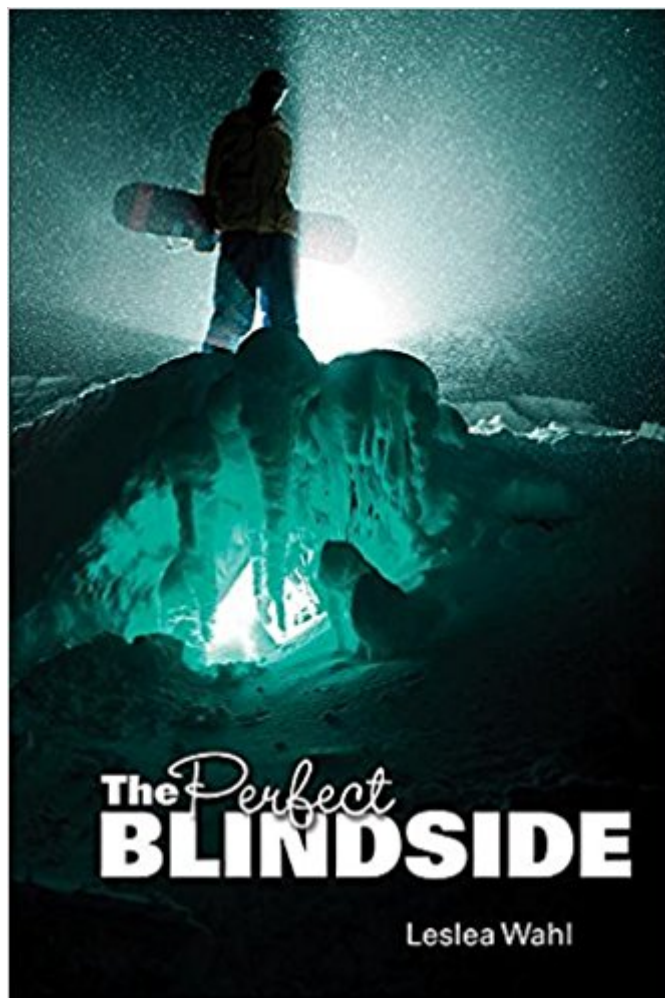


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The Perfect Blindside



Synopsis

He's an egotistical snowboarder with a silver medal. She's a judgmental honors student with a flair for photography. Slashed tires.... False accusations.... A coded message.... When all they can see is each other's flaws, how can Jake and Sophie work together to figure out what's really been happening at the abandoned gold mine? Follow Sophie and Jake into secret tunnels as they unravel the mystery and challenge each other to become who God wants them to be.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #564,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 8 - 12

Customer Reviews

"If an author was a chemist and a book was a potion, this one would be a sure mixture for success. A dash of romance, a theme of mystery, a foundation of faith.. a pinch of humour and wit, and you have: a lovely Catholic book, perfect for the teenage reader." [" - Goodreads Review](#)" "This reminded me of a teen movie!" [" - Books For Christian Girls Blog](#)" "With true-to-life characters, an intriguing mystery and a setting so real you'll imagine yourself walking down Main Street, this novel had me saying, "Just one more chapter" over and over again." [" - FranciscanMom Blog](#)" "...this book is a great book to have your teens read. The way Mrs. Wahl writes is exceptional." - [Our Home, Mary's Mantle Blog](#)" "The Perfect Blindside is the book I wish I had read as a young teenager." [" - One More Catholic Blog](#)

Leslea Wahl hopes to encourage teens in their faith through fun, adventurous mysteries.

I bought this book for my niece as a Confirmation present. Leslea Wahl does an amazing job of making her characters realistic while still infusing faith into her story. I love the way she has Sophie pray throughout the book. Her prayers aren't overly pious long epistles; they are quick, in-the-moment, down-to-earth ("Seriously, Jesus, help me shut my trap") kind of prayers. Basically, the way I pray! The trouble with some Christian fiction is that the characters are either holier-than-thou saints or really, really terrible sinners who suddenly do a 180. I enjoyed how Leslea gives her characters realistic flaws (you'd expect a boy who just won an Olympic silver medal to be a bit egotistical) and then lets them have some character development without swinging the pendulum between sinner and saint too far or too fast. Not only are the characters enjoyable, but the story line is very engaging as well. This is a fun mystery with a bit of romance that parents can feel comfortable giving their teens!

I loved this book. The author clearly knows teenagers and how they think. The interaction between the two main characters and how their relationship evolved was heartwarming and the action packed story kept me wanting to know what was going to happen next. These characters definitely need a sequel to their adventures.

It is so well written! It grabs you from the beginning and doesn't let you go until the end. Great plot, adventure, faith and a touch of romance. A wonderful clean read for all ages!

I really enjoyed this refreshing story of young love with a mystery intertwined to keep you turning the page!

Today, I am reviewing *The Perfect Blindside* by Leslea Wahl. Before I start the review, I want to share a couple of links with you: Lesley Wahl's Site - <http://lesleawahl.com> Goodreads Giveaway of *The Perfect Blindside* - <http://lesleawahl.com/2015/09/181/> (this is actually Ms. Wahl's site too, but the information about the giveaway is there... and who doesn't like a chance to win a book?!) I really enjoy reviewing books for teens because my son is about to turn twelve and I want to make sure I have "the right kind of books" here for him to read. Sure, we love all the classics, but as our Priest

said on Sunday (paraphrased), 'As parents teaching your children about our Faith and morality, starts with you, at home. The love of God in your children's hearts; the teaching of virtue and commandments ALL start with you.' My immediate thought was - "NO PRESSURE!" It is with that in mind that I know my husband and I have to make sure our almost teen is presented with the right type of reading material. We do not believe in isolating him from society, but we do believe in insulating. He plays baseball and takes karate and is around non-homeschooled children on many occasions. Even when watching appropriate TV shows, he sees commercials we would rather him not see. He asks a lot of questions and we have constant dialogue. I have to be honest, at first, the chapters going back and forth between perspectives of the main characters Jake and Sophie, put me off. Chapter 1 was Jake's perspective, Chapter 2 was Sophie's perspective... back and forth it went. But after the second chapter, I got it... and I really liked it. It's different and frankly, I hope there are more books coming about these two and their little town. This book is about good, old-fashioned mystery solved by two teenagers that could not have misjudged one-another more... and I love it! We talk to our children about expectations and judgments. We tell them that things are not always what they seem... that people are not always what we perceive... that situations that may seem _____ could turn out to be _____. You just NEVER know until you get to know someone or go to the _____. I left those blank intentionally because there are a zillion things any one of you may put in those blanks. The two main characters are: Jake. Olympic Snowboarder with a silver medal. Egotistical. Teen sensation. Struggling with all the normal teen stuff AND how to manage fame. His parents moved him to a little town in Colorado in an effort to shield him from fame. And he's torn between being cool in everyone's eyes AND wanting to fit in like everyone else. Sophie. Honors student. Budding Photographer/Reporter. Small town sweetheart. Judgmental and a little bit OCD. She and her best friend Kate are like so many teen girls. It made me smile when they planned their first day of school outfits (we all used to... awww). There are many twists and turns in this classic story about two people so determined not to like one-another that it becomes all they think about. They struggle with jealousy and insecurity. They struggle with their families, who are really good families (but teens struggle with authority figures). They struggle with other teens at school (you know, some teens can be so cruel). Through a series of unexpected events these two teens have to work together, learn to trust each other, and be humble enough to do God's will... in order to save Jake's reputation and their small town from a drug ring. SO exciting! This book is about learning virtues; appreciating the talents God gave us, and working together for the betterment of God and His people. And this book is a great book to have your teens read. The way Mrs. Wahl writes is exceptional. I highly recommend it. I'm so thankful I read

it! Blessings all, Emily

Review for *The Perfect Blindside* by Leslea Wahl
Through a deft use of dialogue and authentic teen-speak, the author has written an interesting, contemporary twist on boy-meets-girl, adventure ensues, boy-gets-girl. The story is a page-turner, easily followed, and delivers several strong moral messages. The characters are well-developed and we are pulling for them, both in unraveling the mystery and in their love story. The title theme carries throughout and is happily resolved.
Lois Hjelmstad, author of *Fine Black Lines: Reflections on Facing Cancer, Fear and Loneliness*, *The Last Violet: Mourning My Mother, Moving Beyond Regret*, and *This Path We Share: Reflecting on 60 Years of Marriage*

I thoroughly enjoyed this book by debut author, Leslea Wahl. I loved the relationship between the two main characters. The dual point of view worked as a way to get into the emotions and motivations of small town girl Sophie and Olympic snowboarder teen-sensation Jake. Wahl's slant on the downside of fame brought a fresh perspective to their romance. Plus the wonderful descriptions let me vicariously experience the thrill of a snowboarder doing flips in a halfpipe. Topped off with a good mystery and this book has everything I enjoy. A fun read that will keep you engaged and guessing what's going on in Silver Springs and whether Sophie and Jake can see beyond their differences to what makes them a gold medal team.

As a mother of six children who are avid readers, I have such a struggle to find good quality books that my kids will also find interesting. This book is it! *The Perfect Blindside* is a wonderful story that is perfect for middle school students to adults. Jake and Sophie work through struggles of temptation, judging others, and insecurity. They learn how they each have gifts and talents that God is able to use for His glory. As the mystery unfolded, I had difficulty putting the book down! Loved Leslea's writing style from start to finish.

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