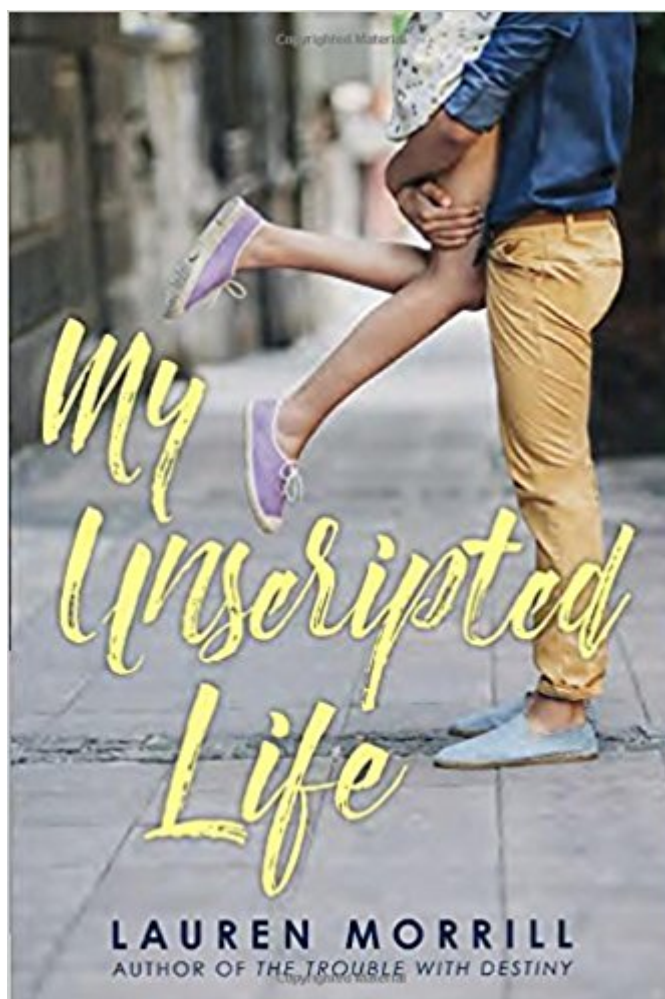


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My Unscripted Life



Synopsis

Attention summer love story readers! This is a funny and sweet contemporary romance about a Southern girl ready for a ho-hum summer until she meets the boy of her dreams who happens to be an international pop star is perfect for fans of Jennifer E. Smith and Morgan Matson. Sometimes love stories go off script. Another sultry Georgia summer is about to get a lot hotter. Dee Wilkie is still licking her wounds after getting rejected by the precollege fine arts program of her dreams. But if she had gone away, she wouldn't have been around to say yes to an unbelievable opportunity: working on the set of a movie filming in her small Southern town that just happens to be starring Milo Ritter, the famous pop star Dee (along with the rest of the world) has had a crush since eighth grade. It's not like Dee will be sharing any screen time with Milo—she's just a lowly PA. And Milo is so disappointingly rude that Dee is eager to stay far away from him. Except after a few chance meetings, she begins to wonder if just maybe there's a reason for his offensive attitude, and if there's more to Milo than his good looks and above-it-all Hollywood pedigree. Can a relationship with a guy like Milo ever work out for a girl like Dee? Never say never. . . .

Book Information

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Contemporary

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up •Reminiscent of the author's earlier works, this contemporary romance has likable characters and lively dialogue that will appeal to fans of the genre. In the small town of Wilder, GA, 17-year-old Dee Wilkie is devastated when she is rejected by a prestigious summer arts program

and is left wondering what her future holds. Luckily for her, she finds a job as a production assistant on the set of a feature film starring world-famous teen singer Milo Ritter. Unluckily for her, Milo comes with his own personal baggage. Breezy, light humor, largely conveyed via Dee's internal monologue and exchanges with secondary characters like her friend Naz, makes this a fast-paced read. Even though we meet Milo's former girlfriend, Morrill does not resort to the awful ex-girlfriend trope but rather allows misunderstandings and slowly revealed truths to guide the budding relationship between the protagonist and her love interest. In a nice touch, some of the chapters are framed by small snippets of Dee's "unscripted life," including stage directions and the movie analogy throughout. And while the romance is at the forefront, Dee's process of self-discovery adds a layer of depth to the plot and will ring true with teens trying to figure out who they are postrejection and where they are going after high school. VERDICT An additional purchase for larger collections where romance and a "behind-the scenes" look at movie-making are of interest. Similar in style and plot to Jennifer E. Smith's *This Is What Happy Looks Like*. —Eva Thaler-Sroussi, Glencoe Public Library, IL

Praise for Lauren Morrill: —“Star-crossed characters, hilarious dialogue, and a perfect London setting. I loved *Meant to Be*!” —Robin Benway, author of *Emmy & Oliver*, on *Meant to Be* —“Full of twists and romance.” —Huntley Fitzpatrick, author of *My Life Next Door*, on *Being Sloane Jacobs* —“I absolutely loved this book. I never wanted this journey to end!” —Morgan Matson, author of *Since You’ve Been Gone*, on *The Trouble with Destiny*

I loved this book! It was so sweet and fun and I loved every character (especially Dee's romance novelist mom). I even seriously considered skipping sleep to finish it, which is extremely rare these days. I always enjoy Lauren's books, and I think this one might be my fave!

This story really captured my attention in the first chapters. I couldn't put it down! I wish I could watch the movie in the book. Or maybe this book in a movie one day!

I enjoyed this, but the middle was a bit long. I think if you're looking for a movie star type romance there are better books, but it was still good.

this young lady is one very gifted writer in my opinion

Dee Wilkie is bummed. She had her sights set on attending the Georgia Governor's Honor School on the art track, but got denied admission. Now she's faced with the possibility of grunt work, filing transcripts in the admissions office at the university where her dad teaches, while her best friend does get away and attend the STEM track at the summer honors school. They're sitting outside the coffee shop in their small town when a fancy car pulls up and a man asks them for directions.

Dee's life is about to do a 180. The man is Robert Lewin and has come to their town to direct an indie film. When he mentions the possibility of a job as a personal assistant on the set, Dee and her bestie are skeptical, wondering who would film in their town? When they hear that Milo Ritter, a teen singer they both used to idolize when they were younger, will be the male lead, Dee's interest spikes. Maybe her summer won't be so dreary after all. At first it seems that Milo is the stereotypical famous jerk, but as Dee sees him in unguarded moments and starts getting more into her job, most of which involves making certain the right props are on set and returned to the correct location after use, the more she starts to think there's a real human hiding under his facade. When they begin talking after a day of filming, that suspicion is reinforced. What follows is a light and feel-good teen romance. Unlike others with this theme, I was pleasantly surprised at how the author brought Dee's art skills into the mix as a real strength and ran with it. Teens liking a fast, fun, sorta magical romantic read will enjoy the story a lot.

Dee was counting on doing a fine arts program during her summer, but the college rejected her. Her best friend did get into the program of her choice and won't be around. Dee has to find another way to make her summer interesting. She finds out a movie is being shot in her hometown and is being asked to work on the set. Her job is to be the assistant of an assistant. Dee doesn't care what she has to do, it's fantastic that she can be there, because her idol Milo Ritter, a famous pop star, will be the male leading actor in the movie. Suddenly her summer looks a lot more promising. Dee doesn't expect Milo to be rude, but that's exactly what he is and he's moody. She used to adore him, but finds out he's just a guy, who has feelings like everybody else. Her moments with Milo are scarce as he's the most important person of the project and doesn't have much free time, but sometimes he comes by just to talk to her. Dee's stomach flutters every time she sees him, but Milo is famous and has a complicated relationship history. Will Dee have fun during her summer on the set or will she have her heart broken? Dee is a sweet girl. She's a little insecure, because it feels like she's lost her

direction in life, while she was so sure of what she wanted at first. She doesn't let anything destroy her and she keeps going even when she has to cry. I liked that about her personality. She's really sensitive and gets hurt pretty easily, but she can stand her ground if she has to. Milo is aloof and mysterious at first, but when Dee gets to know him he proves to be very nice. As Dee hasn't much time to find out everything about him there are parts of his personality that aren't being written about, which gives him even more of that unreachable pop/movie star allure. He's the star of the movie and is fascinating because of it, but he doesn't outclass Dee, she remains the star of the book. I liked this approach a lot. My Unscripted Life is a light and fun read. I loved Lauren Morrill's vivid and creative descriptions of the sets. I enjoyed reading about Dee's work, it's versatile and every day there's something new and different going on. If you're looking for a quick and charming read My Unscripted Life would be a good choice, it's a cute and entertaining read.

This book is pure wish fulfillment, and if that's what you're looking for in a YA contemporary romance, you'll probably enjoy it. It's a celebrity boy meets ordinary girl and falls in love story. And who doesn't secretly dream of meeting their celebrity crush, with romance ensuing? As I said, it's wish fulfillment, but it's done well. What gives the book a little more weight is Dee's struggle to redefine her dreams after being rejected from a summer arts program. She's always been the art girl, and she thought her future involved being an artist, so the criticism of her work as being ordinary throws her for a loop. What Dee learns working on the film is that there are other possible careers that will allow her to use her artist's eye. That message of being open to new ideas and opportunities--is a useful one for anyone struggling with defining their path in life. The book description compares it to books by Jennifer E. Smith and Huntley Fitzpatrick, but I don't think it has the emotional depth that those authors can achieve. It is a quick, fun escapist read, though. An eARC of this novel was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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