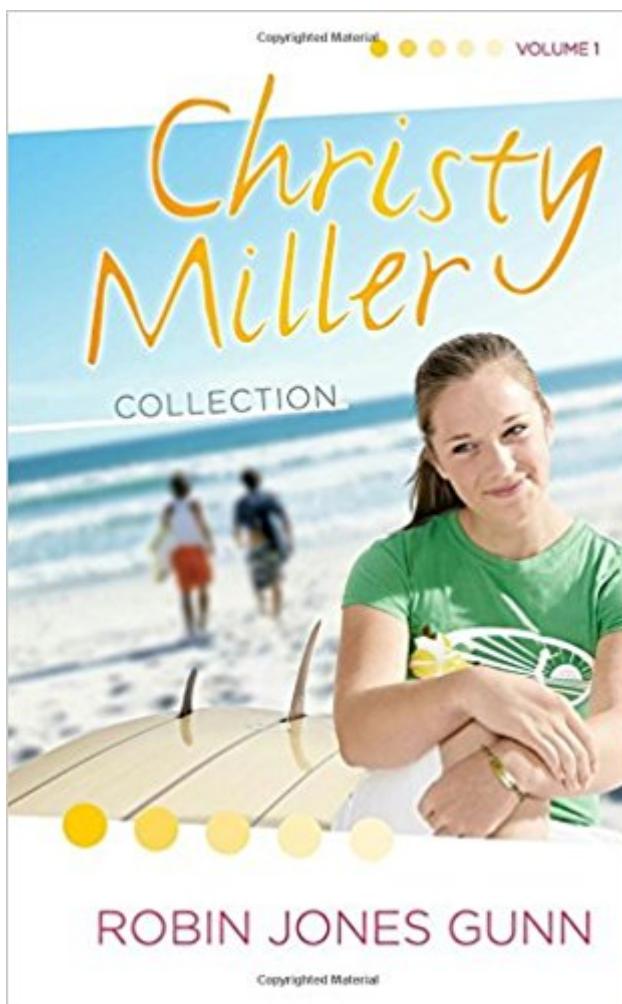


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# **The Christy Miller Collection, Vol. 1 (Summer Promise / A Whisper And A Wish / Yours Forever)**



## **Synopsis**

Bestselling author Robin Jones Gunn packs all 4 Volumes of the Christy Miller Series with enough romance, drama and heartwarming moments to keep you reading the entire series and wanting more. It all starts the summer Christy turns 15. She leaves Wisconsin and spends her vacation with her wealthy aunt and uncle in Newport Beach, California. That's where she meets Todd, the surfer with the screaming silver blue eyes who changes her life forever. Find out what happens when Christy's parents make an announcement that puts Christy in a new high school at the start of her sophomore year. A red-headed new best friend, a try at cheerleading, a job at a pet store, and expectations for the prom fill Christy's high school years with a string of laughter-and-tears moments. Fireball Katie keeps everyone guessing what she'll do next. Todd keeps showing up and saying just the right thing while popular Rick is determined to convince Christy she should go out with him. As these memorable years unfold, Christy and her "peculiar treasure" friends draw close to each other in the good times and the bad. Love grows and hearts are knit together for eternity.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Robin Jones Gunn is the best-selling author of 90 books with over 5 million copies sold worldwide. Her popular Christy Miller series has gathered over 3 million fans who keep asking for more. The

characters now continue in the Christy&Todd: The Married Years series. Robin's award winning Sisterchicks® novels are book club favorites along with her non-fiction titles, Victim of Grace and Praying For Your Future Husband. Robin is a frequent speaker at local and international events. She and her husband have two grown children and live in Hawaii. Be among the first to hear about upcoming books when you sign up for the Robin's Nest Newsletter at [robingunn.com](http://robingunn.com). You'll receive 10% off your next purchase in Robin's BookShop.

Off to a Bad Start I hate you! I hate you! • Christy Miller shouted at her reflection in the closet-door mirror. With a wild grrrr she wadded up her beach towel and heaved it at the mirror, watching it wobble and distort her lanky proportions. "Christy darling?" • came a shrill voice from the hallway. "Are you back from the beach so soon?" • "Yes, Aunt Marti." • Christy grabbed a brush and pretended to be untangling her long, nutmeg-brown hair. Her aunt, a slim, stylish woman in her forties, opened the guest room door and looked around. "What was all the commotion? Who were you talking to?" • "Nobody. Just myself." • Christy answered calmly, trying to suppress the volcano of fiery emotions boiling within her. "Why aren't you out on the beach, dear? It's a gorgeous day, and here you sit in your room, talking to yourself." • Aunt Marti dramatically pointed her acrylic fingernail toward the door. "You should be out there enjoying yourself!" • Christy bit her quivering lip and didn't answer. "This is California. Live a little! We didn't fly you all the way from Wisconsin so you could spend the summer hiding in your room. Get out there and make some friends." • Suddenly the internal volcano erupted with great force, spewing words with the hot tears. "I tried, all right?" • Christy choked. "I tried to get in with some of the beach kids, but they're all a bunch of snobs! I can't stand them! They're rude and mean, and they laughed at me." • Christy covered her face with her hands; the tears oozed through her fingers. "I had no idea!" • Her aunt switched tones and ushered Christy to the edge of the bed. There, there. Tell me what's bothering you, dear. • It took Christy a few minutes to compose herself before she said calmly, "I don't fit in with the people here. They think I'm a nerd." • "Well, are you?" • her aunt challenged. "Am I what?" • "A nerd." • Christy didn't answer. She stared across the room at her reflection in the mirror. "Well?" • her aunt prodded. "Look at me, Aunt Martha!" • Christy jumped up from the bed and stood in front of her. "I'm as white as a frosty cone" • "sort of shaped like one too! If that doesn't make me a nerd in Newport Beach, I don't know what does!" • "Really, Christy. A frosty cone?" • "Well, look at me." • Christy stretched out her arms to provide a full view of her 5-foot-5-inch, 110-pound frame. Her one-piece bathing suit covered her Olive Oyl torso like a bright green Ace bandage.

â œTell me I donâ™t look like a frosty cone.â •â œYou donâ™t look like a frosty cone.â •â œYouâ™re just saying that.â • Christy plopped on the floor and folded her arms across her stomach.â œOh, come now, Christy. You might be a bit of a late bloomer, but really, youâ™re a very sweet girl, and youâ™ve got a lot of potential.â •â œYeah, right. Tell that to the surfers out there. The one who said, â™Hey! Itâ™s a walking green bean.â™â • Her aunt looked confused.â œWhatâ™s that supposed to mean?â • Christy let the tears drip and sniffed loudly. â œDonâ™t you see?â •â œI see that you got upset over a little remark about a green bean. That doesnâ™t make sense at all.â •â œThey meant me, Aunt Marti! No other girl on the beach had on a bathing suit like this ugly one! Iâ™m the walking green bean!â • Christy covered her face with her hands and cried until the tears ran down her arms. It was the kind of crying that comes from the pit of the stomach and brings a headache with it. The kind that makes a person snort and gasp, and no matter how idiotic you feel or how hard you try, you canâ™t stop.â œDo calm yourself, will you, dear? Itâ™s not as bad as all that. We can certainly buy you a new bathing suit easily enough. And just think. They called you a bean, not a frosty cone. See? Theyâ™re saying youâ™re thin. Thatâ™s almost a compliment.â • Christy gasped in short spasms, trying to relax. Her aunt took the opportunity to make her point. â œThis is exactly the reason I told your mother I wanted you to spend the summer with us. You deserve more than your parents can give you right now, and goodness knows your mother and I didnâ™t have much when we were growing up.â • Christy wiped her nose with the back of her hand.â œHere. Use this, will you please?â • Marti handed her a tissue.â œAs I was saying, my goal this summer is to treat you to some of the finer things in life and to teach you, Christina Juliet Miller, how to become your own person.â • Christy blinked and tried to suppress a wild belch that bubbled up as a result of so much sobbing. Too late. The muffled urp leaked out.â œYouâ™re certainly not going to make this easy for me, are you, dear?â •â œIâ™m sorry.â • Christy felt an uncontrollable urge to laugh. â œAre you sure youâ™re ready to transform a belching green bean frosty cone into â™her own personâ™? Could be kind of dangerous!â • Christy broke into laughter. Aunt Marti shook her head and didnâ™t join in. â œWeâ™ll start tomorrow, Christina. Iâ™ll call and make an appointment for you to have your colors done at nine, and then weâ™ll start shopping for your new wardrobe.â • Christy instantly sobered. â œI didnâ™t bring much money with me.â •â œDonâ™t be silly! This is my treat. A few outfits are certainly not going to break me. And one other thing: We really should have your hair cut. Something short and stylish. My hairdresser, Maurice, does marvelous work. By the time weâ™re done with you youâ™ll look and feel like a new person.â • She said it with such finesse, Christy almost believed her. A new wardrobe? A new hairstyle? And what did her aunt mean by â œhaving her colors

doneâ •? â œWhy donâ ™t you shower and dress, dear? Your uncle doesnâ ™t know it yet, but heâ ™s going to take you to an early dinner and a movie tonight.â • Aunt Marti swished out the door. Christy approached the mirror with a new perspective. Twisting her long, nutmeg-brown hair on top of her head, she posed this way and that way, trying to imagine how she would look with short hair. She couldnâ ™t quite picture the change. She wished Paula were there. Paula, her best friend back home, always gave her advice when it came to major decisions like this. But then, what did Paula know? She was the one who helped her pick out the dumb green bean bathing suit! Christy scrunched up her nose and stuck her face close to the mirror, examining her skin for new blemishes. No new and ugly bumps today. But her cheeks were flushed, and her nose was bright red from crying. Even her eyes showed the effects of her crying spree; they were puffy and bloodshot.â œI have such stupid eyes,â • she muttered. â œTheyâ ™re not blue, and theyâ ™re not green. Theyâ ™re just sort of nothingâ “like the rest of me.â •â œKnock, knock,â • Uncle Bob called out from Christyâ ™s open door. She immediately released her hair and turned away from the mirror, embarrassed that he had caught her in the midst of such scrutiny.â œLooks like weâ ™ve got a date tonight for the movies.â • His merry eyes looked at her from beneath his baseball cap. He must have just come back from golfing, judging by the perspiration stains on his polo shirt.

â œAnything special you want to see?â •â œNo.â •â œOkay. Iâ ™ll take a look in the paper to see whatâ ™s playing. Your auntâ ™s not much of a movie fan, so I hope you donâ ™t mind that itâ ™s just you and me.â •â œNo. Thatâ ™s fine.â •â œWeâ ™ll leave in about an hour, okay?â •â œOkay.â •â œBy the way,â • he lifted his baseball cap and wiped his forehead, â œI havenâ ™t told you yet, but Iâ ™m glad you came to stay with us this summer.â • Then he added, â œYou are my favorite niece, you know.â •â œI also happen to be your only niece!â •â œMinor detail, my child, minor detail,â • he quipped, politely closing the door. With a sigh, Christy flopped onto the bed. She didnâ ™t feel like showering, and it wouldnâ ™t take her that long to change. With an hour to kill, she decided to write to Paula. Christy liked to writeâ “especially when she had a lot on her mind. She would get everything out on paper, and then when she reread it, it would be like looking at her own thoughts in a mirror. Usually things came out clearer on paper than when she tried to say them. Finding the pad of stationery Paula had given her when she left Wisconsin, Christy set to work. Paula insisted that she write the first letter to her on this stationery. Dear Paula, Hi!

Howâ ™s everything back on the farm? The plane trip outhere was fun for the first hour, but then it got boring. I didnâ ™t see anymovie stars at the airport, but I still have your notepad, so I can getsome autographs in case I see anybody famous. Remember when you called last Thursday and I told you Icouldnâ ™t talk? It was because my parents were giving me a big lectureabout my trip out

here. They made me promise I wouldn't do anything this summer I would regret later. Can you believe that? The funny part is, the only thing I regret is that I ever came here. I hate this place! There's nothing to do, and everybody is so stuck up. It's so boring. At night, all I do is sit around and watch TV. At least one good thing is going to happen. Tomorrow my aunt is going to take me shopping, and guess what? I'm probably going to get my hair cut! Can you believe it? I'm kind of scared, but I think she's trying to give me a new image or something. Well, I've got to go. I'll tell you how the big makeover turns out. Just think, you might not recognize me when I step off the plane next September. You'd better write to me. Love, Christy

I loved these books as a young teen, so I decided to read them again when I was feeling nostalgic. As an adult, I still enjoyed the series— the stories are engaging and wholesome—but there were a few messages that I found troubling. Primarily, I did not like the "cultural Christian" aspect of the books; many of the main characters' beliefs are not necessarily Biblical, rather, they reflect cultural values often found in the American Christian church. Most of these beliefs aren't a big deal, but a few are problematic in that they misrepresent the gospel. Other issues that I had with the content: Christy is completely and utterly boy-crazy with few interests of her own (extracurriculars, ambitions, dreams) beyond a few short-lived stints. Because of this, her character falls just a wee bit flat, and also sends a pretty strong message to young girls reading the series. I would like to have seen Christy mature as a character in her boy-craziness, but even later on in the series she still struggles with obsessing over her crushes/ boyfriends. Additionally, Christy becomes a Christian in the books as a young teen, but almost immediately adopts all of the values/ morals of the Christian faith (i.e. easily begins doing devotions, disdains dating non Christians/ smoking/ swearing/ etc.) with little evidence of a real struggle over her values. It is simply an unrealistic depiction of growth as a young Christian and embodies a little bit of a judgmental attitude. Honestly, there are a lot of instances throughout the series when Christy reads like my mother as opposed to a young girl trying to find her way and experiencing growing pains. I wish that she had encountered more doubts and questions in her faith. Granted, I would absolutely recommend these books for any teen girl—I've even bought them as gifts. Overall, they are worth a read and capture so much of the magic of coming of age. However, some of the content is worth at least discussing and does not necessarily reflect Biblical truths.

I will always love the Christy Miller series, because it introduced me to, and made me fall in love with, the Christian romance genre. I'm a huge fan of falling in love with your best friend, first loves

staying together and everything, so I love the story of Todd and Christy. Todd was my first "I want one!" fictional character "crush". I am trying to get my little sister to read these books - I just bought them for her birthday tomorrow from :) - and I hope my daughter will someday.

This book is a three-books-in-one volume, so I've given an overview of each story below. I think these books are great. They follow fifteen-year-old Christy Miller as she struggles through her teenage years. They are well-written and fun. Christy is an endearing character who gets into a lot of mischief just trying to live life. I highly recommend this series to teen girls of all ages.

**Book 1 Summer Promise** Christy Miller is thrilled to spend the summer with her aunt and uncle in Newport Beach, California. But Christy doesn't fit in. Her skin is pale and her swimsuit is old and green. Aunt Marti gives her a makeover that includes a new hairstyle and wardrobe. Christy's hair is so short, now, and the clothes might not be her favorite styles, but she does feel older and sophisticated. She decides that she likes her new look. Christy also likes a cute surfer named Todd, but she isn't sure he likes her back. She's invited to a get-together one night and hopes that Todd will be there. Instead, she discovers a wild party with deadly consequences. Christy struggles to understand what's happened and how to move forward. Can Christy find her true self without breaking her summer promise?

**Book 2 A Whisper and a Wish** Christy's life is changing. Her family is moving to California, but before Christy can get too excited, she discovers that her family won't live in Newport Beach like Aunt Marti and Uncle Bob. Christy's dad gets a job in Escondido, an hour and a half away from the beach and Christy's friends. Christy has to start over making new friends. She doesn't have as much freedom with her parents as she had with Aunt Marti and Uncle Bob. There are a lot more rules to follow at home. And a brush with the law on a trip to Palm Springs won't help prove to her parents that she's growing up. Can Christy do what's right and still obey her parents?

**Book 3 Yours Forever** Christy can't wait to spend Christmas in Newport Beach. Not only will she see all her beach friends, but Todd has moved to Newport Beach permanently! Christy is confused about her relationship with Todd. He never says anything to help her understand how he feels. Her friend, Heather, talks Christy into flirting with Doug to make Todd jealous, but this only seems to make everyone mad at her. Why are relationships so hard? Even Aunt Marti isn't speaking to Christy!

Again, I highly recommend this series for girls ages 12 and up. Christy is a delight to read and she struggles with a lot of tough things in this series. There are four, three-book volumes in the re-released series, and a college years volume.

Well, I am a lot like Christy, I always said I was a Christian, but I never thought about it like this book

has made me think about it, I was confused with it a lot at the beginning, but now I'm ready to surrender my heart to the Lord Jesus, and My God, I'm ready for anything that they throw at me, I'm ready to let the Lord take my life in his control.... I am happy to know that people feel this way about the Lord, and Jesus Christ. The story's that Todd used to explain this stuff to Christy, well, it helped me think about it more, and I think I'm ready to be reborn again, as am I ready to climb into God's boat, I'm ready to let him in and let him walk around my home not make him stand in the corner, I want to understand more, about God and Jesus Christ...

I love this book and all the other ones related to it. I am sending these out for my nieces to read since they are just getting to their teenage years. These books hold so many stories and helpful motivational topics for kids to make the best choices in life. I really hope they remember these books when they are faced in a hard time.

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