

Reader's Guide
For
Braless in Wonderland
by
Debbie Reed Fischer
A Debut Young Adult Novel

About the Book

Allee Rosen is a lot of things: high school senior, overachiever, feminist, brainiac. The one thing she's not is supermodel material – she leaves that to pretty people like her little sister (aka “The Fluff”). That's why it's a complete shock when Allee, not her sister, is the one spotted by modeling scouts at the mall and signed by a major modeling agency in Miami.

It's classic GEEK-to-CHIC – but it's not like it's going to change her, right? She's just doing it for the money that will pay her way through college. Very soon, however, Allee falls down the rabbit hole and lands in the fab lane, swept up in a whirlwind of go-sees and photo shoots. She's hot, and that has her backstabbing model roommates steaming and scheming. Will her sudden rise to elusive It Girl status lead her to drop her dreams and forget who she really is?

About the Author

A graduate of the University of Miami's screenwriting program, Debbie Reed Fischer worked for many years at one of Miami's hottest modeling agencies, but sadly, she did not discover Heidi Klum. She spent some of her childhood in a sleepy Florida town much like Cape Comet (the town where Allee grew up) and has also lived in England, Greece, and Israel. Debbie currently lives in Boynton Beach, Florida with her husband and two kids. Visit her at www.debbiereedfischer.com.

Discussion Questions

1. In the beginning of the book, Allee sees herself as the serious, smart one. How does she see herself by the story's end? Describe two pivotal events that mark turning points in Allee's inward transformation.
2. Why do you think the author often refers to the modeling world in South Beach as a Wonderland? Which specific details created the setting for you?
3. How did living far from her family affect Allee's relationship with her sister? With her parents?
4. Allee eventually discovers that her model roommates aren't what they seem. Discuss where else the theme of appearance vs. reality appears throughout the book.
5. In the end, did Allee make the right decision? Why or why not?

Activity

In *South Beach*, Allee makes the surprising discovery that commercial photography can be art. Using still photography and a model (or models), create your own artistic vision of scenes inspired by the book. Then arrange your series of photos in a scrapbook, portfolio, collage, poster or digital presentation.