

## REVIEWS FOR "CHOICES"

I recently read the book "Choices" at the recommendation of my sister. I was not sure what to expect just knowing it was geared toward teen girls. As a mother of a 16 year old girl "Choices" proved a wonderful catalyst for parents and children to have this sometimes "unapproachable talk" about the pressures of drinking, sex, social life and the importance of education. Even as a means for girls and boys to talk and find out more about each other ...or just to give them food for thought. What would you do if you were in her shoes at what point would it have become different for you? Would it have played out the same?

My daughter is dating a boy for a year now. I think it is important to know that there are consequences for every action. Some aren't earth shattering and some change you forever. "Choices" encourages some forethought.

Joan Maio Reda, Staten Island, NY August  
2007

"I loved Choices! After working with teenagers for over twenty years, the characters and situations were so believable that I couldn't put it down. I've watched too many young girls experience this kind of trauma and the consequences. Choices is a book that will encourage a deeper understanding and dialogue about these very prevalent and disturbing teen issues."

Terry Steege, women's health care nurse practitioner

"After sixteen years as a middle school counselor I know that kids are hungry for stories that reflect their issues. They want to see characters that go through difficult times and come out the other side changed but better. I feel I can highly recommend Choices. This book will give its readers hope as well as help them to develop much needed coping strategies. It's an important read."

H.E. Fleishman, MS educational psychology, Los Angeles, CA "A riveting and important book for teen girls everywhere. Choices explores sensitive topics in a compelling and engrossing story. A terrific read!"

Kathy Costa, Youth Outreach Librarian, Santa Fe, New Mexico

"Choices" describes the naiveté and innocence of a young teenage girl and how easily she can be led astray with potentially disastrous consequences. Buckley's depiction of

her heroine's infatuation with a popular high school sports star, her circle of friends in all their various stages of emotional maturity and immaturity her complicated relationship with her family sets the stage for what happens to a young girl when she is becomes pregnant and is afraid to tell her parents. Buckley frames the problem within the moral, religious and political milieu of a conservative, protective family and adds another hightension ethical question when the father learns it was date rape and wants to prosecute. It is a story of finding family love, support and the personal courage to make many difficult "Choices", from telling her parents, to deciding what to do about the young man. It is a well written and a compelling read. At the end, one is left hoping for a sequel: the young girl has committed to do the right thing, but it won't be easy, and could be ugly and dangerous. How will they all handle it: she, her parents, her friends, the press? How will their lives be changed?

Barbara Doran New York, NY  
(January 2008)

Dear Kate,

Thank you for writing this book. I loved it, the characters felt so real and I couldn't stop reading! I know girls who have had really bad things happen to them at parties because they just didn't realize what they were getting themselves into. Kara's story was very real and I'm glad someone finally is writing about this!

Alex Doherty, (age 16) Philadelphia, PA (October,  
2007)

This wellwritten novel embraces controversial subjects faced by girls everywhere as they navigate through the difficult years of adolescence. Buckley deftly takes us inside the thoughts and feelings of her main character as we follow her through very difficult teen circumstances and choices. This is a book that deals with monumental issues... and it is done in an emotional, compelling, and balanced way. "Choices" is an important contribution to teen literature. Bravo!

Jeanette August  
Los Angeles, CA

Ever felt like the really tough decisions you face as a young adult, or parent of one, are just too complicated, painful and ultimately not worth facing? Then you should read Kate Buckley's "Choices." In a story of Kara, a young woman who gets pregnant in high school and sees her whole world unraveling in loneliness, fear and rejection, author Buckley reaches deep down into the humanity of Kara herself, her best friend

Mel, and her parents, and shows us how their seemingly daunting circumstances can turn into a profound wake up call to be courageous, face the truth and discover one of life's miracles: that people deep down inside really do care for each other despite circumstances that may seem impossible.

Written with ease and a compelling sense of "I can't put this book down", "Choices" will help you see your way through and shine new light on the choices you face. And for everyone, by the end of the book you'll feel like you are better person. Thank you Kate Buckley for this wonderful gift.

James Mathews Washin  
gton, DC (Amazon  
review)

Kate,

I just finished reading Choices and I have to say that I felt like I was right back in high school!!

In my opinion, your book will resonate with so many young girls. I wish I could have had something like this to read when I was growing up. Even though my own story is very different than Kara's, we all have had to make choices and I always felt that those choices (directly or indirectly) made me the person I am today.

I really enjoyed reading it and will definitely pass it along to my sisterinlaw who has a daughter (14 years) as well as many of my friends who have daughters (and sons) in middle and high school.

As a mother of three, I truly feel that every mother and daughter should read it. I am going to suggest it to my book club as one of our monthly books. Best of luck and I intend to spread the word in my small part of the world.

Kind regards, Jodi Elkins Massapequa, Long Island, NY

From Amazon.com

great book, July 28, 2008 five stars  
Makenna M. (age 15)

Juno meets real life ... This book is a great read, it's very real and downtoearth. It's written very well and very emotional. I loved it!

“With a compelling plot and clear writing, Kate Buckley has created a primer for teens (and their parents) trying to navigate through adolescence in the 21st century. The chapters are brief and the plot moves fast, providing an excellent guide to issue after issue. Teachers and counselors should read and use this book too.”

Douglas K. Smith, Author  
(*On Value and Values*—and other titles)

“In Kate Buckley’s *Choices*, when typical teen naiveté and risk taking result in pregnancy, a family is thrown into chaos. As the story unfolds, the girl and her parents grapple with the crisis and their deep foundation of love for one another is revealed. Love, caring, and emotional strength ultimately see this family through. *Choices* is so readable and true, I felt like I knew this family!”

Mary Grathwol, Librarian  
Santa Fe Library  
Santa Fe, NM