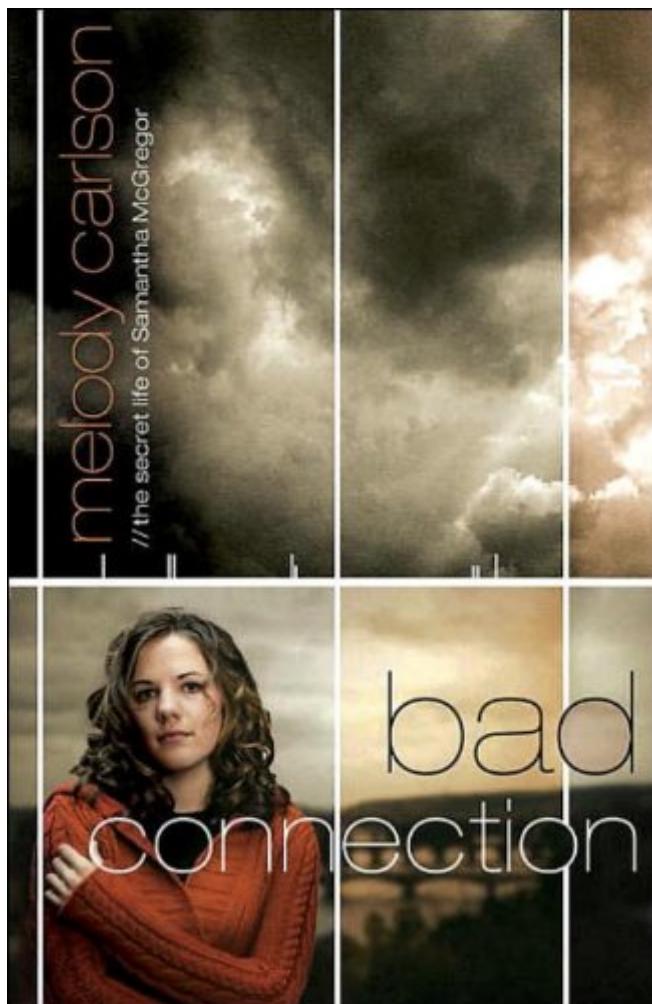


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Bad Connection (Secret Life Of Samantha McGregor)



Synopsis

Meet Samantha McGregor She seems like your average teen, but Samantha is unusually gifted. God gives her visions and dreams that offer unconventional glimpses into other people's lives and problems. It's a powerful gift with a lot of responsibility. Bad Connection: Book One Kayla Henderson lives on the edge. She likes to break the rules, considers partying an extracurricular activity, and can't stand her parents. So, most people aren't surprised when she goes missing. Like everyone else, Samantha McGregor assumes Kayla has run away. But then she has a vision where Kayla is tied up with duct tape over her mouth. Freaked by the image, Samantha wonders, Is Kayla alive or dead? Was the vision real or just a silly dream? Most important, can Kayla be found before it's too late? Reader's Guide Included! Story Behind the Book "The secular world has become very interested in the supernatural gifts. Take, for example, shows like Joan of Arcadia, The Medium, Monk, and Dead Zone. Yet it's God who gives every good and perfect gift. My guess is that we humans barely tap into the vast variety of gifts that He has to offer. Not only that, but our fast-paced, high-tech culture rarely relies on those good old-fashioned character traits like insight, intuition, wisdom, and foresight. My hope is that this series will provide a fun way for teens to explore deeper levels of spirituality and creativity while inspiring them to a greater love for God." • Melody Carlson From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Samantha McGregor is a teenage (sixteen, soon to be seventeen) Christian who has dreams and visions given to her by God. Her father understood her gift and tried to help her understand it, but now he's gone; the parent who took her gift seriously died when she was twelve. Her mother isn't comfortable with this gift from God. In fact, she's not sure Samantha's ability to see visions is something God has anything to do with. Is Samantha weird or crazy or simply a vessel God is using? There was quite a bit I liked about Samantha: She wasn't ashamed to carry her Bible to school and she even pulled it out of her backpack, opened it and read from it not caring what anyone thought. She did not hesitate to go to God in prayer when she needed help or someone else needed help or she had questions. She had no problem praying in front of peers who weren't Christians. Even though she wasn't sure she wanted this gift that she wasn't always sure how to use, she cared more about what her heavenly Father wanted. And finding a boyfriend wasn't her main focus. It was nice to see teen characters praying with and for each other and the author did a good job showing the life of a young Christian learning how to develop her spiritual gift and how to trust God whenever she began to have doubts. There was something that disappointed me. Like other Christian novels I have read, this one contradicts God's Word at one point: On page 36 is the sentence - Kayla actually used to be a Christian. There is no "used to be" in Christianity... And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30 New Living Translation). Once saved, always saved. A Christian's salvation is eternally secure. They may backslide or become stagnant in their spiritual growth or let distractions get in the way and start retreating instead of advancing in their Christian walk or whatever and I'm thinking God isn't pleased when this happens, but if they confessed with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believed in their hearts that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and was raised from the dead, they are Christians and will always be. Chapter one was fast-paced and I was eager to find out what was going to happen next but then things slowed down here and there. The story grabbed me more in some

places than others so this book wasn't the page-turner I expected it to be but it was a good read and I do plan to read the remaining books in the series.

We are enjoying this story with our teenage daughter. We purchased the kindle edition, and I am very disappointed with the quality. There spelling and punctuatin errors and many random characters throughout the typeset. It creates frustration, as we are using it as a read aloud.

Can't say enough good things. Already own this book but bought another to give away. Love, love, love! It's so hard to find Christian books that are suspenseful and thrilling but not cheesey. Melody Carlson is the best.

This is a great Christian book and has allot about god. My favorite part was at the end of the book because that's were it got interesting to me. I suggest every one to read it. It really will bring out the Christian inside you.

This is a great book. A lot of action keeps your interest. I could not put it down & read it all in one sitting!

Average reading. It's not as good as books like, the Twilight series or Gossip Girl - it's a matter of taste!

Storyline - Since she was young, Samantha has had a gift. A gift for seeing things in dreams and visions. A gift she never really understood but her father seemed to. He also told her it was from God. Its been hard dealing with the gift since he died and with her mom not understanding it but when a class mate runs away and God starts giving Samantha hints as to what is happening to her, she has to make a decision on what to do with them. Are all the dreams from God? Should she listen to them? Or are they all messed up when she starts having dreams about this other girl? What should she do?
Positive - The main character really relies on God and always prays and asks for His help when she is unsure of what to do. She has friends who support and help her. She also makes clear what her gift is and isn't when people talk about it. Unlike some of the people she knows, Sam is not willing to go on a date with just anyone and sets a good example on how to date.
Negative - Nothing really negative except some girls are suggested that they have done things with boys that should be saved for marriage but it is made clear that it was wrong even though the girls don't

believe that. The brother of the main character is also a druggie but it is shown what kind of mess one gets into with that sort of stuff. It has some grown up situations and hints that just makes this book more appropriate for a 'teen' age group. Writing - The story was a little slow and it used words that make it in the present tense, like it is happening right at this moment, was a little irritating for me. It had a good storyline but the way it was put together and some of the word choices was not very smooth. Also, the characters continually using the same words like 'weird' got a little old. Personal Opinion - The story had a good idea but some of the word choices were irritating sometimes and it was a little slow. But it did leave me wanting to know what happens next with Sam and her family. I also liked how the main character was a good example of a Christian girl in how she acted, dated, and differentiated on what her gift was and what more secular people might call it. I might read more of this series when I get money to buy them.

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