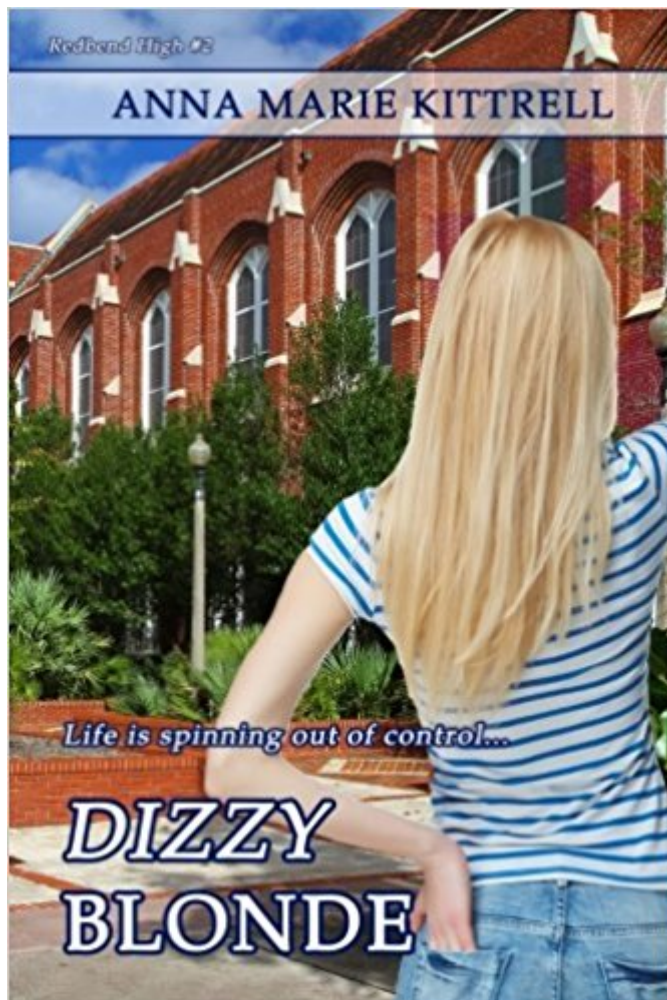




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Dizzy Blonde



Synopsis

All of her life, Lenni has been the perfect child, but still her parents are divorcing. Invisible and angry, Lenni trades her innocent princess image for the rebellious likeness of her favorite rock icon, Dizzy. In an effort to shed the old Lenni, she turns her back on those who love her most, trading true friendship for a dangerous affiliation with a shady upperclassman. When deception and rumors threaten to ruin Lenni's life, she learns the value of good friends and the importance of an honorable reputation. But can this realization save her from the clutches of danger? Or was the lesson learned too late?

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Customer Reviews

Anna has written stories for as long as she can remember. She still has most of her tattered creations, leftovers she was unable to sell on the playground for a dime, written in childish handwriting on notebook paper, bound with too many staples. Her love of storytelling has grown throughout the years. She is thrilled to learn some people now believe her tales to be worth more than ten cents. Anna resides in small town Oklahoma with her high school sweetheart-turned-husband Tim, and their teenaged daughter Brandilyn. Anna works as secretary of her hometown middle school – the greatest place on earth this side of Disney World.

We return to the teenagers from Witcha'be and the halls of Redbend High School. Molly Bianca and Lenni are still friends, but Lenni's life is crumbling around her. Her parents are divorcing and she wants to break out of her goody-two-shoes persona. She starts by chopping off her hair in the fashion of her favorite rock star, Dizzy. Everyone, including Lenni, is amazed at the resemblance.

Then new make-up and a drastic choice of clothing style and she's created a new person. Turning from her Christian friends, Lenni befriends Rayna. Lenni tries to help Rayna whose father has lost his job and is soon manipulated into a very bad and potentially dangerous situation. While this book connects with age old high school problems dealing with friends, prom dates and clothes, the real message for this reader, and I hope the young adults who buy this book, are the dangers of the internet, bullying, and exploitation. Ms Kittrell did an excellent job with this fast paced novel. She handled a very current and troubling situation involving children and teenagers. The intrigue and danger keeps the reader turning pages and the meaning of true friends and a relationship with God clearly shines through.

This author has such a wonderful way of making you learn lesson about God and friendships through her work. It is wonderful! In this 2nd book of the Red Bend series; Linni's life is going out of control and she has fallen into some dark ways but she just needs to remember who she is and not lose her self and her friends along the way. I think this story is very well written as is the whole series that I have read so far. I can't wait to see what happens in the future for the girls of Red Bend Oklahoma and the little Cornerstone church.

I didn't think any book could top *Witcha'be* (the first book in the series), but *Dizzy Blonde* actually managed to do it! It was a great read! Anna Kittrell's characters come alive. I found myself wanting to hug Lenni and shake some sense into her at the same time. I appreciated the way the author wove the concepts of God's love and forgiveness into the plot. I also appreciated how the book demonstrated that a tiny step in the wrong direction can lead to devastating consequences. I became so involved in the book that I completely lost track of time. I'd highly recommend this book for teens and adults alike.

Even though high school is in my rear view mirror, I was captivated by this story and couldn't wait to find out what would happen next. Amid the expected turmoil of being a teen-aged girl, Lenni has to deal with the additional stress of parents' divorce. Her response? Re-invent herself. One poor decision leads to another, and another, and Lenni's life begins to spin out of control. Fortunately, the Christian friends she abandons don't give up on her. I highly recommend this book to all high school girls, as well as all mothers of teenagers. You won't be disappointed!

When author Anna Kittrell wrote *Witch'sabe*, she set the bar high for honest teen fiction that resounded with a message of reconciliation. In *Dizzy Blonde*, she meets that standard with a realistic story of redemption in the midst of disastrous choices. The focus is on Lenni, trying to find a new normal after her parents separate. Some children of divorce believe the conflict is the fault of their poor behavior and they try to reunite their parents by being perfect. Lenni, however, has always been the perfect child. Maybe perfection isn't the answer, she decides, and starts to test boundaries and relationships and scruples. The problem with Lenni is that she is still sweet and naive. She doesn't have the savvy to understand that the changes she makes because she wants to take control of her life actually turn on her and bring her where she doesn't want to go. When she finds herself in a truly frightening, threatening situation, she discovers that the people she can trust are the ones she rejected. Once again Ms. Kittrell writes of teen life with compassionate insight. When her characters make wrong choices, we can see what led to those poor decisions. Even the mean girls have a back story that lets us see why they are unpleasant and even dangerous. We might want to shake some sense into Lenni but only because we care about her. This is a great book for teens—those going through major life changes and those who just feel as though any change is a catastrophe waiting to happen. It could also be a great resource for parents just beginning to navigate those exciting, nerve-wracking teen years. And it is a well-written, fast-moving story that will leave the reader looking forward to the next book in the series.

It didn't take nice-girl Lenni long to transform herself into someone she could hide behind. When her world came tumbling down, Lenni decided to take control—unfortunately by throwing herself onto the ruins. She tells herself that she was only being good to not disappoint her parents—the people who seemed to turn their backs on her. When an outing with the coolest bad girl in school goes wrong, Lenni decides to change herself to become the girl who controls her own destiny, who calls her own shots and doesn't worry about anyone else. Her former best friends have a hard time with this change, especially when Lenni turns away from them and the things they believed in. When Lenni's new friend proves to be the kind of person the old Lenni would never have trusted, a lot of growing up follows. As a parent, I read Kittrell's story with an eye on Lenni's mom, who also had choices about how to handle her daughter. Told in first person, well done. Great, well-developed characters in believable situations. Readers will also read the first story, *Witch'sabe*. I look forward to Kittrell's next book.

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