



Live Through This

Mindi Scott

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From the outside, Coley Sterling's life seems pretty normal . . . whatever that means. It's not perfect—her best friend is seriously mad at her and her dance team captains keep giving her a hard time—but Coley's adorable, sweet crush Reece helps distract her. Plus, she has a great family to fall back on—with a mom and stepdad who would stop at nothing to keep her siblings and her happy.

But Coley has a lot of secrets. She won't admit—not even to herself—that her almost-perfect life is her own carefully-crafted façade. That for years she's been burying the shame and guilt over a relationship that crossed the line. Now that Coley has the chance at her first real boyfriend, a decade's worth of lies are on the verge of unraveling.

In this unforgettable powerhouse of a novel, Mindi Scott offers an absorbing, layered glimpse into the life of an everygirl living a nightmare that no one would suspect.

Live Through This Details

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Author : Mindi Scott

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From Reader Review Live Through This for online ebook

Cassandra C. says

Live Through This follows the life of Coley Sterling. Coley is the girl we all wish we could've been. She is attractive, her family is financially secure, she is a member of the school's dance team, and she is in the midst of a budding romance. However, this book embodies the quote, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

Someone who is closely integrated into Coley's life is sexual assaulting her. We find this out within the first chapter of the book in a very graphic scene. This may be off-putting to some, but I found it incredibly realistic and I really felt for Coley. No one should ever have to go through that kind of abuse. However, don't get me wrong, the abuse is not the main focus of the novel. What Mindi Scott gives us is a heartbreaking story of an emotionally distraught teenager trying to make sense of the world.

Throughout the novel, we are left wondering who the perpetrator that harms Coley is. We are also made aware of a falling out between Coley and her former best friend. Lastly, we lay witness to the internal struggles Coley faces in regards to her sexual life with Reece. There was a lot of suspense and it really drove the story. I found myself flying through the pages trying to figure out the mystery surrounding these struggles.

Let's talk about Reece for a second. Coley has developed a crush on him and he has also on her. We get to witness adorable exchanges between the two throughout the novel. One of my favorite parts of the novel was the little music lyric game they played together. One person would say a random lyric such as, "Romeo take me somewhere we can be alone," and then the other will guess what song it is from. Each lyric is different and they range from straight up corny to adorable. This melted my heart! I would compare their relationship to Eleanor and Parks, they just work so well together. Also, the giraffe presents! Oof. Anyways, I loved them together!

I cannot recommend this book enough. It's not very often that I find a young adult book tackling such a sensitive issue and doing it well. This novel will keep you on the edge of your seat wondering what is going to happen next. I can't explain how invested I was in Coley's life. If you want a thought-provoking book with an adorable romance in between, this is your book.

Juhina says

Live Through This starts off with a very scary chapter. It is a rape scene, or at least a sexually abusive scene in the middle of the night, happening in the room, in the bed, of the main protagonist, Coley. I was so freaked out. But the next chapter? It is like nothing has happened. I honestly thought it was a dream. Then she was acting weird around her family (her mom, half-sister, step father, and brother). I immediately thought her dad is the predator. I was suspicious and so confused because I still wasn't even sure if this is her imagination or actual facts. This book follows her struggles to have a normal life with normal friends and start a romance with her friend and crush Reece. This book gave me chills and I just couldn't read fast enough. I just wish there is a sequel or it didn't end where it ended. I needed more. That is why I gave it four out of five stars.

Justin Ordoñez says

Managed to get my hands on *Live Through This* a little bit early. I read it over a weekend and really got caught up in it. I think I just like the stories Mindi writes. They're straight-forward human dramas where the plot deals with the inter-connectivity of the characters and not space aliens or super powers or the like. Those are the kind of books I just find myself gravitating to time and time again, and if those are the type of books you like to read, I think you're gonna have yourself a more than satisfying read with *Live Through This*.

I don't like giving spoilers, so I won't, I'll just say that I was impressed with the author's development of the family dynamic. Coley is in a bit of a "Brady Bunch" situation, herself and her brother joined in with a step-father and three younger step-siblings. The contrasting behavior of Coley and her brother vs the younger siblings reflects their vastly different upbringings and experiences, and I think it's these subtle dynamics that really make the novel flow. The best scene is in the middle of the book when Coley visits a restaurant and overhears some girls in a bathroom saying something..... What plays out afterwards drives home so many of the dynamics driving these characters.

It's not as "fun" as her previous novel, *Freefall*, where we followed Seth, a young man who's in a band about to go on tour, from on the wrong side of the tracks dating the rich girl from across town.... That novel played on and lived in a lot of classic storytelling and scandalizing elements. *Live Through This* is definitely the more sophisticated of the two, and the one with the clearer message and delivery. Big time party scenes are substituted for more intimate, one-on-one conversations between characters. Lots of the side drama (Coley is having problems with a girl on her dance team much like Seth from *Freefall* was struggling to get along with members in his band) remains a background plot in *Live Through This*, which I liked. We get the "tension" between characters that makes them feel real and engaging, but it doesn't read as filler. In addition, she's thinned out her prose and developed a super-efficiency with her sentences, managing to say a lot with very little, though I dare say we might soon have to tell her to use some self-indulgent and flowery prose every now and again! It's like chocolate, we all want it from time to time (at least I do).

So I'd say everyone should get excited! Make sure to shelf this as "to-read" and then "currently-reading" and then "read." Mindi's shown here that she's gonna grow as author and her stories are going to grow with her, which is all the better for her readers.

Keertana says

Rating: 2.5 Stars

I have very mixed feelings when it comes to *Live Through This*, but my most overwhelming emotion is simply disappointment. There is no denying that Scott's sophomore novel is a struggle to get through, full of emotion and nuanced writing that truly brings to light the psychological horrors of abuse, but at the same time, it could have been so much *more*. When the novel begins, Coley experiences a shocking moment – one that she wishes she shared with a boyfriend instead of her abuser. It becomes very obvious that Coley's abuser is someone very close to her, which makes her situation all the more complex. And yet, after this gripping scene, the next half of the novel is devoted to details of Coley's every day life, from her dance practices to her blooming romance with a saxophone player, Reece, to a vacation she spends skiing.

For me, this is possibly the weakest part of the novel. While I appreciated that Scott took the pains to paint for us the image of a seemingly normal girl who hid the truth of abuse and later shattered her life with her continued abuse, I felt strangely detached from the tale. Quite simply put, Coley did not capture me. I felt sympathy for her and her difficult position, but not much else. Coley and her elder brother, Bryan, have always stuck together ever since their mother re-married and gave birth to triplets, but I could never understand why Coley and Bryan detested their step-father the way they did. As far as evil step-fathers go, Tony doesn't even deserve to be on the list. It was small aspects of the story like this one that simply didn't connect together for me and I found myself questioning Coley more than I did immersing myself in her tale.

And yet, I cannot deny that the manner in which Scott writes this story of abuse is raw and powerful. It is eerily frightening and honest, making this a novel that truly is for older readers. In addition to the carefully written plot line of abuse, though, I appreciated that Scott took the time to discuss sex and sexuality in this book, especially as it pertained to teenage girls. Instead of the classic sex discussion between girlfriends, Scott took it further to explore the idea that it is *okay* for girls to seek sexual pleasure – a concept that seems to elude most of YA and disappear amidst slut-shaming. Even the so-called “slut” or “anti-heroine” of this novel is explored in increasing depth, which increased my respect for this book immensely.

Live Through This honestly has a lot to offer to readers, but its abrupt ending left me wanting more. It wasn't enough for me to read about Coley's situation and her journey into accepting that it was wrong, despite the fact that she cared for her abuser; I wanted to see Coley deal with the after effects too, not to mention her abuser as well. Not only did I finish this book with too many questions, but as I mentioned before, many small plot points didn't connect together for me in the cogent way I wanted them too. In some ways, I believe there is too much in this story, from abuse to friendship issues to jealousy to best-friend-who-is-a-boy-but-just-a-friend...somehow, all of this didn't connect in the seamless manner I wished. Thus, while *Live Through This* manages to be an excellent novel in terms of exploring an abusive relationship, it isn't the perfect or emotionally-gutting book I was expecting. If you're up for a read that is most certainly very different, though, in a mostly good way, then *Live Through This* is definitely for you.

Glass says

tarawrawr says

Review originally posted on my blog <http://hobbities.net/2012/09/live-th...>

Live Through This by Mindi Scott is an unbelievably stunning, heartbreaking story. I am amazed by Mindi Scott's storytelling capabilities – I can't even imagine writing a story like this and still being able to include the beautiful, fun, light moments in such a perfect way.

Because *Live Through This* is an important and upsetting book. Sexual abuse is something that happens

entirely too often, and the way Mindi Scott tells Coley's story is just...perfect. We have moments where we're giddy with Coley over the dorky and cute Reese, or we're laughing with Coley and her best friend Noah (who I love to death, FYI), but there's also this heavy feeling while reading Live Through This that we realize Coley must feel all the time because of what's happening to her.

I was so tense while reading Live Through This – I loved the way Mindi Scott kept the identity of Coley's abuser under wraps for a bit. I was tense and nervous and accusatory and my heart just broke when everything was revealed.

It's really hard for me to write a full review of Live Through This. Mindi Scott delivers a heart wrenching book that made me laugh and cry and want to curl up under the bed and hide from everyone. Live Through This is a beautiful contemporary that portrays an issue that ought to be brought to light more often.

Courtney says

Okay, this book left me frustrated to no end. At the beginning I was sooooo confused. I understood the events, but I felt as if nothing major was happening. I felt this way for the majority of this book. I don't know if that makes sense, but I don't know how else to explain it. I also thought that the ENTIRE book was crazy rushed. All of the "major events" occurred about 50% in the book, and because of this they happened at a very very fast pace. I didn't like that too much. And another thing, what was with that ending!?!? It just ended. If that makes any sense what so ever. Like, I wanted to know how Coley's mom reacted to the big secret. I wanted to know what happened to her family, or to Bryan. How did Reece take the news, and did Bryan ever abuse Emma?! ? There were sooo many unanswered questions. I AM SO FRUSTRATED!!! And what was the point of Reece. He seemed like such an insignificant character to me. He was there, but he seemed to have no real purpose.

So basically, for this book to make ANY sense, or for it to get ANY better, it needs to have a sequel. However, I don't see that happening. I was really mad at the author because once I found out what Coley's secret was, I really liked the idea behind the book. I've never read a book with this story before, and I don't think I ever will again. So, the fact that the story was told in such a poor manor (in my opinion), really made me angry.

From this book I got absolutely nothing. I could go on and on about what I didn't like about this book, so I'll just stop now.

Kelly says

3.5.

Scott's sophomore novel starts with the worst possible scenario: someone is on top of Coley, taking advantage of her. We aren't sure who it is, but we know it's not the imaginary boyfriend Coley wished it were.

From there, we're tossed into the everyday world of Coley as she navigates balancing dance team responsibilities with friendship obligations. There's also Reece, the boy who she's close with and with whom

she'd like to be officially dating. It's when her family takes a winter vacation to Whistler and he's allowed -- after much debate -- to join for a small portion of the trip when things become more for them. But not before Coley's subjected to further abuse. Not before we find out who is doing this to her.

This is a powerful and painful novel to read because it's quiet. Scott's subtle in how she portrays abuse -- Coley's a victim but she's also not entirely willing to admit it to herself. She bottles it and tries to go forward. She doesn't believe it's happening to her, especially because (view spoiler)

It's a slow build, and it's effective because of that. The hangup I have with the book is the ending felt rushed and almost a little too convenient. (view spoiler)

The emotions ring true, and the writing and pacing is tight. It's not an easy read by any means.

Longer review to come.

Sarah says

{This review was originally published on Clear Eyes, Full Shelves.}

There's something thrilling and even a bit nerve-wracking about reading the second novel by an author whose debut landed squarely on my True Book Love shelf.

It's thrilling because of the anticipation of hoping that book magic will happen all over again.

Mindi Scott's 2010 debut, *Freefall*, is a book I love dearly (Laura's review pretty much nails it) so I have been eagerly anticipating *Live Through This*. It received a starred review on Kirkus, and the pre-publication buzz has been extremely positive. When I saw it on the shelf at Barnes & Noble and noble—a whole week early—I squealed far too loudly and sprinted to the register, breathlessly explaining to the BN employee who rang me about about how much I've been looking forward to this book, and how it's not actually out until October 2nd, and how I've got to know Mindi after I read *Freefall* and how it got a Kirkus star—and isn't it all just so exciting! Needless to say, the poor guy thought I was a nutjob.

That evening, I cracked open the book at around 10:00p.m., intending to just read a couple chapters after a stressful day and head to bed. Almost instantly I was gripped by the harrowing (which is how Stephanie Perkins described it in the cover blurb, which could not be more apt) story of Coley, a 15-year old in the Seattle suburbs whose life seems perfect on the surface, but underneath is anything but.

For years, Coley's kept a secret, maintaining the image of the perfect dance team girl. When she starts kind of/sort of dating Reece, and he winds up spending a couple of days with her family on their ski trip to Whistler, B.C., and Coley's carefully partitioned life starts to unravel.

I don't know how to fix this, or if it can be fixed. There's too much to say. Too much I don't know how to say.

For over half of my life, I've been pretending... [spoiler removed] Reece keeps trying to put the pieces back together without having any idea what's causing me to break.

I couldn't set *Live Through This* Down once started reading. Despite needing to be up early the next day, I stayed up past 1:00 a.m., because I was so gripped by Coley's story, overwhelmed by a feeling of dread. The story is carefully crafted so I really didn't know for sure who Coley's abuser is until halfway through the book. Sure, there were signs, but I didn't want it to be true.

That's the beauty of *Live Through This*—Coley's abuser is someone she cares about, someone with whom she shares a history.

I generally avoid books that appear to be "issue" books, especially in young adult fiction. They often seem too cut and dry, with the "bad guys" always seeming like pure evil. And, yes, their actions are terrible. However, the actual relationships are more complicated. Mindi shines a light on how unsimple the subject of abuse really is. She wrote a letter that was published in review copies and on her website about how the way abuse is usually portrayed, and how she wanted to show something different in *Live Through This*. This novel achieves that, letting Coley's story be Coley's experience in an authentic, nuanced manner.

Live Through This also has some light, funny moments that shine—especially the scenes between Coley and her best buddy Noah, as do the sweet moments between Coley and Reece as they test the waters of the beginnings of a relationship.

"This might be shaping up to be our best day ever now," he says as we siver against each other.

That's what I wanted to hear. I look up at him. "Really? This is better than giraffes and ice cream?"

"You don't think so?"

With his face this close to mine, he's just eyes, a nose and cheeks that are so pink form the cold, and upturned lips. I smile back so big, it almost hurts. "I'm going to have to think about that."

"Sure. Let me know what you decide."

This multi-dimensional exploration of Coley's life makes *Live Through This* stand out; there is light along with the darkness in Coley's life. That's a critical point that distinguishes this book, because Coley is more than what has happened to her, more than the guilt that follows her.

Ultimately, *Live Through This* is a very different book than *Freefall*, but there's a common thread that runs through them both in terms of figuring out the path forward.

(It's hard not to make the comparison, especially since they're set in the same town and there are two Seth references and Rosetta and Kendall mentions.) Like with Seth, the path forward isn't easy and Coley's decisions have consequences and the emotions are so real.

Now I'm sorry.

I am so, so sorry.

A sob escapes my lips and Reece scoots closer. I throw my arms around him, rest my face against his chest.

“It’s okay,” he says, rubbing my back as I cry. “You’re okay.”

He’s so wrong and he has no idea. It’s totally unfair for me to put him through this; I know that it is. Still, I keep holding on. I keep soaking his shirt with my tears. I can’t make myself stop.

There are so many little moments in *Live Through This* like this one. Moments that made me know that something is going to change, but I never felt confident in how they’d change until the very last page.

FNL Character Rating: Pending a consultation with Laura, our FNL Character Rating Expert, who is inconveniently out of town and hasn’t been able to read the book yet.

Disclosure: Mindi and I became friends when I Twitter stalked her after I read *Freefall* a couple of years ago and Laura and I hung out with her when she was in Portland earlier this year. Regardless of that, this review is my sincere opinion.

Initial Reaction: Well that was an intense, one sitting read.

Jasprit says

Live Through This was a beautiful achy read which cut me deep with the secrets of Coley’s life. Everyone assumes that Coley has the perfect life, great family and a nice bunch of friends. But for years Coley’s just been barely keeping it together, this facade that she portrays of herself as a strong independent girl is all false and is about to come tumbling around her when she starts getting close for the first time to Reece, a boy from her school.

Live Through This starts off as a mystery novel with a case of who done it? The opening scene starts with giving you an insight into how much of a burden Coley’s life is; how much she has to hold back to maintain everything together. But were given no clue into who was causing all this heartache, and pain for Coley. I was quick to make assumptions by just watching and reading her behaviour with family and friends I thought it was glaringly obvious who it could be. But I couldn’t have been more further from the truth.

The mess Coley had to deal with day in day out was so heart wrenching to watch, she finally found someone she truly liked in Reece, but there was always one thing holding her back. My heart truly ached for her all the time until it all became too much for Coley too. The worst thing was Coley had so many close friends, but she felt she couldn’t confide in them, because the more she thought things through the more confused she became herself. She felt she couldn’t confide in anyone at home either because there was always this “us and them” divide between her and her brother and her mum’s new family. Her mum had re-married and had three kids, and so Coley and her brother Bryan always felt that separation between the family. Coley honestly had it all to deal with, I hated the way she felt she was to blame; she’d been through so much that I wanted her to get her life back on track to the life she truly deserved.

Mindi Scott did a sublime job with *Live Through This*. Her writing was elegant and yet purposeful, it’s like every single word was chosen to have that specific effect on you and get right under your skin, she didn’t waste time but drew you into this raw world that you eventually find yourself so caught up in it.

Live Through This was a story which took me completely by surprise, it was a story of secrets, heartache,

growth and sometimes realising you can confide in people you least expect. Mind Scott effortlessly lures you in, that before you know it you've reached the end of such a poignant story. I highly recommend picking *Live Through This* up.

Ginger at GReadsBooks.com says

Originally posted at GReads: <http://www.greadsbooks.com/2012/09/li...>

This book deals with a very tough subject: sexual abuse. But it's not the type of abuse you see flashed across the headlines or even think of when someone mentions those two gut-wrenching words. This form of sexual abuse is the kind that begins in a place of trust, love and loyalty. It evolves in to a form of confusion, betrayal and utter disbelief. I have never read a story that's been told this way. The idea that this actually exists; that someone out there is really living through this, breaks my heart. But the fact that Mindi Scott has found the courage to write about it, shines a bit of hope on to such a heartbreaking issue. The power of literature can be profound, and I feel that this novel has the capacity to go so much further than just the written word.

Coley is the picture perfect teenage girl. She comes from a family that's busting at the seams, literally with 5 kids, and so much love. She is a part of her high school's dance team, complete with all her best friends. Her magnificent smile can light up a room; and capture the hearts of any boy. She is sweet, beautiful and talented. A total package wrapped up so nicely with the most perfect bow sitting on top. What she's hiding inside though, has the potential to rip her perfect package to shreds. It's a secret she isn't even capable of believing herself.

Maybe if she closes her eyes, pretends she's asleep he won't touch her.... there.

Maybe if she pretends it's the boy she likes at school, and not him.... it won't be so bad.

These are the thoughts that litter Coley's mind.

I found myself holding my breath, waiting to find out who the violator was. I kept expecting it to be this horrible monster. That is what we usually assume when someone is being victimized. However, in this case, the story is completely not what you'd expect. My heart went out to Coley, so many times. I saw the struggles she had at keeping the perfect face for the world to see, but I also saw the demons she fought within herself to keep that secret hidden. Coley's world became divided by fear and confusion.

I commend Mindi Scott for giving life to a story that must not have been easy to write. Though the subject matter is tough to swallow, it still needs to be discussed. No one should be the victim to this type of abuse, no matter how confusing it may be. I highly encourage those to read this book for the beauty in it's writing, the rich characterization that follows Coley, and absolutely for the message it delivers in the end.

Live Through This is a book that I will not be able to forget. I don't want to either. Coley's story is something that needs to be shared, understood and listened to. As I mentioned before, the power of literature can be so profound. Thank you Mindi for writing this story.

Jessica says

Sexual abuse is a subject that should be handled tactfully and with empathy, and I felt that this story fell short for me. While I can see the vision Mindi Scott had for this novel, a story about sexual abuse coming from someone you love and trust, Coley's view of the world is so incredibly warped and not in a genuine way. There's no healing in this book, which I think is an important part of this kind of YA novel.

Coley is a seemingly typical high school sophomore with boy trouble, best friend fights, and strict parents. Despite her oh-so-normal exterior, Coley's brother has been subjecting her to sexual abuse since she was seven. As Coley struggles to separate herself from the horror of her nights, she finds comfort in new friends and a new boyfriend.

To start with the positives, I think this is a subject that needs attention, and I liked that the novel provided places abuse victims can go for help at the end. Reece, Coley's boyfriend, was a very likeable character without crossing over into being perfect. He was a nerdy, fun jazz band-type, and Scott doesn't spend a lot of time with Coley fawning over how hot he is, which was a major relief in a novel told 1st person by a teenage girl. I actually also liked how this book was an uncomfortable read. It's easy to see that the author wasn't worried about making her readers comfortable when writing this book, and instead, she focused on the abused party's experiences as she thought they would have been.

Other than that, I had several problems with this novel. First of all, there is not really a plot. There is nothing that drives this novel from the beginning to the end other than time passing. There is no building action, climax, denouement, nothing. This whole novel is about a situation that this poor girl is in, but there was nothing that kept me turning pages. Luckily, it is a short book, so I still got through it. Had it been much longer I definitely would have struggled.

Coley narrates the novel, yet I never felt connected to her or her situations. It's a very strange thing. We learn of her awful secret in the first chapter, but after that it doesn't ever cross her mind for about 125 pages. Considering that she's telling the story, I feel that at some point we should feel her fear or despair or frustration or something during that time, but we don't. On that note, there is very little inner monologue going on. We occasionally get a hint of what Coley is thinking, but she does a poor job narrating her life to the readers. Determining her relationships with the various characters in the book was more difficult than it should have been. I was about halfway through the book until I felt that I had a grasp on Coley's relationships. For example, we hear about how Reece picks her up for school, she jokes with Noah before basketball practice, and she hangs out with Ming; however, it took me forever to figure out that she has known Reece for a few months (new friend), she has known Noah forever (old friend), and Ming is a friend from her dance team that has recently been upgraded to her closest friend. Simple narratives like this would have made the story much easier to read.

Finally, the ending was rough. I'm not sure if Scott was trying to show that Coley has grown over the novel, which I guess she has because she's talking to people, but I feel like the readers are owed a better conclusion than that. I would have loved to read about her mother's and Tony's reactions and the decisions they make in helping Bryan and Coley. For example, do they seek psychiatric help for Bryan or jail time? Do they let Bryan continue to live there? How does Reece handle this news?

Overall, this isn't a book I would recommend. I didn't hate it, but it was hard to empathize with the main character. Fans of *What Happens Next* by Colleen Clayton might like this novel, but if you are looking for a young adult novel that tactfully and respectfully handles the issue of sexual abuse then might I suggest *Easy*

Isamlq says

3.5/5

Should I say that she's faking her way through high school? Consider that she's in the running for captain, with a couple of really good girl friends as well as that budding romance with one you'd not expect~ all the makings of a sweet YA contemp. This isn't. A sweet YA contemporary, I mean. From page one, it's obvious she's living with this dark thing in her life, it's the same thing that has her emotions all mixed up... on one hand feeling thing then on the other feeling something else.

Interesting moments are the fact that it's not the only thing going on with her: a busted friendship over some thoughtless words; a guy best friend, who reads too good to be true (and he proves it too, by having secrets of his own he's not ready to face) and a budding romance with one so unlikely. Unlikely given who they are: she's on the dance squad, he's got his sax. And then the thing that pull them together? Too much knowledge of song lyrics and artists who sang them: adorable additions I thought, but not enough to disguise the fact that there's a darker thing under it.

Also, there are those lovely moment when I realize that some characters can still surprise me. They're not who I pegged them at first. Alejandra's a big case in point here. She's not just the other popular girl with a problem with Coley. Their issues boil down to their former too close relationship that's laced with a not surprising competitive side. Even Noah's a little different because just because he's a good guy most of the time doesn't stop him from being an asshole sometimes. (Good guys aren't good all the time.) Reece as already mentioned is cute, pure cotton candy on his part... sweet addition, I mean.

But it's everyone else that's left me wondering. How oblivious everyone else is to what's going on. She puts on an act, and acts so well that nobody knows what's really going on, 'til possibilities previously not considered arise then she finds harder and harder to deal. So we witness her go from girl popular to someone else.

So, here we see a girl face up to what's happening, face up to what a messed up and sad life she's living, (uncomfortable is the least of it.) That though you may not know the WHO early on, you do know the WHAT; that whilst all other "normal" things are happening, you wonder how she's managing it at all. I don't know what to say except this was a more difficult read than I was expecting. She is girl-perfect on the surface, but that's so far from her reality.

Hannah (The Irish Banana Review) says

Can I first offer a huge standing ovation to Mindi Scott for tackling such a sensitive issue? A lot of authors would avoid subjects like incest, domestic abuse and domestic rape, but Scott took a huge risk here and wrote about it in *Live Through This*.

That being said, I felt this book simply wasn't long enough for everything going on inside. There was the

sexual abuse, a burgeoning love story, a feud with a former-best friend, and a whole mess of family dynamics. There were a lot of sub-plots and characters packed into this novel and I felt it watered down the plot significantly, to the point where I just never got a feel of who Coley was.

Coley is a girl going through a horrific ordeal. She's surviving the best way she can—by pushing the issue away and orchestrating this perfect façade. There were some chapters she even convinced me she was OK because of how well she was doing with things and how little the abuse was mentioned.

This book is a quick read—I finished it in a day. I just felt like it was lacking something because so much of it felt scattered. And the ending really bothered me. I didn't feel like there was any closure for me as the reader, but I also realize that in order for me to get that closure there would probably need to be a second book, or at least another 200 pages.

I would recommend you check this out because 1) the subject matter is so crucial to bring into the light and 2) despite my lackluster review, this is getting crazy great reviews around the blogs. Maybe I would caution you to check it out of the library before buying.

Bayan Basri says

This book is definitely not one of my favorites. It was very rushed, and none of the characters are introduced properly. It's like Coley's getting a ride from Reece. Who is he? How does she know him? Why is he giving her a ride?. No idea. That even happens with the main character Nicole (or Coley), you don't get to know about her life except throughout the book you get little tid bits and stuff that is casually mentioned but never explored. Also I didn't connect with Coley or understood the decisions she made(view spoiler), except the very last one. I thought there were many subplots, some I would've liked to know more about while others I thought were not necessary. Coley and Reece's relationship was something I thought should have been explored more because frankly I really liked Reece, he probably is my favorite character in this book, I think it should've been explored like Noah's and Coley's relationship was(view spoiler).

Once again this book was too rushed and readers were supposed to figure most things out themselves. But I suppose it's a light read for anyone who doesn't want to read something deep or complicated.

2.5 Stars
