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# Goodbye, Rebel Blue



## Synopsis

Rebecca Blue is a rebel with an attitude whose life is changed by a chance encounter with a soon-to-be dead girl. Rebel (as she's known) decides to complete the dead girl's bucket list to prove that choice, not chance, controls her fate. In doing so, she unexpectedly opens her mind and heart to a world she once dismissed; a world of friendships, family, and faith. With a shaken sense of self, she must reevaluate her loner philosophy; particularly when she falls for Nate, the golden boy do-gooder who never looks out for himself. Perfect for fans of Jay Asher's blockbuster hit *Thirteen Reasons Why*, Coriell's second novel features her sharp, engaging voice along with realistic drama and unforgettable characters. Praise for *Goodbye, Rebel Blue* "As true as the blue streak in her hair, Rebel will encourage readers to follow their own hearts and dreams." --Kirkus Reviews "Readers will root for Rebel as she makes a sincere effort to befriend a detention acquaintance and as she falls for kind-hearted Nate." --School Library Journal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-Rebecca "Rebel" Blue, 16, is just settling into yet another detention and its inane assignment (write your bucket list) when "some girl with a perky blond ponytail" starts peppering her with questions. Kennedy Green strikes up a conversation with the reluctant Rebel about fears, beliefs, and whether or not there's an afterlife. The discussion is still in the protagonist's head the next day when she hears that Kennedy was killed in a car accident the night before. Prompted by

the tragedy, Rebel digs Kennedy's bucket list from the detention-room trash can and sets about completing it on the dead girl's behalf. The teen isn't half the "do-gooder" Kennedy was, but with 20 items to complete, it's time for her to try. Rebel is used to holding the world at arm's length. However, in her mission to check items off the list, she finds herself needing people more than she'd ever expected. By letting down her guard, she has a chance to explore friendships and family relationships and finally come to terms with her own traumas and heartbreaks. Readers will root for Rebel as she makes a sincere effort to befriend a detention acquaintance and as she falls for kind-hearted Nate. The romance and language are chaste, making this novel appropriate for younger teens. -Brandy Danner, Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Rebel Rebecca Blue and do-gooder Kennedy Green have a chance encounter in detention, where they are assigned to write a to-do-before-I-die wish list. Their unlikely meeting proves to be fated by destiny after Kennedy dies in a car crash that night. Rebel sets out to complete Kennedy's bucket list, and, in the process, she grudgingly says goodbye to the anger that has been defining her since the death of her free-spirited mother, an internationally renowned photographer. Rebel's barefooted, globe-trekking childhood was anything but normal, and she finds the sociocultural rules of school districts and friendships unnatural. They compound her angst and aggravate her sincere efforts to navigate high school. It is Kennedy's dimpled friend Nate; Rebel's detention buddy, Macey; and even Rebel's straight-laced cousin, Pen, who partner—albeit reluctantly—with her in her quest. Coriell handily has Rebel trying Kennedy's persona on for size, checking items off the list, and ultimately finding herself along the way. Grades 9-12. --Gail Bush

This book was a gift for our granddaughter. She had already read it but wanted her own hard copy. Thus, how else could I give it anything but 5 stars?

I loved the fact that Rebel Blue found herself through another person's bucket list. The story kept me riveted because it intertwined Rebel's past and present. The author uses lots of current, every day events of a teen's life. And she writes with a flare that describes characters, places, and events to the point I can vividly see through her language. It was a GREAT story that shows how a lonely girl struggles with accepting her losses, tries to hide behind facades, and all the while she is growing up

becoming a strong young adult. Goodbye Rebel Blue was an AWESOME read. The author used the same easy to understand, great descriptive writing skills as she did in her previous book released, Welcome Caller This is Chloe! Both books let you live the moments as if you were there with the characters. Great new books, GREAT new author!

Needed for school reading project, arrived in good time to get the job done.

It was amazing and you could relate with rebel the whole way. A must read for girls and boys !

Very well written; a great idea to fuel a coming of age story and journey of discovery. Definitely worth a read :)

The cost of the book didn't justify the content. It was an ok book, but not worth \$9.99.

16-year-old Rebecca "Rebel" Blue has always been different. Home-schooled 'til the age of twelve, Rebel used to travel the world with her photographer mother. Now her mother is gone and she lives with her aunt, uncle, and cousin. She does what she wants and doesn't always follow the rules, which is why this story begins with an hour in detention. During said detention, the students are instructed to create a bucket list. Rebel, being the cynical teen that she is, promptly mocks the idea. The other girl sitting in detention, however, takes it very seriously..."You can learn a lot about people when you know the things they want to do before they die." Kennedy Green--the quintessential good girl. She's everyone's friend. Perky, happy, optimistic Kennedy Green. Her bucket list could rival Mother Theresa's. Rebel and Kennedy end up in a slightly one-sided conversation about life, death, and fate. Neither of them know it at the time, but it is the last conversation Kennedy will have with anyone ever again. The next day, Rebel finds out Kennedy is dead. After getting her hands on Kennedy's bucket list, Rebel decides to complete the list herself. She is out to prove to everyone in her life that she can be good. - - - This book is all kinds of heavy! It's also sweet, thought-provoking, and very funny at times. I loved it! :) I am going to start with the most important part of the story: Rebel. This girl reminds me a lot of my younger (and sometimes current) self. Pessimistic, slightly cynical, and a little bit scared. Looking past that you can see something else. She's sensitive and flawed; a girl who hides behind a mask of mockery and snark, a girl who puts up walls to keep others out. She's afraid of being hurt. Afraid of losing. Afraid of being lost in a sea of sameness. Rebel is quite a complex character in my opinion. She is quite witty and I absolutely love her fierce

honesty. She isn't one to beat around the bush. She says what she thinks and that is something I admire."I'm afraid of being ordinary."Rebel grows as a person in this book. Shelley Coriell did a marvelous job at capturing what it is to learn and grow in the aftermath of a tragedy. This book poses questions about fate and destiny. It gets pretty heavy at times, but the author balances it out nicely with humor and romance. While working her way through the bucket list Rebel begins to hear Kennedy's voice urging her to believe in something higher than herself. Maybe not God specifically, but a bigger plan. Kennedy believed it was in her plan to help others. Let me give you a small taste of her bucket list: \* Perform one random act of kindness every day for one year \* Learn American Sign Language and volunteer to sign for the hearing impaired at church \* Spend the summer doing AIDS education in Africa Another of Kennedy's bucket list items brings Nate Bolivar into Rebel's life. Nate and Kennedy were both a part of the school's 100 Club. Rebel joins the club and begins spending more and more time with Nate. Nate isn't normally the type of guy she'd notice. He's preppy and popular. Never a single blonde hair out of place. He's also a do-gooder like Kennedy. Regardless, Rebel finds herself falling for him. I think this romance element was very well done. There was no insta-love to speak of. I liked that this was a sort of opposites-attract relationship. Their social hierarchy gap causes them some trouble, but it was grand to watch them overcome it together. The pace of Goodbye, Rebel Blue was perfect! I didn't get bored, but the story never felt rushed. Secondary characters play a key role in this book. In learning more about herself, Rebel also learns more about her family--her aunt & uncle, her cousin Penelope--and also about her one and only friend, Macey. I loved the dynamic between Rebel and Macey. They have an odd, quirky relationship... but it works. There is a friendship I won't soon forget. I can't finish up this review without mentioning why I am giving the book four stars. My problem is a loose end. In the beginning of the book, right after Kennedy dies, an officer comes to the school and questions Rebel and Nate specifically. He asks about Kennedy's emotional state and we find out Kennedy was upset and speeding in and out of the school parking lot the day she died. And that's it. It's never mentioned again; never wrapped up. I guess it makes a little bit of sense because, at some point, the story stops being about Kennedy. It stops being about her death and her bucket list and more about Rebel finding herself and growing into someone with more insight and more faith. Still... I would've really liked to know why Kennedy was driving so erratically and why she crashed her car. :(All in all, Goodbye, Rebel Blue is a book that will stay with you for a long time. It focuses on things like fate, friendship, family, and faith. It focuses on doing for others and being generous. It focuses on learning to love yourself and to let others in. It's a beautiful story of growth and acceptance. I truly loved the characters and they were impeccably written. The story was well-paced and the

conclusion satisfying. I definitely recommend this book to fans of YA Contemps & books that touch on heavy issues, but also have a thread of hope and focus on the silver-lining.

San Diego teen Rebecca "Rebel" Blue is sent to detention yet again for choosing to test her high school's rules. There in detention, she meets clean-cut, do-gooder Kennedy. The two could not be more different -- Rebel with her blue hair, cargo / tank top combo and messenger bag decorated with shark teeth, while Kennedy is blonde, perky and preppy. Yet Kennedy is set on them being friends. The detention teacher gives the girls the assignment of creating a bucket list, which prompts Kennedy to start a conversation with Rebel about what her ideal heaven looks like and what she really hopes to accomplish before she "kicks the bucket". Rebel tries her hardest to get the girl to shut up until they are finally released for the day and Rebel just sums Kennedy up as utterly annoying, yet she can't get Kennedy's words out of her mind. When Rebel comes to school the next day, she hears that Kennedy was killed in a car crash the evening before. Feeling a little guilty about their final conversation, Rebel retrieves Kennedy's bucket list from the detention room trash can, trying to see if it reveals anything about Kennedy or her final thoughts. Trouble is, she can't seem to get rid of the list after that. Each time she tries to discard it, it finds its way back to her, until she starts to feel that some higher power is telling her she must complete the list that Kennedy can't. This story had a cool premise but the way it unfolded wasn't entirely satisfying for me. For one thing, the more I read the more I found myself liking Rebel less and less. She tries to say she's "anything but ordinary" yet "nothing special" at the same time. She's ticking off things on Kennedy's list and everyone is acting like it's a huge heroic thing she's doing, yet she's snarly and edgy through the whole process, every inch of the way she's making it clear how put out she is ... oh, until the hot guy gives her some attention, then she starts to feel more charitable. And, of course, even though she doesn't really pull off anything all that remarkable, the guy is quick to throw out a swoony "I've never known anyone like you." Really? 'Cause I saw her very much as the trying-to-hard-to-be-dark dime a dozen type, myself. High schools are chock full of them. Rebel also likes to say "Drama isn't my thing and power plays exhaust me" yet she also points out things she does simply because she knows it gets under the skin of others. She especially seems to live for getting her aunt / legal guardian riled up. An under the radar pot stirrer is still a pot stirrer. Of all the characters in the story, my favorite actually ended up being the minor character Gabby, the ten year old sister of Nate, the male lead in the novel. Though only ten, Gabby's dialogue and description, mostly made up of fashion references, made her super adorable and instantly put me in mind of a little Edna from *The Incredibles*. I was also annoyed that early on in the story it's laid out that

Kennedy's crash happened on a clear night on a straight road with no other vehicle involved, so the police were looking into possible suicide. Rebel's curiosity is peaked by this, which spurs her to get the list and see if it lends any clues, but it felt like that little plot point was dropped somewhere along the way, never to be referenced again. So what happened with Kennedy then? I was initially really excited to get into this one, but by the end the plot felt a little too sloppy in the unfolding, making it just a so-so read. **Note To Readers:** If you're reading this book and are confused by what the gray pages before each chapter are, those are items from Rebel's bucket list. **POTENTIAL TRIGGER WARNING:** This novel's plot mentions a character who cuts and an attempted sexual assault.

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