



Windless Summer

Heather Sharfeddin

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A father's love. A shattering secret. A summer that will change lives forever.

In the town of Rocket, Washington—a summer playground for windsurfers and tourists—a windless summer ignites fear as businesses and residents move away. Rocket's motel, run by a lonely widower named Tom Jemmet, is hard hit. And Tom has demons of his own: memories of a beautiful wife that still haunt him, and a troubled young daughter whose retreat into a silent world confounds her father and sparks whispers in town.

Swirling around Tom are lives much like his own, townspeople yearning for wind but also for hope, even love. Charlene, a mail clerk, helps care for Tom's daughter while a secret gnaws at her heart...Lauren, the town vet, has fallen for Tom, who barely notices...and newspaper editor Hap is hatching a foolish plan to save his town.

That's when a miracle—or something like it—strikes Tom's run-down motel. Guests who stay in Room 6 begin experiencing sudden acts of fate, both terrible and great. But while tourists descend on Rocket and the town shows new signs of life, the truth about Tom's motel and the death of his wife—as well as the secret hopes and fears of everyone around him—are exposed in ways that are both surprising and inevitable....

Windless Summer Details

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From Reader Review Windless Summer for online ebook

Tere says

I think she ran out of words. Crummy ending.

Jodi says

Had potential. I got into the plot line but was left with an abrupt ending and several unanswered questions.

Cheryl says

First 3/4 were good. By the end...not so much.

Darlene Schuh says

Oh my. I'm signing on just to say that I enjoyed reading this book, contemplated many possible endings all to be left hanging in the middle of a climactic event. It just ended. I wish I hadn't spent my time reading it...

Peggy Walker says

This story unfortunately looked to be a better read than it turned out to be in actuality. The premise is interesting, and the characters are pretty well drawn. A small town near the Hood River is normally a mecca for windsurfers, however a "windless summer" is killing the town. The main character owns a motel, and some mysterious events surrounding people that stayed in a particular room starts to attract media attention and a few weirdos. He also has a daughter with autism who is getting more and more out of control. I'm afraid that for me, the pieces were not tied together well, and the resolution is somewhat of a mystery. Some good writing here, but not enough to make a great book.

Kshappert says

I did feel very sorry for the main character, a widowed man who struggles to raise his severely disabled daughter while trying to run a downtrodden motel, but the book itself was pretty marginal and then just spiraled into totally out of character craziness at the end.

Scott Thompson says

This book gets better with each page making you hope it never ends. If you love a good story you'll enjoy this book.

Christy says

Ugh. Nowhere on the back of this book are we led to believe that this story is going to delve into the paranormal or that it will get as violent as it does.

I feel so juvenile saying this in this way, but it's the only way to describe it - it's just stupid. The ending leaves everything to be desired and the story, as a whole, shows no growth on the part of the characters.

So mad I spent my money on this!!!

Gail says

Not at all what I expected based on description on back cover. A complex and sad story--but well developed story. Only thing I did not like was I felt the ending left too many sub-plots unconcluded.

Kate Arrington says

This was an ok book. I do not like the way it ended. It didn't have enough closure.

Melanie says

This book had a lot of stories interwoven and an interesting concept though the ending was abrupt and brought little closure for the main character and his daughter. We know nothing of what will come of his severely autistic daughter or the people of the town. Everything is left very much up in the air, asking the reading to come up with their own endings.

Sigricha says

Really enjoyed the beginning of the book and the concept overall. 2 stars be because, while the book started out well and progressed well, the last quarter was a difficult read. I kept skimming through the pages and the end was incredibly disappointing. A good writer and I might change my rating after hearing her speak about the story at CBC at Tri Cities . She might provide insight that will help me understand.

Ann Marie says

I probably would have given this book 4 stars because it was a page turner and I enjoyed reading it and trying to guess what was going to happen. I didn't like the ending, otherwise a good read. I am going to see the author Heather Sharfeddin next week speak at CBC, hopefully I will have time to read some of her other books and hope they have better endings. :)

Rudy says

I enjoyed the book, but felt that there were some loose ends that needed to be dealt with. Not happy with the ending.

Kate Puleo Unger says

I struggled to get through this book. If I hadn't made an unspoken rule for myself that I wasn't going to DNF any of the books for my summer reading challenge, I wouldn't have finished this book. It was so slow, the writing was poor, and the dialogue was just really bad at times.

The premise of the story is a small town in rural Washington state where everyone survives because of the tourism - wind surfing being the main draw. When they have one summer without wind, no one comes to the town and all of the businesses start closing. I liked the premise. We often think of weather issues - heat, cold, drought - but I'd never thought of wind as something that might go away.

The story centers around Tom, a very sad hotel owner, who does nothing much other than care for his 12-year old daughter with autism and manage the hotel. His girlfriend Lauren is the town vet, but from his side their relationship is mostly physical, when it's convenient for him. She claims (in her own mind at least) that she loves him, but she is absolutely horrible when it comes to his daughter, Sienna. I really didn't care for Lauren. She acts as if she's better than everyone because she's a vet (or a "physician" in her mind). I also found it hard to relate to Tom most of the time. I felt bad that he struggled with Sienna, but I also thought he was ridiculous to think he could just leave her alone in their apartment all day.

One of the only reasons I kept reading the book was for Charlene, a young woman in town who's interested in Tom. She was the only shining light in Sienna's life, and I appreciated the insight she brought to Tom because of her childhood. There are several other decent supporting characters as well, but no one was really developed as much as I would have liked.

In general, the plot took too long to pick up. People don't start coming into the town until more than half way through the book. And the ending just got super weird. I'm not even sure what was supposed to have happened.

I would not recommend this book.

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