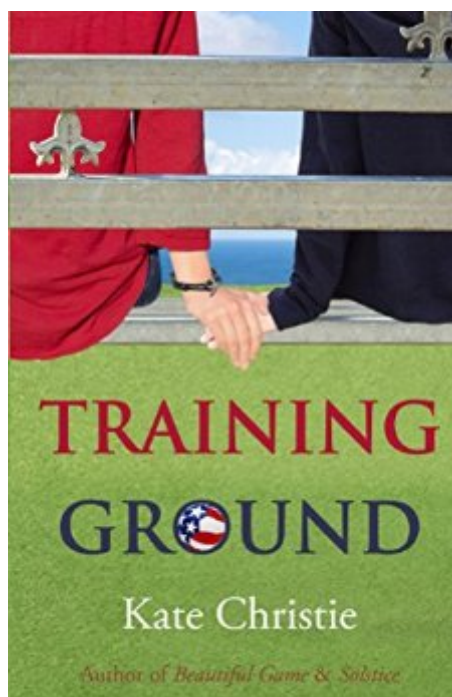


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Training Ground: Book One Of Girls Of Summer



Synopsis

Sign up at eepurl.com/cbTpxz to receive an email notification when the next book in the Girls of Summer series comes out. Sometimes a chance meeting can change everything. At fifteen, Jamie Maxwell's main goals in life are to make the United States youth national soccer pool, move past the Incident-That-Shall-Not-Be-Named, and maybe--someday--kiss a girl. When she meets Emma Blakeley at a tournament in Southern California, something about the older girl draws her in. And it isn't that she expects to ever get the chance to kiss Emma. Really. When Jamie invites her to sneak out on the last night of Surf Cup, Emma doesn't go because she likes Jamie's smile. She goes because, as the daughter of a surgeon and a nurse, she has a genetic predisposition to try to heal people. And Jamie, she can tell, is wounded. Neither girl suspects that this first last night together will form the basis of a bond that will last across years and miles, from SoCal soccer fields and New York hotels to Portuguese beaches and the streets of Vancouver. But that's how most friendships begin, isn't it? With a smile and a nod and the courage to ask, "Do you maybe, possibly, want to come with me?"

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Customer Reviews

I've read almost all of Kate Christie's books now. I've enjoyed every single one, but I have to admit to a special fondness for *Solstice* and *Beautiful Game*. I think *Training Ground* is her best book yet, and really shows her growth as a writer. Jamie and Emma are two young soccer players whose stars are on the rise. They are drawn to each other, even though they live in different states, and *Training Ground* is the story of the first few years of their intense relationship from high school onward, and how their friendship slowly becomes more. These are well-drawn, vivid characters who really benefit from the time the author takes to establish their relationship, and I love that this is the first of a series! This is a textured story with richly observed details, and the author's love for - and knowledge of - women's soccer shines through every page, even though it's not necessary to know about soccer to appreciate this book. I found myself swept up into this fictional world that is so different from my own, and kept eyeing the reading progress percentage with a sinking feeling because I didn't want the book to end. So thrilled that another book is on the way. More please!

Kate Christie has given us here two young women, Jamie and Emma, along with their worlds, complete and entire. Their parents and siblings are all fully developed people. Their cities are richly drawn realms, Jamie in the San Francisco Bay Area and Emma in Seattle. I have walked down the same streets and trails myself and could not ask to find them better described in fiction, full of flavor and local nuances. More than all that, I find myself really loving these people, caring deeply about them. Since this book was published a few days ago, I have read it twice, and fully intend to read it again soon. With all the feelings in this story fresh in my mind, it is hard to find an equally magnetic book on my shelf, so I dive back in. I cannot mention the events, not wanting to take away the surprises that await you, Like turns along the way in real life, you only realize afterward how they flow out of the present. This is a story I will always treasure.

This is the first book in a series, which leaves me to believe that the rest of the books are going to be equally riveting! I finished reading the book and found myself rereading excerpts of the story over and over. That is how poignant and thought provoking this story was. It will be interesting to see how Jaime and Emma's story unfold in the upcoming book in the fall. Well done!

This book was enchanting - at least until trouble brewed. I came to care a lot about the characters. Even the minor characters were terrific. These were wonderful people who each had to overcome tragic situations. I have to admit, though that I found the latter part of the book somewhat hard to deal with. It felt as though the two characters parted bad and had vastly different lives. I felt that one soared and one suffered and that was a bit hard to deal with. I'm glad to hear that this will be a series. I'm hoping for happier days for the two main characters, as I really like happy endings and I think the two were meant for each other.

This was such an amazing read! I'll admit, I bought it at first because it was a Seattle based book, but I was instantly drawn into the two characters and their stories. I found the characters to be so realistic and well written well rounded characters. You just wanted to keep reading about them and how they would interact. I got to the end of the story and literally said out loud "I want more" and came to see if I could pre-order the next one.

Read this book in one sitting. The author does a great job of making you feel like you know the main characters and the supporting cast well. When the drama starts between Jaimie and Emma, you feel for them both. I had forgot that this was a series and was almost upset it ended where it did. Definitely ready to read the next chapter of Jaimie and Emma's life.

This is the first book I've read from this author. I have to say I completely enjoyed her writing style. She takes you on a rollercoaster with the two characters. It's showing that not everything is always as it seems. I'm looking forward to the second book so we can see where life has taken both of them.

Being a huge football fan, it's obvious the author has a deep understanding of the game, as well as the talent to develop complex characters that you quickly care for and wish only the best for.. Sadly, the book had to end and now I'm trying to patiently wait for the next installment. I will definitely be reading other books by this author.

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