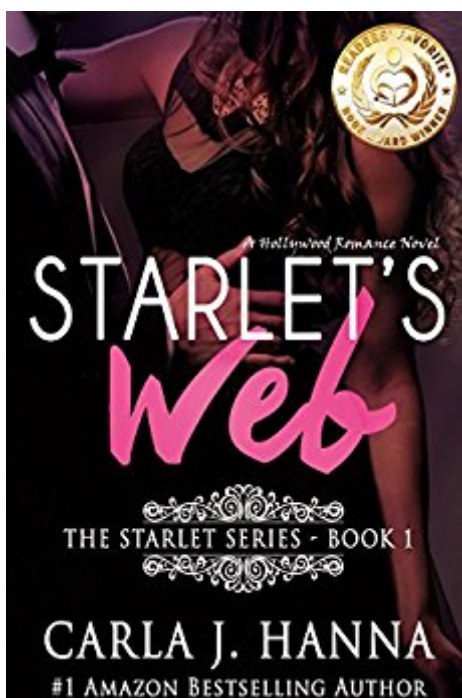


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Starlet's Web: A Hollywood Romance Novel (The Starlet Book 1)



Synopsis

Discover the 2014 Readers' Favorite Gold Medal young adult book winner *Starlet's Web* and uncover the life of a talented actress caught in Hollywood's web of lies. Fans of clean romance, realistic fiction, and celebrity memoirs will see inside the lives of children of celebrities and the contradictions inherent in pursuing the dream to be a star. Love. Lies. Acting. Teen Santa Monica GETS REAL. Gorgeous and talented actress, Liana Marie Michael, plays the Hollywood publicity game but is in love with humble half-Latino Manny, her honest and reliable childhood friend. They go to prom and graduate, dealing with hot guys, mean girls, and culture clashes. Mommy Dearest has other plans for her. Anti-aging drugs have side effects. The quest for youthfulness takes its first victims. Can the teens escape Hollywood's web? "Starlet's Web is a captivating story about the life of Hollywood teenage star and the price she has had to pay." 5 Stars Readers' Favorite ~ STARLET'S WEB GOLD MEDAL: 2014 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards ~ STARLET'S LIGHT SILVER MEDAL: 2014 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards ~ STARLET'S MAN SILVER MEDAL: 2015 Readers' Favorite International Book Awards ~ MOST ORIGINAL SERIES: 2015 Double Decker Book Awards ~ young adult fiction | coming of age fiction | Christian romance | clean romance Note: contains realistic sexual content but is not a steamy romance. Carla J. Hanna lived in Santa Monica, CA where her children played with the children of celebrities. She mingled with plenty of nannies and a few good celebrity moms. SERIES NOVELS: Starlet's Man, Starlet's Web, Starlet's Run, Starlet's Light. Starlet's End.

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Customer Reviews

If you are looking for some excellent young adult romance writing, look no further. Carla J. Hanna's 'Starlet's Web' is a story of betrayal, loss and, ultimately, love. The story centers around the life of a young actress, Liana, who has all the success in her acting career that one could hope for. With an Oscar already under her belt, she has what appears to be a bright, star-studded, future ahead of her. Liana's whirlwind stardom leaves the young woman lost in a sea of parties, interviews and publicity that leave her feeling isolated and miserable. Add in the pressures of being expected to act like a 'star,' and Liana finds herself overwhelmed. Will she be able to escape the web of fame with the help of the love of a longtime friend? The characters in this book are easy for reader's to sympathize with and each one feels very human. The book has an easy, descriptive style that makes one feel like they should be reading it on a beach with a glass of iced tea in hand. This book also does a good job of pointing out the downsides to fame and fortune, along with the fact that even the best of intentions can have the worst results. With twists and turns throughout the book, Carla Hanna has created a work reminiscent of popular T.V. serial dramas like the 'The O.C.' and 'Revenge.' If you're looking for an interesting dramatic read, get this book!

STORYOK the plot was pretty simple. We are introduced to Marie (later known also as Lia), who is a successful actress. She is fantastical in her profession, but she had enough of it and wants to get out. She does this with the help of her boyfriend and her extended family. She's almost free when past sins of her mother come forward. There was really a lot of drama going on. You had Marie-Manuel drama (Marie's inability to become aroused, even though she's deeply in love with him), Marie-wants-to-quit-acting drama, Manuel's-exes. Later when we found out what Kate did, I couldn't even remember who she was. There were a lot of characters in a mere of 280 pages, that sometimes I had trouble to remember who someone was. But at the least I knew who Marie and Manuel were, so bravo me. Nevertheless the additional drama wasn't boring or whatnot. It was interesting and only added to Marie's depth, as a character. CHARACTERSI must let this out: almost

every character was described as handsome/charming/beautiful etc. This was the only thing I didn't like from the characters. Their ethnicity was diverse, but if everyone is exotic and beautiful, nobody is. I really liked Marie. She was a strong female character, a little indecisive at some moments, but nevertheless she was an interesting person to read about. Her mother, on the other hand, I did not like from page one. From the beginning I had a bad feeling about her, and I was glad I was right. It's understandable what has she done, but that doesn't mean that she should be forgiven, not, a, chance. Manuel was interesting character. He was Marie's childhood friend and later their friendship developed to something else. I'm glad for them. For the other minor characters I haven't got much to say. Alan was interesting as well as Franz (does every male stylist has to be gay? Talk about cliché). OVERALL THOUGHTS The book was interesting and entertaining. I never read a celebrities biography, so I did not know what goes behind the scenes. I never knew that Oscars were so political (I mean it still be fictitious, but I doubt it), I never knew that there was so much pressure on actors. What I was surprised about, was the photo-shooting in the mall, that really surprised me. But I never follow what celebrities do, but I know that I'm happy when something is leaked. I can say that this book "humanized" the celebrities to me. Even though I was provided with a complimentary copy of this book so I could give an honest review, I loved the book so much that I decided to buy it. I must show the support at the least. Can't wait to read the sequel.

Liana Marie is 17 and surrounded by success, from her actress mother to her Hollywood hunk of a boyfriend, to her 2 million dollar home overlooking the canyon. She travels, acts, dreams and loves. Liana's success has its repercussions. Everything that she 'is' must be painted for her, and her image hand-designed by Hollywood. After all, image is success, right? But, too much success and you will become a human target. Women have begun to hate her and her beauty. They hate her continual success and fame. Simply put, the public hates how everything goes so perfectly for the young starlet. Her hot hunk of a boyfriend, super sexy Evan, only fuels the female public opinion that Liana is too successful so, when Hollywood needs a change, it rewrites the script. These things, though we might not understand the gravity of that insane amount of pressure, play a big part in Liana's emotional confusion about her life. [spoiler alert!] Hollywood paints a break up between Evan and Liana, and she has no choice in the matter. Already their publicist has the pictures of Evan, and the model they paid to kiss him, in hand. In fact, the model is going to be Evan's date to the award ceremony THAT night! Hollywood needs Liana to be a victim, so that the world can love her again. The public wants to see her fail; they need to. Too much success draws the world's jealousy. Evan gives her the news, and she takes it well. Her maturity, though edged with youthful desires, is

remarkably adult at times. At other times, her youth comes through in her emotional reactions. I often hear people discuss young Hollywood stars, calling them spoiled and out of touch with reality. And though, perhaps that is true, their reality is much different than that of the average person. This book is a testament to how little control they actually have in their lives, as their lives are owned by contracts and duties. Their very souls are laid bare for the entire world to judge. Their relationships are manufactured and their love is found in enamored eyes of people who see them for their roles, not for themselves. I'm not going to lie. I got a little caught up in the whole Evan/Blake/Manny triangle. Just because money is not an issue in her life, does not mean that her heart does not have burdens. I was all about Manuel. I was much less about Evan and really may have swung over to Blake's court had Manny not been SO impossibly sweet (hot). (Pierre's no no no! You can't have her!!!!) Her soul belongs to Manuel, her childhood friend. But her heart belongs to Evan, the beautiful actor whom she can't date thanks to Hollywood and its 'brand'. She must live up to her 'brand' and improve her 'brand' if she is to climb the Hollywood ladder, or stay on it. Evan and Liana are forced to face a terrible reality, and in the end that reality proved to be the best thing to happen to Liana in a long time. When starting this book, at first I saw a spoiled little rich girl whom I envied in every way. She is physically perfect, as far as Hollywood standards. This is not something she wished for, it was something her parents bestowed upon her. Perfect genes, for a perfect actress. Although, her mother secretly giving her daughter drugs may have caused some serious issues. As an actress, except they prefer the term 'actor' as all performers are considered equal, the line between real and make-believe is not often clear. She's learned not to trust anyone, and having to deal with that burden at such a young age causes her intense loneliness. Her confusion at life in general may come off as whining and complaining, but here is a young girl bearing the weight of the burden of fame across her shoulders with no real choice. She'd like a choice, but when a contract worth more than most people make in a year binds you to a job, you just do it and try to smile your way through. Not to mention, her hormones are incredibly 'out of whack', and the reason for her mood swings will bring her reality crashing down around her. Around everyone. How do you maintain control on such a crazy, chaotic life? How do you emotionally survive the type of news that Liana is about to hear? I felt as if I were pressing forward with Liana into her life. I do not understand how anyone could not see the depth of character in this book. One reviewer stated that the character was shallow and whining. Of course she is! She has a horrific medical condition ravaging her endocrine system, creating emotional havoc in a world where emotional havoc is already an issue. This author has painted us a beautiful young heroine. She has also effectively brought us into a world we can literally only dream about. But, is that world really a dream, or is it a nightmare. Read

on, and judge for yourself.

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