



# Twisted

*N.L. Greene*

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## Twisted N.L. Greene

Growing up isn't always easy. But for most teenage girls, they can rely on their best friend to help them get through the process. A BFF is something that is truly treasured and completely irreplaceable. You share all of your secrets, and are loyal and honest with each other, even when you're acting just a little bit crazy. You have each other's backs no matter what and you form a bond that is virtually unbreakable.

At least that's what normal teenage girls experience.

Nat and Mel have been bestie's since childhood and Nat has followed her blindly ever since. But as Nat's friendship with Mel begins to lead her down the wrong path, she starts to question the sincerity of their relationship. Nat starts to see Mel's manipulative, deceitful ways become more focused on her. Will Natalie hold on tight to the friendship she's had her entire life, no matter what it cost her? Or will she let her heart lead her to a relationship that's not so twisted.

\*\*\*Attention\*\*\* This book is recommended for mature readers. It contains underage drinking, drug use and sexual content. Thank you!

## Twisted Details

Date : Published September 13th 2013 by Nichole Greene (first published September 9th 2013)

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Author : N.L. Greene

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## From Reader Review Twisted for online ebook

### Julie says

What a rollercoaster this was!! All I can say is that if you ever have a friend like this, RUN!! This book is one of those that if I could have pulled Mel out of this book, I would have beat her to death, lol.

Natalie became friends with Melanie when Melanie started school with Nat in fourth grade. In the beginning I thought, oh how sweet this story of friendship is. But, quickly my feelings changed. Mel began to manipulate Nat in the simplest ways at first. The little things that no one seemed to notice and Nat was so oblivious. She thought Mel was looking out for her best interests, even when she was caught kissing guys Nat liked.

As they got older and things escalated, Nat was warned by everyone how she needed to break her ties with Mel and be her own person. She was always in the shadows of Mel and never thought she would do anything to hurt her. Soon came drugs and sex and Nat's behavior got worse. She was no longer the straight laced girl with good grades.

Mel really had Nat hooked, everything from telling her she was ugly to fat and that no boy could ever like her. I was so mad at Mel and just wanted to slap her. So anyway, back to the story. While partying at Mel's, Nat meets Miguel. Sweet and sexy Miguel. He quickly noticed how Mel treats Nat and does everything he can to keep her away from her. But, when things escalate and Nat gets in deep, Miguel comes to the rescue. He's head over heels in love with her and what a sweetheart!!

"I love you, sweetheart. I think I have from the first time I laid eyes on you." – Miguel

This book will leave you reeling and had me so furious with how Nat was treated. I was so frustrated but I just couldn't put it down. I had a mixture of emotions and really wanted Mel to get what she had coming to her.

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### Carie Marie says

I loved Twisted. The book was an easy read and enticing because it was relatable. Who doesn't remember middle & high school? Some great memories but some tough childhood lessons as well. If you didn't have a "mean friend" I'm sure you knew one. This book delves into that world... that impenetrable best friend world that no one can pierce.. not parents... other friends... or teachers. It's you & your bestie. Sometimes seeing the best in people is a rose colored fantasy. But it is a journey we must each take ourselves. We must live & learn from it.

Take a glimpse into Nat's world. Seem familiar? Do you really know your friends?

I highly recommend this book to anyone but I know it will make a deep impact on older teens. It's real & relevant. Not everyone that you hang out with is your friend. Not everyone that says they love you...really loves you. Kids can be cruel. I can see this being a required reading in schools.

Great job N.L. Greene! Way to take on a tough subject.

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## **Amanda Peake says**

Twisted

Written by: Nichole Greene

reviewed by: Amanda Peake

### Twisted Trailer

I'm sitting here looking at this blank space wondering how to put into words the emotions I have about this book. This is a story to remind us abuse doesn't just come from parents, family, or a significant other. It can come from the people we trust and value the most.

Natalie (Nat)- starts her story off mad at her best friend. She quickly jumps into a story that spans years. She's merely ten when she meets her best friend. Things start changing slowly and then more rapidly as age does. Natalie is smart, beautiful, sweet, caring, scared, loyal to a fault, blind and shy. She only sees the best in her best friend. As the story goes on it becomes increasingly more apparent that this friendship is anything but healthy. Natalie's parents are caring and kind. They just don't see the truth of this relationship. Nat learns that boys aren't to be trusted, The only friend she really has is Mel, and that she is ugly. She learns these at the hand of her best friend.

Mel- she meets Nat in middle school and becomes very interested in what interest Nat. She finds ways to cut her best friend down at every turn joking that she is a slut, fat, stupid and even pointless. Mel to her credit doesn't have the best life either. She has parents that are more interested in themselves and their desires than her or her brother. Mel fast learns the ways out of the world by using drugs, drinking, and partying. She isn't afraid to push her agenda on to Natalie. Or her body onto Nat's boyfriends. She always has a way to convince her best friend that she wasn't in the wrong.

Ashley (Ash)- She's a year older than Mel and Nat. She meets Mel after she moves in across the street. She's a convince friend rather than a true one. Her motives are boys, beer and fun. Ashley fully sees what Mel is doing to Nat and tries to speak up. Not that it does much good.

There are a lot of boys in this book and most of them are just helpless to do anything about what they see

Natalie dealing with. The ones that do speak up she shuts down not quite believing that her best friend is anything like she is being told.

There are two Champion type guys at the end of the book and one who has been there all along and Natalie failed to appreciate.

I know Nichole wrote this to be an NA book due to the content. However I would encourage this book for anyone to give or share if they are noticing someone going through a controlling friendship. They may not listen to your words but, they might read a book.

astarl1s

This book is wonderful and will be getting a 10 star rating.

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### **Paula Phillips says**

Review: Twisted - N.L Greene - September 2013

Having friends can be one of the hardest things in the world, as they are people we want and care about , but then they can also be the worst thing for us and end up toxic. Twisted is that story. The story of two best friends from childhood who grow up and one will dominate the other so much, that the submissive one will think of herself stupid and ugly. Intimidation, Bullying , Manipulation - what happens if this happens to you but you ignore it and use the excuse - she's my friend. Twisted is that story. Would it take you to the point of almost being raped or possibly raped before you realise she isn't really your friend or will you shrug it off as your fault and ignore the obvious because she is your friend. Twisted is that story. Would you ignore the fact that two of your boyfriends were caught kissing your best friend and you would blame the guy not your best friend ? Twisted is that story.

Twisted is the story of all Toxic friendships and follows the tale of two best friends Mel and Nat through school from 4th grade to High school and is told from Nat's POV.

Reading Twisted does make you "the reader" think about all the friendships you have had in the past and reflect to see if any of them were in fact toxic and unhealthy for you.

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### **Mary says**

I was lucky enough to meet NL Greene at UtopYA this past June. She was very sweet and kind, so when this tour came up I had to join!

### What I liked:

I loved how NL brought memories of my high school days. NL's descriptions of Nat's feelings as she lets her best friend, Mel, dominate her life.

Nat is just trying to find her way in life and she thinks her best friend Mel is the best advice that she has. Mel is a constant presence in Nat's life since they were in young. I really didn't like Mel. She wasn't a 'bully' to Nat at first, but you could tell there was something deceiving about her too. But, I loved how NL just kept some of that under the surface and seeing everything from Nat's POV.

I really enjoyed, Ash, Nat's other friend. She was a breathe of fresh air in the fog of Mel and Nat's friendship. I REALLY like Miguel too. That protective guy that every girl wants and, of course, he is hot!!

### What I didn't like:

The end of the book was a bit rushed. I wish that I could have seen Nat's finally transformation a bit more, It's not like I didn't enjoy the ending, because I did. I was hoping for more details.

### Overall:

This is a GREAT BOOK! I would recommend to all!

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### **Stacy says**

This is a book with a message - with a few of them, in fact - and some of the topics are uncomfortable. This is not a feel-good story, but it does tell a story that needs to be told, and that happens every day in high schools across America.

Natalie is a sweet girl just looking for a friend. She's probably a little too trusting and naive, but the same could be said of many adults as well. She meets a girl named Melanie, a newly-arrived transfer student to her middle school. She decides that 'Mel' will be her best friend, and that was her first mistake. Mel seemed nice at first, but as the years passed she became conniving, vindictive and controlling, and went out of her way to make 'Nat' feel as if she was the most unimportant person in the world. Before long, Nat lacked any self confidence and was looking to Mel to make every decision for her...including what to wear, how to wear her hair and makeup, how to act, and even how to think.

But Mel is a bad influence in the truest sense of the word -- and she does NOT have Nat's best interest at heart. She pushes Nat to do things she knows are wrong, and as the years go on, those bad deeds begin to get bigger and harsher, until Nat sinks into a blistering depression. She pushes away all of Nat's other friends, including boyfriends, until Mel is the only friend Nat knows.

What's it going to take for Nat to wake up and realize that Mel is not really her friend? Will she pull out of her tailspin before it's too late and she does something that can't be taken back?

After reading this book, my first thought was how powerful the message was. I would recommend that parents (primarily of young girls) read this book, and then have their daughters read it. It contains drug use, underage drinking, and sexual situations....basically all the things that high school kids are facing on a daily basis. But all that aside this is a really well-written book,told from the perspective of Natalie. The reader journeys with her as she goes from middle school to high school, and the voice of the American teenager is authentic and gripping. Well done, author N.L.Greene!

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### **Robbi Leah Freeman says**

N.L. Greene gives us a story that many teenage girls go through but has never been put into words as far as I have seen.

It's the story of a relationship of best friends. But is Mel, Nat's BF or not. Contrary to popular belief BFs are not always a good thing. I happen to know from experience that the experience of Nat can really happen and quite often does.

This is a wonderful book for parents to read so they can be aware and watch for signs. Also when my daughter starts high school or maybe even before earliest middle school, then I will have her read this book. I know it has cussing, drugs and sex in the book but if you don't make them aware, at home, about the truths of what is out there, then you are putting them, innocent children, into these situations with only other kids telling them how to act. I personally will read this book with my daughter so she can hear my views on subjects of this nature and not only have her peers to talk to and confide in.

Thank you to the author for this great book!

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### **P.A. Warren says**

I was given a Copy for a Honest Review.

Twisted By N.L. Green is the story of Nat dealing with her best friend Mel who is a bad person. She puts Nat down all the time. She leads Nat in the wrong direction and is just a horrible friend. With friends like her who needs enemies? It gets worse with time leading Nat down a dark road.

Gosh the blurb on this book was so good and left me wanting to read Twisted so very badly.

Unfortunately when I did read it I had a hard time enjoying the book. For starters Mel is such a hard character to even read about. She was/is just plain evil and was there throughout almost the entire story. What I personally wanted to see was Nat stand up for herself and leave Mel behind and yet she would always come back to her. No matter how badly Mel talked to her she would practically beg to make sure they were still friends. It is so hard so very hard for me to read book where the main character does the things Nat did. She wasnt a strong girl and it showed. I would have preferred perhaps a few chapters of what Mel did rather than starting back when it all began. It was tedious and quite frankly unenjoyable to read about everything Mel did.

I also think it might have been an information overload if that makes sense. It in my opinion needed to move along to the healing stage for Nat Quicker and it felt like when we finally did get there it was right at the end, so we never got to see that happy Nat. There was just honestly so much negativity in the book that I was left feeling down and depressed after reading it even though there was a HEA. I like to feel happy when I finish a book.. Maybe the book and I just didn't mesh well. It happens. I will give it to N.L. Greene though she wrote about a tough subject that many authors don't write about.. Verbal abuse from a friend.. not from a spouse or family member. Its a new one for me but it does happen.

Let me finish by saying I do not like giving negative reviews. I hope N.L. Greene can gain some insight from my review or if she chooses just to brush it off to the side. I truly believe this can be a 5 star book but I do believe some things in it need to be changed in order to get it there. Once those few things are changed then watch out world!

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### **Anny hernandez says**

THANK YOU N.L. GREENE FOR THE ARC COPY OF YOUR BOOK :)

LOVE THE BOOK AND CHARACTERS IN IT, I REALLY ENJOY THIS BOOK.

FIRST LET ME JUST START BY SAYING THAT THIS IS THE FISRT BOO I READ BY THIS AUTHOR. I HAVE TO SAY I DID NOT THINK I WAS GONE LIKE IT, BUT I LOVE IT THIS IS THE TYPE OF BOOK THAT IF YOU WHERE BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL IT WILL HAVE YOU THINKING ABOUT IF YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR BEST FRIEND IS EVEN REAL THATS HOW THIS BOOK MADE ME FEEL.

AND HOLY CRAP CAN I SAY THAT THIS IS THE PERFECT TITLE FOR THIS BOOK CAUSE THIS STORY IS REALLY IS TWISTED, WHILE I KEPT READING THIS BOOK I GOT A LITTLE MAD AT THE MAIN CHARACTER NAT.

NAT IS SUCH A SWEET LOYALTI PERSON AND ALWAYS TRIEYING TO DO EVERYTHING HER BFF WHATED HER TO DO JUST TO PLEASE HER, NAT HAS SUCH A WEIGHT ON HER SHOULDER CAUSE SHE WANTS TO PLEASE EVERYONE HER PARENTS THE SCHOOL AND HER BFF.

MEL LETS JUST SAY THAT I COULDNT STAND HER BUT THE WAY SHE ACTS HER CHARACTER MADE ME THINK THAT PARENTS THIS DAYS REALLY NEEDS TO KEEP A CLOSER EYES ON THEIR CHILDREND, CAUSE LET ME JUST SAY THAT MEL PARENTS ARE NOT THE BEST PARENTS AT ALL.

NAT AND MEL HAVE BEEN BFF FOR SO LONG THAT SHE WAS BLINDED BY HER, THINKING THAT MEL WAS LEADING HER DOWN THE RIGHT PATH, BUT HELL TO THE NO ITS WAS NOT LIKE THAT, WHEN I WAS MORE INTO THE BOOK I KEPT SEEN HOW NAT SO CALLED BFF WAS LEADING HER DOWN THE WRONG PATH OF SMOKING AND DRUGS, AND HOW EVERYONE ELSE WHERE TRIEYING TO WARN HER ABOUT MEL.

BUT NAT WOULDNT HEAR ANYTHING THEY SAID BAD ABOUT MEL, I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN SOMETHING HAPPEND AND IT FINALLY OPEN NAT EYES ABOUT HER BFF AND STAND UP FOR HER SELF THIS BOOK HAS A STRONG MESSEGE ABOUT WHO U WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH AND WHO YOU COULD TRUST.

AUTHOR N.L. GREENE DID AND EXCELLENT JOB WRITTING THIS BOOK, I LOVE HOW THE BOOK STARTED AND I LOVE HOW IT ENDED AND LOVE THE CHARACTER IN IT THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING ME TO THIS AMAZING STORY

I REALLY ENJOY READING THIS BOOK AND HOPE THAT ONCE YOU READ IT THAT YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH IT AND ENJOY IT AS MUCH AS I DID

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## **Jennifer says**

Also posted to Jen in Bookland

Twisted is the story of a very abusive friendship. Mel is very abusive towards Nat and Nat just doesn't see it. She slowly gets worse and worse, and the synopsis makes it seem like she might realize this slowly, but that is not true. It was understandable how Nat would believe Mel all the time. They had been friends for a long time and Nat trusted her completely. Mel was really good at turning Nat into whatever she wanted her to be.

Nat is the girl with low self esteem who follows the mean girl all through school. I started to get annoyed by Nat's other so called friends, especially Ash. Mel looked up to Ash, didn't want to seem stupid in front of her. Why did Ash not try to step in sooner? Slowly work on Nat so she was more confident? Do anything? Like why did Ash not say something about Mel making up the fact that both of Nat's boyfriends kissed her? I mean it is obvious Mel did it, so why did Ash not say anything? Why just go along with everything Mel does, when you claim to really care about Nat? That is not cool. I mean she could have helped Nat out, even in just little way. I guess she started to say small things, but really why wait so long? It was years of hanging out and stuff...I don't know.

And Noah...why did he never say anything? Sure Nat might not listen, but maybe if he said it was Mel and her other boyfriend said it was Mel...well at least then the seed could be planted. It was just...I didn't get why no one actually tried to help her. They just tried to get Mel to back off, but really they needed to be there for Nat more.

Then in the end once Nat realizes what Mel has been doing, again no one is there for her. They just let her retreat into herself for a bit. Why? I thought they were her friends and loved her? They just let her spiral out of control down into nothingness? Okay. Great friends they are. I know it is hard to help someone in an abusive relationship, but I would at least try. Especially if I cared so much about them....at least talk to them and hang out without the abuser as much as I could and insert little bits to help. Really the first 80% or so I was going with it, then I just got annoyed by her friends. Overall a sad story, but kind of frustrating at the end.

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## **Elyse King says**

This book was different. I had a hard time getting through it. The relationship between the two girls is something many teenage girls go through just had a hard time believing some of it. I know the point of the story was about a girl over-coming a toxic friendship but that was it. There wasn't really much to it. Just a bunch of elementary/middle/high school stories/drama. Then her and some guy were magically in love at the end. Just a story with a lot of pointless detail and internal monolog and unbelievable ending.

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## **Jo Michaels says**

### **From a reader's perspective:**

I picked up a copy of this book on Amazon and it was well worth what I paid. I loved the characters in *Twisted*. They reminded me of people I knew growing up. Yes, even Melanie was someone I could picture in my head and recognized right away. I got so wrapped up in the story, I couldn't stop reading. I wanted to

know where Natalie was going to end up and how she was going to be brought to the epiphany at the end. First person past tense was a clever way to tell this story, because it put me right in Nat's shoes. By the end, I needed a tissue. It's heartbreaking to read about someone going through what Nat does and not be able to give them advice or guide them in any way. That's when you know you've gotten hold of a great book! I cared about what happened to her.

#### **From an editor's perspective:**

This book is very well written. Emotions were strong and there was plenty of tension throughout. Characters were well developed. One thing it needs is a proofread. There were small errors throughout that a proofreader would catch that actually threw me out of the story a few times. But errors are expected in any book, even those traditionally published. So don't let the tiny ones in this book sway you from picking up a copy.

#### **My Rating:**

+1 Star for creating characters I loved  
+1 Star for making me care  
+1 Star for pulling my heartstrings  
+1 Star for great storytelling  
.5 Star for editing  
-.5 Star for need of a proofreader

**Overall, 4.5 out of 5 stars!** And you all know I round up, not down!

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#### **Crystal Solis says**

This book reminded me so much of when I was in school, where you had that one friend you thought would be there through thick and thin only to find out they were fake. That pretty much sums up the relationship between Nat and Mel. They met in grade school when Mel's family moved into town. They sat together on Mel's first day of school and promised each other that they'd be best friends forever.

They were inseparable growing up spending as much time together as possible. As they got older, Mel slowly and subtly started to boss Nat around. Mel would constantly rub it in Nat's face how innocent she was and would always tell her how to wear her clothes and her makeup. Then in middle school during their 7th grade year, an 8th grader named Ash, moved in across the street from Mel's family. She started going to the same school as Nat and Mel and the three became fast friends. Mel could not boss Ash around though because Ash saw through Mel's act and did not put up with her baloney.

Mel was pretty much a mean girl and a bully. Poor Nat was oblivious to the fact that Mel was her frenemy. Mel ruined every relationship Nat had with friends or boyfriends that were outside of their trio. Nat was still oblivious and the boyfriends and everyone else could not convince Nat otherwise.

Then one day Nat met Miguel and that is when things got interesting. I recommend you read this story. It's a great book that sheds a light on a different type do bully that most never see coming....the frenemy.

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#### **N.L. Greene says**

Of course I think it's amazing because I wrote it. :) Please let me know what you think! Thanks so much!  
XOXO

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### **LivesandBreathesBookBlog says**

What a rollercoaster this was!! All I can say is that if you ever have a friend like this, RUN!! This book is one of those that if I could have pulled Mel out of this book, I would have beat her to death, lol.

Natalie became friends with Melanie when Melanie started school with Nat in fourth grade. In the beginning I thought, oh how sweet this story of friendship is. But, quickly my feelings changed. Mel began to manipulate Nat in the simplest ways at first. The little things that no one seemed to notice and Nat was so oblivious. She thought Mel was looking out for her best interests, even when she was caught kissing guys Nat liked.

As they got older and things escalated, Nat was warned by everyone how she needed to break her ties with Mel and be her own person. She was always in the shadows of Mel and never thought she would do anything to hurt her. Soon came drugs and sex and Nat's behavior got worse. She was no longer the straight laced girl with good grades.

Mel really had Nat hooked, everything from telling her she was ugly to fat and that no boy could ever like her. I was so mad at Mel and just wanted to slap her. So anyway, back to the story. While partying at Mel's, Nat meets Miguel. Sweet and sexy Miguel. He quickly noticed how Mel treats Nat and does everything he can to keep her away from her. But, when things escalate and Nat gets in deep, Miguel comes to the rescue. He's head over heels in love with her and what a sweetheart!!

“I love you, sweetheart. I think I have from the first time I laid eyes on you.” – Miguel

This book will leave you reeling and had me so furious with how Nat was treated. I was so frustrated but I just couldn't put it down. I had a mixture of emotions and really wanted Mel to get what she had coming to her.

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