



The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.)

By Jessica Anya Blau



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Fourteen-year-old Jamie will never forget the summer of 1976. It's the summer when she has her first boyfriend, cute surfer Flip Jenkins; it's the summer when her two best friends get serious about sex, cigarettes, and tanning; it's the summer when her parents throw, yes, naked swim parties, leaving Jamie flushed with embarrassment. And it's the summer that forever changes the way Jamie sees the things that matter: family, friendship, love, and herself.

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The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.) By Jessica Anya Blau Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this debut novel, Blau addresses the coming-of-age of a young girl as she navigates her way through the confusion of adolescence. Fourteen-year-old Jamie lives in Santa Barbara with her 16-year-old sister, Renee, and their parents, Allen and Betty, two swinging, pot-smoking, part-time nudists. It's 1976 and Jamie isn't altogether comfortable with her parents' lifestyle, while Renee turns to straighter neighbors for a surrogate family. Overly anxious Jamie ends up with Flip, the cutest surfer in town. Before long they have progressed way beyond kissing, and Allen and Betty's casual ways result in a disaster that turn the family into pariahs in their middle-class neighborhood. Blau understands the mating rituals of 1970s teens, and she reproduces their mindless chatter with ease. Unfortunately, not all of the characters are fully realized; the adults, generally treated more obliquely, give off no more than hints of character. It's obvious that their excessive hedonism will eventually cause tragedy, so the book does have a growing dread that blossoms in the third quarter, but the reader may be left with the impression that all this ground has been covered before. (*June*)

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From [Booklist](#)

Move over, summer of love. Here comes the summer of naked swim parties. Fourteen-year-old Jamie's free-spirited parents enjoy smoking pot and swimming, naked, in the backyard of their Santa Barbara home with their friends and neighbors. For Jamie and older sister Renée this is more embarrassing than exciting (so many floppy adult appendages—yuck); but Jamie's new boyfriend, the vacuous Flip, seems to enjoy it—especially the pot. But things will change—this is a coming-of-age novel, after all—and virginity will be lost, Flip will flop, death will cast a pall over those parties, and Jamie's best friends, Debbie and Tammy (Cruella-De-Villes in training bras), will betray her. This is all pretty predictable, but Blau, dealing with semiautobiographical material, knows adolescence inside out; and, though seldom subtle, she skewers what needs skewering and celebrates the rest with humor, style, and an appropriate degree of affection. --Michael Cart

Review

“Sadly, not a photo essay, but rather a witty account of the agonies and ecstasies of a girl coming of age in late-seventies California.” (*New York magazine*)

“High and low comedy, nude swimming, and familial frenzy float through [THE SUMMER OF NAKED SWIM PARTIES] like pot smoke.” (*Boston Globe*)

“Reading this heartfelt and humorous coming-of-age story is the perfect way to spend a hot summer day.” (*Cosmopolitan*)

“A fantastic beach read about painful adolescence in the 1970s.” (*Oklahoma City Oklahoman*)

“Move over, summer of love. Here comes the summer of naked swim parties . . . [Blau] knows adolescence inside out . . . [S]he skewers what needs skewering and celebrates the rest with humor, style, and an appropriate degree of affection.” (*Booklist*)

“Jessica Anya Blau's debut novel, **THE SUMMER OF NAKED SWIM PARTIES**, is a delight: a California beach girl's hilariously painful adolescence in the High 1970s.” (*John Barth*)

“You may think you’ve heard this story before, but no one tells it as wittily, winningly, wisely and well as Jessica Anya Blau.” (Madison Smartt Bell)

“This book will make you laugh and cry in public. Jessica Anya Blau has written a soaring teenage lament, perfectly pitched, containing the single saddest and funniest line of seduction ever uttered.” (Larry Doyle, author of *I Love You, Beth Cooper*)

“Funny and charming, moving and sweet—Jessica Anya Blau beautifully captures the awkwardness and the wonder of coming of age. *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties* is a remarkable debut novel.” (Michael Kimball, author of *Dear Everybody*)

“Once you dive in to this sweet, sparkling coming of age story, dripping with heart and heartbreak, you won’t want to come up -- even for air.” (Hillary Carlip, author of *Queen of the Oddballs: And Other True Stories from a Life Unaccording to Plan*)

“Among the many truths in this intelligent, funny novel about family, sex, and coming of age in the 1970s is this: no one can embarrass us more than our parents.” (Geoffrey Becker, author of *author of Dangerous Men and Bluestown*)

“Having grown up in 1970s Southern California, I can personally attest to this novel’s utterly uncanny evocation of the era. It’s also really really fucking funny...” (Jonathan Selwood, author of *The Pinball Theory of Apocalypse*)

“Jessica Anya Blau is a warm and funny storyteller. *THE SUMMER OF NAKED SWIM PARTIES* conjures the thrills and anxieties of a 1970s California adolescence in a world awash in sex.” (Gabriel Brownstein, author of *The Man from Beyond*)

“Ms. Blau is a writer of wit, intelligence, deep feeling, humor and imagination, and she gets into the head of a young person like almost nobody since J.D. Salinger. All aboard!” (Stephen Dixon)

“Jessica Anya Blau creates a charming protagonist, her charismatic Santa Barbara family and a summer of love, lust and confusion. You won’t want summer - and this wonderful book - to end.” (Ellen Sussman, author of *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex*; *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave*; and *On a Night Like This*)

“It’s hard to recall a debut as warm, charming and comically satisfying as *THE SUMMER OF NAKED SWIM PARTIES* . . . Blau conveys Jamie’s world with compelling insight and wit . . . [Blau’s] sharp observation and affectionate humor [give] surprising depth to this shimmering novel.” (San Francisco Chronicle)

“Recovered Judy Blume addicts, brace yourselves for a relapse: Jessica Anya Blau’s debut novel, set in Santa Barbara, California, during the summer of ’76, is a poignant, gleeful ode to the turbulence of growing up . . . [A] dead-on portrayal of the simple yet shocking revelations of youth.” (Time Out New York)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Benavidez:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.), you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Thomas Tritt:

The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.) yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial imagining.

Esther Belote:

A lot of guide has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the most beneficial book for you, science, comedy, novel, or whatever through searching from it. It is referred to as of book The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.). You can include your knowledge by it. Without making the printed book, it might add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about e-book. It can bring you from one destination to other place.

Rodney Bell:

Many people said that they feel bored when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose often the book The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.) to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the sensation about book and reading through especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve The Summer of Naked Swim Parties: A Novel (P.S.) can to be your friend when you're sense alone and confuse in what must you're doing of these time.

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