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Hello, Sunshine: A Novel



Synopsis

From Laura Dave—the author of the “addictive” (Us Weekly), “winning” (Publishers Weekly) and critically acclaimed bestseller *Eight Hundred Grapes*—comes a new novel about the secrets we keep—even from ourselves. *Sunshine Mackenzie* has it all—until her secrets come to light. *Sunshine Mackenzie* is living the dream—she’s a culinary star with millions of fans, a line of #1 bestselling cookbooks, and a devoted husband happy to support her every endeavor. And then she gets hacked. When *Sunshine*’s secrets are revealed, her fall from grace is catastrophic. She loses the husband, her show, the fans, and her apartment. She’s forced to return to the childhood home—and the estranged sister—she’s tried hard to forget. But what *Sunshine* does amid the ashes of her own destruction may well save her life. In a world where celebrity is a careful construct, *Hello, Sunshine* is a compelling, funny, and evocative novel about what it means to live an authentic life in an inauthentic age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the story line and characters. Great summer read. Couldn't put it down!

Hello, Sunshine is a fun beach read- not amazing but fun when you need something carefree and light. It has its moments.

Not her best

Fun read!

fun read

Hello, Sunshine is a highly relevant and thought-provoking book for our digital age. Sunshine MacKenzie has it all – a wonderful husband, a YouTube cooking show with millions of followers, and a line of cookbooks. There is one catch: her entire life is built on lies, and when her Twitter account is hacked her entire life crumbles. Left alone and with no money, she is forced to return home and rely on her estranged sister while she tries to recover from her fall from grace. For a while, Sunshine is very focused on the identity of the hacker and trying to get her old life back. As the book progresses and Sunshine spends time with her sister, her niece and some new friends, she begins to see that there is more to life than maintaining her carefully scripted online life. While the novel is a quick, light read, Dave does raise some thought-provoking ideas about the lives people attempt to portray on social media versus the lives they are actually living. Hello, Sunshine has a powerful message that will remain with me for weeks to come. Thanks to Simon & Schuster for the chance to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

I was excited to read HELLO, SUNSHINE after reading author Laura Dave's book, EIGHT HUNDRED GRAPES, and I was not disappointed. The protagonist of HELLO, SUNSHINE, Sunny Mackenzie, tells the reader right away that she's not a good person, but I liked her from the start because of the intimate way she told her story about how she lost her husband, home, and job in the same day on her thirty-fifth birthday. Her job is the CEO of the number one cooking show on YouTube with a staff of 250 people, multiple cookbooks, and a soon-to-be show on the Food Network. Then, the social media that helped her become who she is abruptly conspires to destroy her burgeoning empire. What follows is a story about Sunshine discovering herself by coming to terms with a family past she ran away from.

Though the story is about Sunshine in particular, it's also about how all of us can get swept up in the versions of ourselves we present by only showing certain aspects of our lives on social media. For most of us, it's just a few hundred/thousand "friends," but for even minor celebrities, the reach can be much greater. I really enjoyed this book. Dave really knows her stuff when it comes to food and wine and people and marriage, family, and our relationship to ourselves. Highly recommend. Thanks to NetGalley for the opportunity to review this book.

"Hello Sunshine: a novel" by Laura Dave was an excellent read, especially right on time for summer. The only way that this book would have been more fabulous would have been for me to be reading it on a beach. Sunshine McKenzie never started out planning to lose herself to the internet starlet she became, but that's just what happened. Her perfectly curated life comes crashing down after a series of tweets reveals some tantalizing gossip about who, exactly, Sunny has become. When your life is torn down by a wrecking ball, you have to choose which pieces to save, will Sunny manage to save the right ones? "Hello Sunshine: a novel" was a fun, provocative read. I truly enjoyed it from the start and didn't want to put it down. I imagine, given the right amount of time, I could have read the whole book in one sitting. So much of the story was relatable, and I identified with the concepts that Sunny was trying to understand, if not fully with Sunny herself. I don't have much internet fame, but I can imagine what that would be like. My only complaint with the book was that there wasn't more of it, alas, I can only hope for a sequel. If you're looking for a book to take to the beach I recommend this one. This story's great, but so is the cover! *I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for this review. All opinions about "Hello Sunshine: a novel" by Laura Dave are true and accurate.

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