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Hello Stars (Faithgirlz / Lena In The Spotlight)



Synopsis

Lena Daniels never thought she'd get the chance to star in a movie. Headstrong and determined, she has her life planned out to the minute. But when her best friends, Savannah and Emma, tell her about an audition, she knows there's nothing else in the world she'd rather do. And now that she's gotten her wish, Lena finds that being in the spotlight is harder than it sounds. She got everything she never wanted! Her face turns up everywhere she goes, and everything in her life is flipped upside down. Lena wonders if this is a dream come true or a horrible nightmare. Even a visit from her best friends during filming turns into a disaster. With her little sisters Ansley, Ashton, and Amber and her mischievous pup, Austin, constantly at her side, Lena must face the challenges of everyday life while chasing her dreams of being a model and actress on the big screen. Lena tackles tough choices, learns the value of perseverance, and keeps her hopes high. She knows her faith and family will keep her feet on the ground and her eyes on the stars. This Faithgirlz series entitled *Lena in the Spotlight*, written by Alena Pitts, star of *War Room* and tween blogger of *For Girls Like You*, and co-written with her mother, editor and author, Wynter Pitts, is a reflection of Alena's own life experiences as she reaches for the stars and keeps her faith in balance.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

The power of prayer and the importance of trusting in God dominate this novel, first in the Lena in the Spotlight series, inspired by the life of the 12-year-old author, Alena Pitts, writing with her mother. Narrator Lena Daniels, an 11-year-old African-American girl, submits a video audition that lands her a leading role in a movie about a family learning to trust God; the film also stars Lena's favorite singer, Mallory Winston. Before heading to Los Angeles with her parents and sisters to shoot the movie, Lena begins to have doubts about leaving her friends behind and stepping into the spotlight. At this and other junctures, her father offers comfort and advice through a combination of prayer and scripture. Lena often reaches out to God, too ("Help me to remember that people all over the world will see this movie and will learn about you... so it's not really about me"), and her journal entries reveal her growing self-confidence. Although the story can be repetitive and Lena's emotions run high, readers may well find inspiration in its focus on family, friends, and faith. Ages 8–12. (Apr.) (Publishers Weekly)

Alena Pitts is a young actress and model from Dallas, Texas. As the oldest of four girls, Alena first cut her teeth in acting through making home videos and dramas with her sisters, using their entire home as their recording studio. She has a natural love for all things creative which falls right in line with her gifts and talents. The Kendrick Brothers' War Room marks Alena's professional acting debut. With only school theater on her young resume, Alena jumped at a chance to audition for the role of Danielle Jordan. In addition to school and acting, Alena models and is a frequent contributor for the magazine For Girls Like You. Wynter Pitts is the founder of For Girls Like You Magazine and the author of For Girls Like You: A Devotional for Tweens and You're God's Girl. The mother of four girls, Wynter's mission is to empower and equip girls to walk boldly into becoming who God has created them to be and to provide parents with the resources and support needed to raise strong Christ followers. In addition to publishing the quarterly magazine, Wynter is a frequent blogger, a contributor for LifeWay's ParentLife Magazine, and a public speaker. She is also the niece of Dr. Tony Evans. Wynter, her husband Jonathan, and four daughters (ages 6-11), reside in Dallas, Texas.

My daughter heard of Alena because we subscribed to the For Girls Like You magazine and when she saw the add for this book, she wanted it right away. My daughter is a reluctant reader, so this was huge for us. When the book arrived she wanted to start reading it right away. She has had a

hard time putting it down, because she is enjoying it so much. Thank you Alena Pitts!!!

I enjoy the book

My 11 year-old daughter just finished this book, and her only complaint was that the next book isn't out yet. She loved it, and she's a voracious reader. She says she enjoyed the humor and says it was realistic, without anything inappropriate. We've pre-ordered the Book 2, Day Dreams and Movie Screens.

Great book. Good characters.

Hello Stars gives insight to faith walking on a child's level. I read this book to preview it for my younger cousin and I gained such insight and wisdom. Every girl may not be a movie star but every Christian can relate to the hard choices that come with walking by faith. This is a must have for the tween in your life.

We have to face it. Today's preteens are enamored with stars, music, and dreaming of being in the spotlight. The problem is most of their examples are not wholesome or Christian. This book gives young girls the chance to be a part of the fantasy of stardom but in a pure and godly way. Lena Daniels never dreamed she would star in a movie, and certainly not with her favorite Christian singer, Mallory Winston. That is exactly what happens when she wins a video audition which she assumed the prize was to meet her idol. She quickly finds out there is much more to being a star than she ever imagined. She discovers it is not all glamour and fun but hard work and responsibility. This book has so many wonderful features that young girls, parents and grandparents will really appreciate. The Daniels are a strong Christian family. They are supportive of one another and live in harmony, showing the importance of family relationships. Prayer is a regular part of their life in all areas. Scriptural concepts are applied to the situations they face as natural as breathing! Girls are able to see how important God is in whatever is happening with big or the small matters. I loved the way the author captured the situations girls find themselves. Minor incidents adults would think nothing of are devastating to sensitive young ladies. In reading the book I was taken back to that period in my life and how differently experiences were viewed and felt. It's that magical window of time right before becoming a teen that is accompanied by uncertainty, confusion and innocence. At the end of each chapter the

readers get a peek at what Lena writes in her journal to herself and God. She expresses her joys, doubts, fears, at the same time seeking God. In addition to all these positive features, the book is entertaining, fun and humorous. Even though I am 50+ years past the reading audience's age, I enjoyed it! Definitely a book you would want your preteens to read! I received this book from Handlebar Publishing in exchange for an honest review. The opinions I expressed are my own.

"Hello Stars" is a children's book written by Alena Pitts. Alena is an author, actress, model and contributor to the magazine, For Girls Like You. "Hello Stars" features Lena Daniels who the reader can infer is based on Alena and her real-life experience as a movie star, except the characters in this story have been changed. In real-life, Alena played Danielle, the daughter of Priscilla Shirer's character Elizabeth Jordan in the movie War Room. In the story Hello Stars, Lena gets to meet her favorite celebrity. She goes through an audition process and is chosen to star in a movie with Mallory Winston. Lena's best friends Savannah and Emma play a role in helping her become a movie star because they were the ones who told Lena about the audition. The friendship between Lena and her best friends is sweet, solid and heartwarming. The bond that Lena shares with her parents, sisters and pet dog is also very encouraging. This fictional family is portrayed as happy, healthy and helpful. It's very refreshing to read. This story is not without challenges. Lena works hard on making her dreams come true. But when Lena starts working on the movie, she realizes that being in the spotlight is more difficult than she dreamed. She doesn't like seeing her face on advertisements and being in the public eye. This is where Lena's faith plays a strong role. She writes letters to God in her journal. She prays, and she relies on her parents to help her navigate fame. Through it all, Lena learns how to persevere, make good decisions, and trust God. Alena's real-life Mom Wynter Pitts contributed to the writing of this book. Just like Mrs. Daniels (fictional Lena's Mom), Wynter plays a crucial role in keeping her daughter Alena grounded in reality and soaring high with her faith in God as her dreams come true. My favorite character in this story was Lena because of her sweet personality, strong work ethic, drive to succeed and her heart for helping people. The characters in this book, though fictional, felt real. The storyline was a bit predictable but did have its surprises with plot twists that keep the reader guessing at times. My favorite part of this book was watching Lena's dreams to star in a movie with her favorite celebrity come true. It's my favorite part because it reignited my hope that my own creative career

dreams. Although I am much older, I can come true if it's God's will for me. There are no heartbreaking scenes in this book that will make the reader cry. But there are highs and lows that Lena experiences in the journey to her dreams, causing her faith walk with God to be tested. The author writes these scenes with believability, skill and perfect prose. The way she details Lena's journey endears her character to the reader's heart. Readers may find themselves rooting for Lena from the start of the story and caring about what happens or does not happen to her throughout this book. There is a very tense scene in this story that involves a moment where Lena disappoints the entire film crew and something Mallory says crushes her spirit. But to find out the details on this, you'll have to read the book! This book didn't make me laugh or cry but it did make me smile quite often. I loved reading this story! There honestly is not anything about Hello Stars that I did not like. I was pleasantly surprised that this story did not have any cliffhangers. As a reader, I enjoyed journeying through this story with Lena, her family and friends. The characters are relatable and the dialogue is lively. The author's writing style is sweet and engaging. Overall, "Hello Stars" is a wonderful story filled with captivating characters, a creative premise, hope, faith, love, and a heroine's journey that will encourage you as the reader to dream again. I'd recommend this book to younger readers ages 8 to 12. But I'd also tell teenagers and young adults to read this book because the heroine's journey to her dreams is relatable with a lesson that's universal. This book is unique and in a class of its own though the theme is slightly reminiscent of Natalie Grant's book, "Miracle in Music City" (Faithgirlz/Glimmer Girls), which is also a Faithgirlz book series. "Hello Stars" is worth every bit of a five-star rating!

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