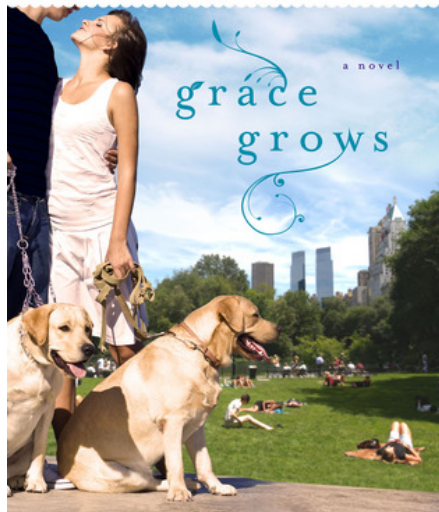


"Shelle Summers' sparkling debut novel is romantic, funny and wise.  
You will root for Grace Barnum as she lets go, take a chance and falls in love."  
—ADRIANA TRIGIANI, Bestselling author of the  
Viola series and *The Shoemaker's Wife*

Shelle Summers



# Grace Grows

*Shelle Summers*

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# Grace Grows

*Shelle Sumners*

## Grace Grows Shelle Sumners

Grace Barnum's life is precariously balanced on sensible choices and uncomfortable compromise. She dutifully edits textbooks that, she fears, may be more harmful than helpful to kids. She is engaged to a patent attorney who is steady and reliable. She has a cautious relationship with her fascinating father, a renowned New York painter, and she prefers her mom slightly drunk.

Always a planner, Grace feels prepared for most eventualities. Until the responsibility-challenged Tyler Wilkie shows up. Fresh in town from the Poconos, Tyler has warm eyes, a country drawl, and a smile that makes Grace drop things. Worst of all, he writes devastating songs. About her.

Tyler reaches something in Grace, something she needs, but can't admit to. Something she wants, but won't succumb to. Tyler Wilkie loves Grace Barnum and ruins everything. And Grace grows.

## Grace Grows Details

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# From Reader Review Grace Grows for online ebook

## Angie says

Originally reviewed here @ Angieville

I received a pitch for this book a few months back and dithered around on it a bit before deciding to give it a shot. But I had to wait, of course, for the right moment. And that moment came the other night after putting everyone to bed and coming off a rather unsatisfying read the night before. It helped that I haven't really read any true chick lit for awhile. What didn't help was the cover and the title. Nope. Not representative of the book at all, as far as I'm concerned. So if you're put off by either, don't leave yet. Because I settled in with GRACE GROWS and did not surface again until I had finished it. The thing is it made me laugh right off the bat. In fact, I'd read a passage aloud to my husband before I was three chapters in--a sure sign I'm enjoying a book immensely. If he has to hear a bit of it aloud *as I am reading it*, then he knows I'm in it for the long haul. Turns out GRACE GROWS is so readable and engrossing that the "long haul" felt very short indeed. That's not to say that it's without its problems. On the contrary, it has its fair share. But I haven't been able to get it out of my head since finishing. So let's discuss the highs and lows and see where we wind up, shall we?

Grace Barnum (yes, like the circus) is comfortable. She has a live-in boyfriend she's been with for awhile now. She has a job that keeps her busy and a pleasantly distant relationship with both of her parents (who have been estranged ever since she was a little girl). She has friends to go out with on the weekends and time to herself to sit in the Cloisters and recharge her batteries, so to speak. Everything's fine. Really. But then one morning on her way to work, she meets a dog walker outside her building who changes everything. Or wrecks everything. It all depends on your point of view. But one thing is for sure, this sometime dog walker, full time up-and-coming musical sensation has no intention of exiting Grace's life. Which presents problems on several levels for peace-and-quiet-loving Grace, because she can't seem to let go of their . . . friendship . . . either. And it's messing with her mojo, seeing as Ty is as chaotic and charismatic and fun-loving as Grace is steady and quiet and set in her ways. But Tyler Wilkie is dead set on two things in his life: getting famous and getting Grace. Which presents a problem for her nice, normal boyfriend who suddenly seems to be heading toward fiance territory. And so time passes and the two of them circle and reach out to each other and drift away and come together again in a kind of excruciating cycle neither of them know how to break. Until the strength of their connection forces them to act, that is. And then things get even more complicated.

Like I said, I started laughing immediately and didn't stop. Shelle Sumners has a wonderfully dry and lively wit and it sparkled in Grace's interactions with Tyler, with her friends and co-workers, and with her inexplicable parents. I cared for her right away. In fact, I cared about every single character in this book. They are each of them delineated carefully and thoughtfully, and while the bulk of my emotions were tied up in Grace and Ty's relationship, I was attached to each of the secondary characters as well. Which is why the whole messy, beautiful thing meant so much to me, I think. And why it was so clenchingly painful when the course of true love did not run smooth. And let me tell you, it really, *really* doesn't. I can understand why some reviewers want to kick Grace to the curb about two-thirds of the way through. She brings the pain, this girl does. She's been the recipient of her fair share of it as well, and for that (and her parents' dysfunction) I cut her some slack. But that doesn't mean it isn't difficult to watch her sabotage Tyler's happiness (and her own, of course) in such desperate ways. And since Tyler is about as adorable as a basket of puppies, it's . . . well, it's hard to watch. But the dream of them is so compelling, I did. I watched it right through to the very end.

I reached up and tapped him on the shoulder. He turned.

"Hi," I said.

"Hey!" he said. "It's you!"

He gave me that radiant smile and the gawk factor inexplicably transferred from him to me. Suddenly he was grace, and I wasn't.

"You're shorter than this morning," he said.

"Oh, yes." My face was getting warm. Annoying! "I had on those tall shoes."

"Yeah, they were pointy."

"Yes, I was trying to--well, I don't usually dress like that."

He nodded. "It looked hot, but painful."

This, their second meeting, is an incredibly simple passage, I know. But it really does give you a feel for Ty's easy charm and Grace's awkward honesty when she's around him. There's no denying their chemistry. This is one of those protracted relationships. It develops over *years*. And nothing, but nothing, resolves when you want it to. Honestly, I did come to tire of the never ending passing like ships in the night. Similarly, I wish the plot point that finally forces them to act was not what it was. It took away from the payoff for me. I wish Grace had found the courage to take control of what lay between them without it, and I wish we'd been allowed to spend a little more time with Grace-and-Tyler before their fragile little entity was overwhelmed by life and the consequences of the long string of decisions (both bad and good) that brought them where they are. That said--I really cared, you guys. I really cared. It hurt reading this book. It hurt and tickled and irritated and delighted. Recommended for fans of Liza Palmer and Kate Saunders.

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## **Jenny says**

\*I won an ARC of this book through a Goodreads First Reads giveaway\*

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## **Stacy says**

I won this book as a FirstRead.

Grace Grows follows much of the same general formula as other chick lit, so in that respect, it met expectations. However, I did not find Grace to be a likeable character at all. She cries all the time, and she held little regard for her relationship with her boyfriend/fiance, Steven, in the first half of the book. She does stop herself just short of having sex with Tyler before dumping Steven but apparently feels no remorse at kissing Tyler sneaking behind Steven's back to spend time with Tyler. I also didn't get much of an idea about what made her fall in love with Tyler, other than his smile. While she seems to communicate well with every other character in the book, her relationship with Tyler seems to be built around her lying to him and

avoiding him - not a healthy way to behave in a relationship.

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## Leah says

Grace Grows is a novel that interested me as soon as I saw it. I loved the cover, most of all, that's what drew me to it originally – the two dogs with the man and woman holding on to them. I love dogs, so y'know, I loved the cover. I also like novels where characters crash into people's lives. I love the spontaneity that Tyler and Grace only met because he came to walk her neighbour's dogs one morning. It's a brilliant idea for a novel. I loved how Tyler and Grace just seemed to spark off each other immediately and that Tyler, as a man-child, had the spontaneity to write songs about Grace, to hang around with Grace even when Grace didn't really want him around. For a long time, Tyler had this naivety to him that just totally blew me away. I was as convinced as Grace that he was young, much younger than her, even though he wasn't.

In parts, this novel took my breath away. Like I said, the spark between Grace and Tyler was something else. The intensity with which Tyler lived his life was just so all-consuming. The way he was just always there. The way he didn't let Grace's coldness or hard shell get in the way of telling the truth about his feelings for her, even if she didn't reciprocate. He was just so honest. And I adored him. He's the type of character that right from the get go you just love. He was just so sweet-natured. Even when he swore, it just seemed odd coming from Tyler Wilkie's mouth. The friction between Grace and Tyler was amazing. I was sort of disappointed how that seemed to actually peter out as the novel wore on, strange as it is, and I will get to that in a bit.

As for Grace. I don't know how to talk about Grace. Grace was... an enigma I suppose. She (understandably) didn't acknowledge her feelings for Tyler right away, which is fair enough, but at times I found her to be a bit disengaged. A bit cold. She had flashes of warmth, but for the most part I found it hard to engage with her. She was a bit of a cold fish, in truth. Obviously she was scarred from what occurred during her childhood, growing up with just her mom and with an estranged-until-her-teen-years father, but I just wanted Grace to just let go. Be less uptight. To care less. I think it speaks volumes that the first character I chose to talk about was Tyler, and not Grace who is our main character. It was Tyler who kept me reading, not Grace.

The plot of Grace Grows was great, the writing was good (more Emily Giffin than Sophie Kinsella, and yes, Emily and Sophie's writing styles do differ, believe me) and overall I liked the book. However, instead of going for the big Chick Lit ending we all know and love (I do, anyway), where there's a big fight or something similar and then a declaration of love and then The End, instead it's different. Something else occurs during the last third of the novel that just... it sort of petered out. I wanted my shout-y showdown between Tyler and Grace and the big I love you's and stuff. I like my endings like that. I like the warm feeling it gives and the sense of relief that it's all worked out. The ending wasn't bad, don't get me wrong, and it was kind of satisfying, but it all just felt a bit too perfect. I was, in total honesty, waiting for the ball to drop. I felt certain that it was all just too engineered, if I'm being totally honest. I'd definitely recommend the novel, it was a solid read, I just found the ending to be not to my tastes. It sounds strange to complain about it, really, as I'm usually whinging about there not being enough of an ending most of the time, but well, as it turns out, I like my not-enough endings, clearly. Grace Grows is a great debut novel, and I can't wait to see what Shelle Sumners brings us next.

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## **Rosary says**

I absolutely loved this book. I just finished and want to read it again! Ty is such a loveable character and I found myself hurting for him through half the book. I wanted to jump into the story and tell Grace to wake up and see how incredible Ty was and how lucky she was to have something so special. I also really appreciated the family support that Ty and Grace had throughout the story. I appreciated the growth in Grace's relationship with her father and the support she gained from her mom. Ty,s family was great, too - especially Rebecca! This story showed the good side of people that, I feel, is sometimes lost in books today. Also, the soundtrack is incredible! It really helps the book become more real and makes you wish someone was writing those songs for you!

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## **Megan says**

I received this book in advance through a Goodreads, first-reads, giveaway. It does not go on sale until October.

Very rarely do I give a book 5/5 stars. I've also never been a person that is drawn to stories of love. However, this book deserved 5 stars as it truly was amazing. From the moment I opened it I could not put it down. When I wasn't reading it all I was thinking about was reading it.

It is the story of the ups and downs and the growth of a relationship (and a woman). One that many will be able to relate to. When I first began reading it it had a familiar taste; reminding me of David Nicholls' "One Day." I even thought "this is going to be a movie." This makes sense as the author, Shelle Sumners, is also a screenwriter.

I highly recommend this book. It's a great book to cuddle up to on a rainy day and will be a great book club read!

I can't wait for another book from Shelle Sumners!

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## **Coleen (The Book Ramblings) says**

I was lucky to win this book through Goodreads' First Reads giveaways, and it was one of the novels that I couldn't wait to read, so began as soon as it arrived in the mail.

The beginning started a bit slow, but it quickly picked up and kept me from putting the book down. Tyler and Grace's characters are two you grow fond of throughout the chapters, although at times I wanted to make each of them realize the obvious. I felt for both of the characters, especially in the middle of the book when their friendship makes progress and Grace makes a big decision.

There were plenty of moments with laughter, tears, frustration, and so much more leading to the two falling in love. I smiled and laughed throughout the novel, along with shedding a few tears as well. As the story neared to the end, I squealed at moments and felt warmth the next for the two, and the surprise that shocked both of them.

Grace Grows is a beautifully written debut novel by Shelle Sumners. It is a novel that will leave you aching for more of Tyler and Grace's story.

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### **Bithi says**

*He shook my shoulder gently. "Come on! Why does everyone always expect me to do all the singing?"*

*"You are the professional. Please, this is why I married you."*

*"So I'd sing to you in bed?"*

*"Certainly."*

*"I feel so cheap. And I like it!"*

*- Shelle Sumners, Grace Grows*

This book is humorous, serious and interesting to read from the beginning to the end.

What I have liked the most about this book is its theme - the psychological impact of growing up with, in this case without, two unhappy parents on their children. And, the author has so logically presented the irrational fears of Grace about falling in love, that the readers are bound to empathize with her.

I have fallen in love with the character of Tyler. He is funny, kind, patient and in Grace's words, "unselfish". I am not sure how many guys, in reality, would tolerate such irrational behaviors from the girl they love.

It is good to read how Grace gradually breaks the mental shackles of her fear of loving and trusting a man.

The author has beautifully written a romantic novel without boring the readers with psychological issues of Grace.

I have really loved this book.

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### **Kate says**

Grace Barnum has her life perfectly planned out. From her steady and dependable boyfriend, Steven, to her job editing text books and her big green leather shoulder bag containing anything she might need to survive any situation – I think Grace would even be able to withstand a zombie apocalypse with the contents of Big Green. And then she meets Tyler Wilkie. Tyler is everything Steven is not. He's seemingly young, spontaneous and perpetually late – much to Grace's displeasure.

These two characters have chemistry from the start during their amusing – if not somewhat ridiculous - encounter in the hallway. Their conversations are flirty, sweet and so romantic. But the best thing about these characters is that they are not perfect. Grace, with her beauty and perfect life, is still insecure and awkward at times. Her family history has affected her present and throughout the novel she comes to realize that you cannot possibly plan for every situation. Tyler is equally flawed. However his vulnerability somehow just adds to his appeal. Singer/Songwriter Tyler pens some incredibly gorgeous love songs. One of the highlights of this book is that those love songs Tyler composes during the novel were written and recorded by Shelle

Sumners' husband, Lee Morgan, and can be listened to on the book's website.

Grace Grows is a beautiful story of opposites attract with charming characters, a beautiful love story and a fantastic sound track. I adored this book and devoured it in a matter of hours.

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## ♥Rachel♥ says

4.5 Stars

Oh the heartache! The swoony, achy feel this story gave me! I felt **LOVESICK** over a *freaking book*!! I couldn't stop reading. I was so bowled over with angsty feelings and I just had to know how it ended. This was another one of those books that I read long into the night. I peeked at the clock at my bedside after I finished and it was **5:30 IN THE MORNING!** Even when I closed the book and my eyes I still couldn't fall asleep because the scenes kept replaying over and over again in my head.

This story begins with the quote:

***"How Tyler Wilkie wrecked my life.."***

The Grace we first meet firmly believes this statement.

Twenty-seven year old Grace is at point in her life where she thinks everything is on track and how it should be. She has a job editing educational textbooks. She's been living with her steady boyfriend for more than half a year. He's ten years older and a successful patent attorney. They have a comfortable relationship, nothing too exciting, and plan on getting engaged when they've lived together for one year. Everything is figured out and well-ordered. Or so it seems.

On closer inspection, Grace's "dream" editing job is not so much. She's often tasked with removing bits that are deemed offensive, questionable, or controversial. The mention of condoms in a sex education text book must be removed. In a story, fruit salad is substituted for ice cream, because you wouldn't want to encourage unhealthy eating. Then the ratio of male and female must be even for equality sake.

These kinds of changes are slowly chipping away at Grace's soul, but she plods along and doesn't speak up, in fear for her job.

Then there is her boyfriend. What I noticed from the beginning is the sheer amount of time they spent apart, even when they could be together. In my mind, if you don't want to spend time with your boyfriend/husband, most of what they do doesn't appeal to you or what you do doesn't appeal to them, you've got problems. He might tick all the appropriate boxes, like being able to provide a stable and secure future, but if you can't meet with your passions and mind, someone else will creep in. Guaranteed.

In spite of Grace's intentions, this is what happens. This is where we meet Tyler Wilkie, and this is where he wrecks her life.

Tyler is twenty-seven, like Grace, but does not have his life ordered AT ALL. He's come to New York to try his hand at becoming a singer. He definitely has an abundance of talent, but he's a college drop-out and doesn't even have health insurance \*GASP\*! I have to tell you, if I were Grace, I'd be running far, far, away



as well! I'm so about responsible. She runs into Tyler outside of her apartment, he's a dog walker for a neighbor, and they strike up an unlikely friendship. She's drawn in by Tyler's outlook on life. He sees things with fresh eyes. He wants more, but she continually pushes him away, and so she should. She's committed to someone else. I hate cheating books so I was pleased that this wasn't one of them. This story takes you on their journey with obstacles a plenty, but I loved every single page! There's a slow change in Grace, and in Tyler, each changing and growing because of each other's influence. And oh, man, did I fall head-over-heels in love with Tyler Wilkie!!

I found the writing of the story subtle, it didn't beat you over the head telling you how you should view or think of a character or situation, and you're left to make your own conclusions. I felt like I made all the same discoveries or revelations at the same time Grace did. There were a few times I did want to slap Grace upside the head and tell her to get a clue, but I could see her point of view. I wanted these two to have their HEA after so many close calls and misses!

Like I said, I couldn't stop reading this until I knew what happened. I have to give a high rating to a story that claims my attention so absolutely. I'm still haunted and consumed by this story.

*A copy was provided by St. Martin's Griffin through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!*

You can find this review and more at The Readers Den.

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## **Atomic Staci says**

I started reading this book thinking that it would be a light, fun read, but I was only half right. This book was a fun one, but it had a lot more depth than I thought when I first set out reading the first few sections. I read the last 2/3rds of this book in one afternoon and into the evening because I just couldn't put it down. The emotion in this book touched me so deeply that I was stunned by the end of it and I loved it. Very few books can really reach inside me so easily and with such little notice until it's too late to do anything about it but just embrace it.

Grace Barnum is an extremely prepared woman working as a textbook editor in New York City. She's dating Steven in a rather seriously and professional relationship when one morning she runs into her neighbor's new dog walker, Tyler, in the hallway and stops to help him. Tyler's new to NYC and is seeking out a career as a singer/songwriter, but the surprise is that he's actually really good at it. After meeting Tyler everything becomes different. Grace rethinks her job, her relationship, her life ... and to top it all off, she finds that one of Tyler's songs is written about her. It's really a story about whether or not people are prepared to change and what is important enough for them to hang onto in a changing world. And through it all, Grace grows.

I highly recommend this read to people (guys, you'd probably like this book too) high school and above. There's some sexuality, but it's tastefully done and not explicit. Grace lives a rather clean life and the book also teaches the stressed use of protection during sex. It's fun, funny, serious, sad, emotional, and inspirational all between the cover of one book.

**\*\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

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## Jeannette ★ says

I won this novel through Goodreads First Reads.

It was fantastic, comical, and realistic. I fell in love with the characters and found myself laughing at Tyler's persistence - he does not give up if he finds someone attractive! This was a perfect read for the quiet weekend that I've been needing recently.

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## Robyn says

I won this book on goodreads and was super excited to read it. I was not disappointed!

Grace Grows grabbed me right from the beginning, and spun me through a roller coaster of emotions. Grace is an editor and writer for a text book publisher, and lives with her long-term boyfriend Steven. As Steven is out of town a lot on business, Grace befriends the neighbors dog walker, Tyler Wilkie, who has just moved to the city in hopes of busting into the music business. Grace, and her best friend Peg, have a great time showing Tyler around the city and attending his gigs at local bars. Before long, Tyler is head over heels for Grace, writing her songs and calling at all times of day and night. But she makes it very clear to him that they are strictly friends, and that she is "taken". Will Grace continue on with her so-called Perfect Life or for once listen to her heart and make some big life-altering changes.

Grace Barnum was at times a very annoying main character. Sometimes I just wanted to knock her upside the head, and tell her to open her eyes! I wanted to ask her why in the world she would do the stupid things she does through-out the story. She made me mad and frustrated. But at the same time she was a very realistic character. Not all women in their late 20's are mature, grown up and well-rounded in the dating world, even though we like to think we are. Grace Grows made me laugh out loud, and even cry. My chest at one point actually ached for both her and Tyler. And, unlike most contemporary romances these days, Grace Grows took place through years rather than days or weeks. I had a feeling of what would happen in the end, but with all the twists and turns Shelle Summers took us on, I wasn't entirely sure. I read this book deep into the night, as I had a very hard time putting it down ... and even though I never usually read ahead, this book forced me to take a peak into the future and then go back and continue reading. That's how badly I wanted to know what would happen next, and if everything would turn out okay in the end.

It has been a long time since I've read a good sized book 300+ pages in less than a week.

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## Aryn says

I won this book from Goodreads Giveaways and found myself thoroughly enjoying it. I started out intrigued by the style choices when reading from Grace's point of view. She may have been 27, but she didn't curse, didn't smoke, didn't "talk dirty," was an all around **innocent**. It made reading her character feel a lot more like this book was a **Young Adult** novel rather than an **Adult Romance**. In fact, for the first quarter of the novel, Grace annoyed the bejeezus out of me: she was just too perfectly innocent. It was unrealistic that she'd made it to 27, from a mostly broken home, living in NYC and was still so **Gods Damned Innocent**. It's like she made it into the adult world, but only by the skin of her teeth and her attitudes had never aged beyond her 16 year old self.

However, **Grace Grows** was an appropriate title for the novel. As Grace's life pulls a 360 and **falls apart**, and she actually starts to **pull it apart** so that she can make the changes in her life that she wants, I began to like her more and more. Angry, upset Grace was a much more believable, relatable, and understandable character. It makes her stubborn and cranky and unsure of herself and she becomes a procrastinator. Maybe I liked Grace when shit was hitting the fan because her coping mechanisms remind me a lot of my own: **completely nonexistent**. She tries to run away every time she's cornered into doing something good for herself that's going to hurt. She refuses to leave her chair. She cries for no reason and with no prompting. Sure it's dramatic, but she's self-conscious and hurting; it was the way she coped with being forced to tear everything down to build it up that made me like her, made me think of myself. Don't real good books make you put yourself in the main character's shoes?

Tyler, the love interest, is a sparkly perfect sexy new-to-the-city dog walker that she meets on his first week in the city. He's moved to New York to try to sell his music. Slowly, but surely, he becomes a **perfect rock star**, with stalker fans and false news all over the internet. While perhaps he is too perfect and has too few flaws, his and Grace's relationship is shown perfectly through Grace's eyes. Her self-consciousness comes out in thinking that he's sexually and socially overconfident, which of course just makes her think that she couldn't possibly be good enough for the **magic** rock star. Even his perfectness (lack of flaws) can be attributed to seeing him through Grace's eyes. You know those boys that just make you want to crawl into yourself when they're at their most confident because then you can't feel good enough, not by a mile? They may love the girl and they may never do anything to hurt her, but she can't see past her own issues? **That's Tyler and Grace.**

Looking for a good Beach Read? This is perfect for that. It's simply written, but engaging and hilarious. I found myself giggling quite a few times. Romance novels are not always my cup of tea, but this was a Romance and a Coming of Age all rolled into one. It's sort of too bad that this doesn't come out until October, because it really would be a perfect summer read.

I do see this book succeeding on the strength of the voice of Grace, and the strength and unique characters of the people she is surrounded by.

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## **Samantha says**

I won this book as a giveaway through Goodreads First Reads. I was really excited, the synopsis sounded good, and I really wanted to like it. Unfortunately, I can't say that I did like it. It ended up boring me and I was in a rush for it to be over.

Grace Barnum is a practical, somewhat dull textbook editor, living in New York City with her dull, practical fiancé. She hates her job, doesn't know how to navigate her relationships with her famous artist father and tough-as-nails mom but she has a few loyal friends and life seems okay. Until Tyler Wilkie shows up. He's everything Grace isn't: reckless, wild, and not afraid to take a chance. Tyler's just arrived in NYC to pursue his music career and he quickly becomes Grace's best friend. The only problem is, Tyler has no qualms about openly admitting he's in love with Grace and Grace, against her own wishes, is starting to fall for him.

The main problem with the book was the poor quality of the writing. Shelle Sumners tried to have a distinctive voice but it ended up feeling forced and gimmicky. For example, she had numerous sentences that weren't actually sentences but sentence fragments, thrown willy-nilly throughout the text. She'd be writing about a party and randomly write, "Jazz band." And this sort of writing pervaded the novel. To me it was

very off-putting. The dialogue was stilted and the characters were constantly saying unnatural things that people don't really say. It felt fake! Sumners also had a tendency to be unnecessarily crude, in a too-much-information kind of way. She would have Grace (the narrator) say for no apparent reason that wearing a thong felt like flossing her butt. Gross.

The main characters were utterly annoying. Grace spent most of her time correcting Tyler's grammar and over analyzing *everything*. She was neurotic and not in a lovable way. Tyler was brash and overwhelming and he didn't feel like a romantic lead. I really liked Grace's dad and a few other supporting characters. The book was just way too littered with Grace's mental rants and there were too many pages of song lyrics that Tyler wrote for Grace. Yes, Tyler was a musician but all the songs said the same thing so a couple of them would have been enough to get the point across. Instead there were eight songs, written out in full throughout the novel and it definitely slowed things down. Paraphrasing a few would have been more appropriate.

I wouldn't recommend *Grace Grows*. It was a novel that couldn't decide if it was humorous chick-lit or bed-banging romance. Sumner's attempts at humor fell flat and I didn't care enough about the characters to care about their romance.

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