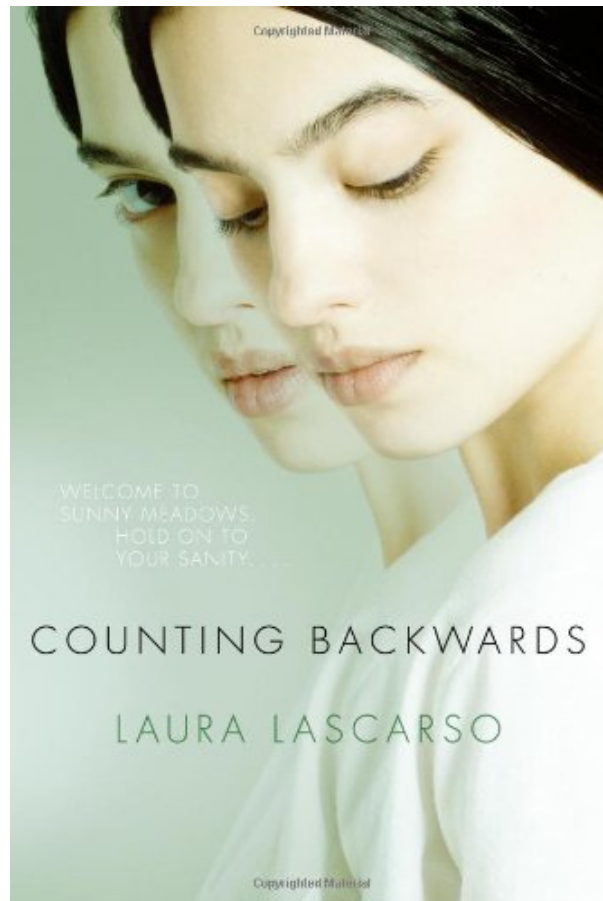
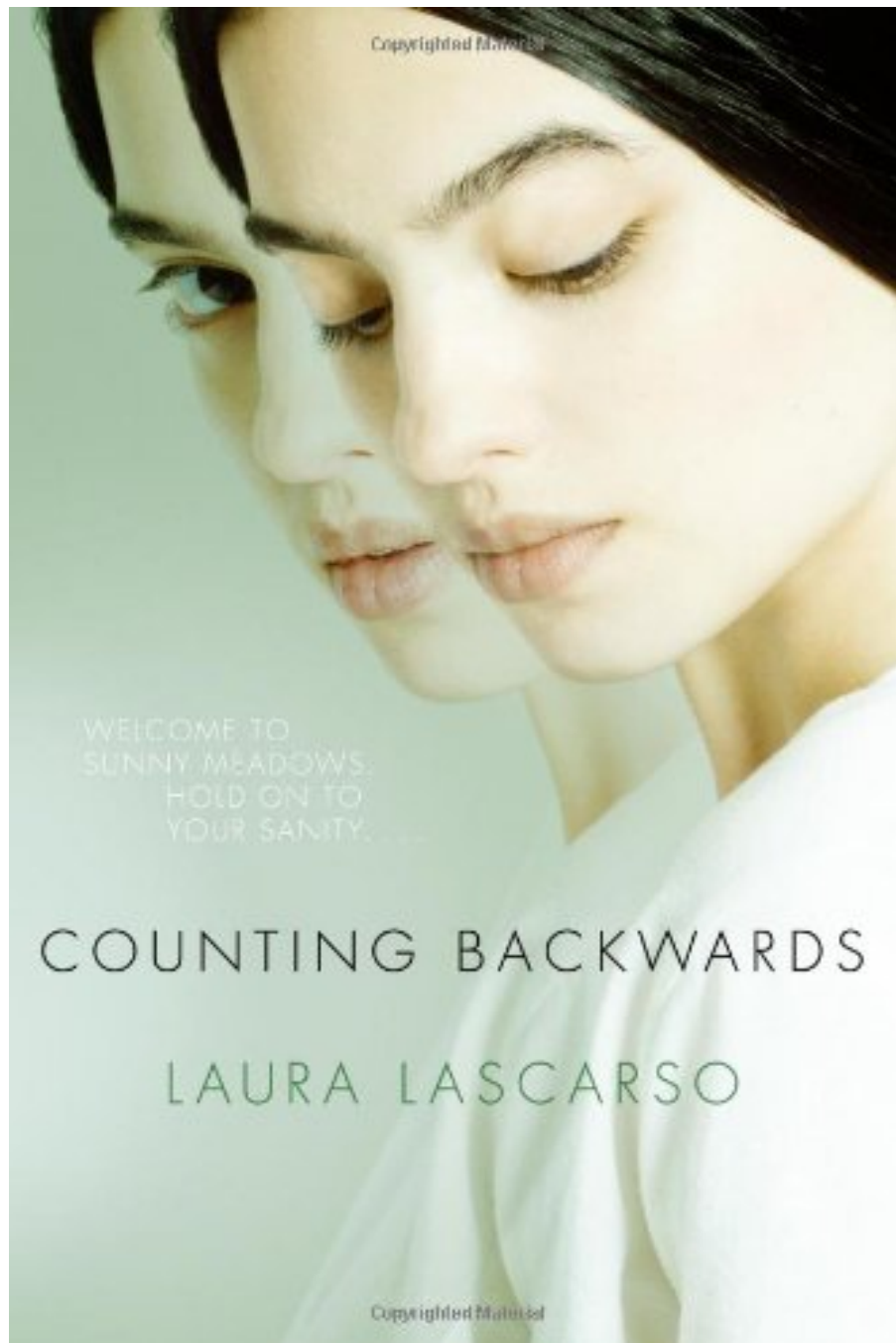


COUNTING BACKWARDS BY LAURA LASCARSO



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From School Library Journal

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"Readers are likely to sympathize enough with Taylor to...root for her as she reluctantly embraces rehabilitation.... Despite a few bumps in the road, a hopeful model for growth through therapy." (Kirkus Reviews, June 13, 2012)

"This debut novel from Lascarso approaches an unhappy and stressful young adulthood with realism and sensitivity, where disappointment and uncertainty can eventually coexist with opportunity and hope. The concern and love of Taylor's father and an understanding and effective therapist are central to the story...the story resonates and will likely appeal to middle school readers and up." (VOYA, August 2012)

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COUNTING BACKWARDS BY LAURA LASCARSO PDF

In this haunting and hopeful debut novel, a teen's court-mandated psychiatric residency prompts a change in perspective from which there is no looking back.

Taylor Truwell is a sixteen-year-old girl from Florida with a troubled past, a neglectful mother, a seemingly callous father, and an urge to flee. When Taylor is caught with a stolen car, her reaction lands her in court for resisting arrest. Her father convinces the judge of an alternative to punishment: treatment in a juvenile psychiatric correctional facility. And so Taylor arrives at Sunny Meadows.

Sunny Meadows is anything but the easy way out, and Taylor has to fight hard just to hold on to her sanity as she battles her parents, an intrusive therapist, and a group of particularly nasty fellow patients. But even as Taylor clings to her stubborn former self, she gradually relents to new friendships—and to unexpected romance. Sunny Meadows goes against everything Taylor stands for. But could it be the place that saves her?

In this striking debut, Laura Lascarso weaves together a powerful story of anger and self-destruction, hope and love, and the complicated way that it all comes together.

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- Original language: English
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- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .80" w x 5.50" l, .55 pounds
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- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Epic Story, MUST READ!

By Lovely Reader

I won't lie just reading the overview months back I was edgy beyond words to read this book. For me, *Counting Backwards* hit the ball right into my ballpark of troubled times when I was young. Also the cover just got me, so was I excited to be hosting a part in Laura Lascarso blog tour. OH YES!! The moment I picked up *Counting Backwards* by Laura Lascarso, I was reminded of myself, having a mother that was neglectful growing up. But as I read chapter by chapter I was taken into Taylor Truwell's story, the words captured me took my breath away. Laura writes of Taylor a troubled teen but the book was more than Taylor's journey to find herself, it was also a journey to find a friend. Taylor thinks she needs no one she thinks that just getting in a car and driving away is going to cure the itch she has to "run away" but that's not it. Taylor needs to understand herself, find out who she is. I really feel that Sunny Meadows is a place that she is taken too but Sunny Meadows is just a brick in a foundation that Taylor needs to build. Sunny Meadows starts the building of Taylor herself, the real Taylor.

I loved every chapter of *Counting Backwards*, my favorite parts were where Taylor opened up herself, like when she meets A.J. they have a secret spot to share their feelings together. A.J. was another troubled teen at Sunny Meadows. I also loved how the drama plays out between her and the Latina Queens. Trust me you're going to want to look at the back cover before you start reading because you'll get it!

I needed to read this book, not only was *Counting Backwards* an incredible read but an epic story that all too many teenagers can relate to. Sliced into my very soul, loved it, sharp!!! (not sharps, promise I didn't take em!) I cannot wait to read more from Laura, her writing style is unique, delicate, and rich!

After I finished *Counting Backwards* I know that this is a novel that I will often think about look back and re-read. Adding to my favorites!

I was given a FREE ARC copy of this book for an 100 percent honest review.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Amazing Read!

By HmMMM opp 'll vBulletin cm km

I really enjoyed this book from start to finish. The characters were layered and complex, making me care about what happened to them and more importantly, keeping my attention. This book is great for readers of all ages, because the characters are easy to relate to and remind us that, though there's plenty of evidence to the contrary, teenagers are actually quite likeable. :) This book is ideal for younger readers, as well, as there's plenty going on that they can relate to, without a ton of stuff that grown-ups would find objectionable, haha. The moral of the story was very uplifting and an important lesson for any young person (or, probably, old person too.) I highly recommend this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

One Girl's Gripping Journey

By George LaCas

[The reviewer received a review copy/ARC from Simon & Schuster, but no other remuneration for this book review]

First, I don't usually read YA, but when one of my draft readers suggested it, I was intrigued and had an ARC sent to me. I'd seen it at Powell's, or rather the big poster they had on the window. Sure, I said, I'll check it out.

And found a tale inside that hits close to home, and by that I mean the very serious real-life things that can happen to us when we're young people, like the consequences of Taylor's auto theft. The reason Ms Lascars's *COUNTING BACKWARDS* is such a gem is that it contains truths and lessons for us. Not in italics, not in silly melodrama (which is what some readers of fiction seem to expect for "emotional depth"), but in the quiet tones of Taylor's inner voice.

For instance, for me the most touching (and emotionally harrowing) scene comes right near the end, in just a few precious lines. Read it too fast and you'll miss the tremendous symbolism. No spoilers here. It has to do with a gift. And gifts, when they appear in fiction and in life, must be acknowledged. Why? Because a gift can show us another person's hopes for us, their confidence that we will throw off our blinders, make up for our blunders if we can, and perhaps even one day become the fuller, better version of ourselves the gift-giver can see but we cannot.

Taylor's journey, inner and outer, is a powerful one, and immediately recognizable as one many of us go through as teens: outsiders vs insiders, the powers of institutions (such as the "boarding school") in shaping our personalities, the way families struggle to help kids in trouble and how we are defined by our reactions to crises such as Taylor's.

Ms Lascarso is one emerging writer who will stand the test of time, because she knows that STORY is what matters in fiction, whatever the genre. The story is there in COUNTING BACKWARDS.

Now I hear Ms Lascarso is working on a new book. That makes me very happy.

See all 23 customer reviews...

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