. There were some intriguing ideas, but none were well developed. The writing was stilted. The characters were shallow. The editing was bad. The romance was unrealistic and cliched. I know the author was trying to create tension and drama, but none of it rang true. How, in such a tightly regulated cult, could the main character ride off on horseback for hours on end, day after day, and not get caught much sooner than she did? I could almost have overlooked all that and given it maybe 2 stars or even 3 if she had managed to pull everything together in a satisfying way. But the ending -- ugh! Really? She just leaves the one character where he is to die and her superman rich daddy comes in deus ex machina and the super-pretty girl just flies away with her super-rich daddy to her super-perfect boyfriend? I'm pretty pissed that I spent over \$4 on this tripe. Don't waste your money. I feel like I read something that was vetted hastily by one of those feel-good creative writing workshops that doesn't allow people to make any real criticism. With some tight editing, a lot more character development, and much grittier drama, this writer could have written a 3-star book. She has some interesting ideas and is not *terrible* at language. But it feels like she barely even tried.

I really liked the premise and the story. I felt myself feeling for the characters and was prepared to give this 5 stars. The only problem is about midway it just died. The ending was terrible. It was like the book just stopped. Nothing was tied together, you don't find out what happened to anyone. It was like the author had to hit a certain number of words and once she did, boom! Story ends. It's a shame really...this story had a great deal of promise.

This book was just OK for me. I really felt like it could have been much, much better. The writing was pretty juvenile, but then again, I didn't realize that is was YA until after I read it. Of course, the whole cult thing intrigued me...who doesn't love a good story about a cult...but I didn't feel like there

was enough meat and potatoes in the cult's leader. I really needed MORE. More insight as to why he began the cult. More description about how and why the cult started. More information about why people chose to go with him and stay there. There just wasn't enough information. I didn't believe in the cult and found it impossible for the cult to even exist. I realize that the book is fiction, but good fiction makes you believe in the possibility of something like this actually taking place. This book just missed that. The only part of the book I found interesting was the relationship between Twig and her mother and the character of Gran. I really like that woman. Anyway, good for a quick read, but it was very juvenile for an avid reader.

I really enjoyed reading this novel. It was so interesting to read about a community of people who were brainwashed to believe that the world outside their compound was filled with nothing but evil. When the protagonist, Twig, manages to temporarily leave the compound, she realizes that much of what she heard about the outside world was not true, and she also realizes that she was missing out on so much in life. This novel shows how easy it is to be controlled when you are ignorant. It also shows how dangerous it is for one person to have too much power. It also demonstrates the tremendous sacrifices and risks people make for the people they love and for a chance at freedom. This was an intriguing, thought-provoking novel that I think everyone should read.

I had the feeling I'd love this book from the second I heard about it (YA set in a cult? yes please, sign me up!) but I didn't know just how MUCH I'd love it. THE FAMILY was absolutely nothing like I expected. To be honest, I don't know what I was expecting. Something with a little more action, maybe? Something closer to a thriller, or a dystopian? This book wasn't either of those things. And that's 100% okay. In fact, I'm GLAD this book wasn't either of those things, because then it wouldn't be the haunting, beautiful little book that I haven't been able to stop thinking about. I don't want to say too much, because I'm afraid of giving away the things that made this such a remarkable read. But know that this is a book you need to read.

Extremely well written and author did great job in developing characters which kept reader interest through out. Has been part of many reader clubs through-out the country from feedback I have received from business counterparts! Highly recommend you get your hands on a copy or think of giving as a gift! Great opportunity on New Years Eve to re read in front of blazing fire and rainy day. So drawn in by character development as evolve through book. Definitely has "movie" or series quality and needs a sequel !! Not enough- want to keep reading

The Family is a story of a girl, Twig, growing up in a cult. She lives by the strict rules, including restriction of contact with the infected outside world, until an accident sends her to the hospital where she develops a crush on a boy she meets there and begins to doubt the doctrine of the cult leader. As she unravels the story of how she came to live on the cult, she becomes closer to her mother who suffers from mental illness. When it is announced that she is to wed the cult leader, Twig knows she needs to break her ties with her family. There are plenty of plot twists to keep you engaged, making The Family a thought-provoking and enjoyable read.

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