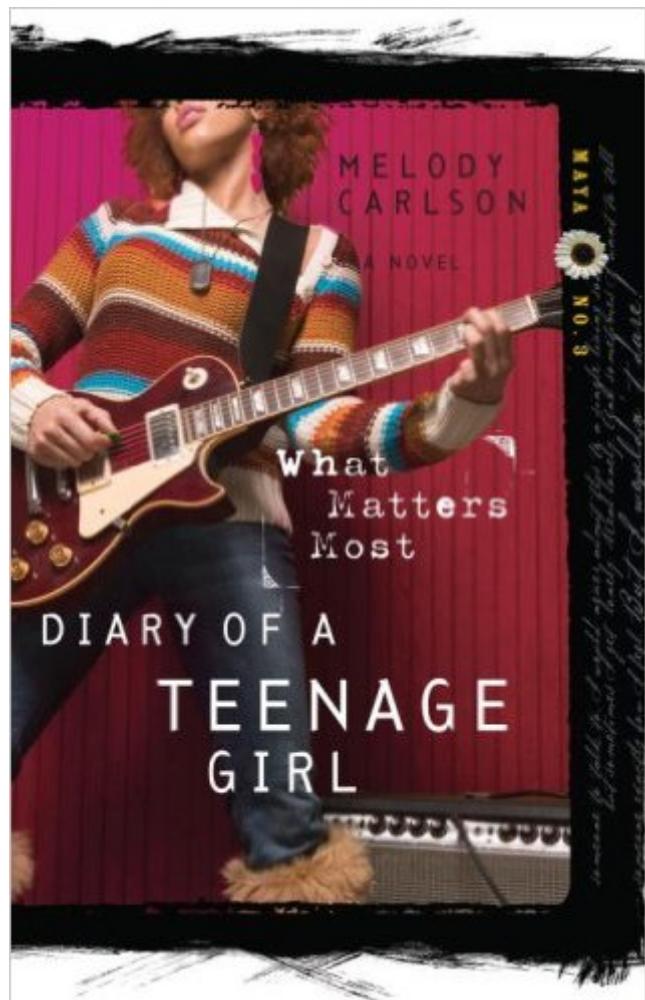


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# What Matters Most (Diary Of A Teenage Girl)



## **Synopsis**

Mayaâ™s Green Tip for the Day: Recycled fashion is one of the most fun ways to go green. A pair of jeans could be transformed into a denim skirt. A sweater into a vest. A bunch of old ties into a dress. A blanket into a poncho. Accessorize it in new wayâ “with beads, buttons, appliquÃ©s, buckles, stencils, or ribbonsâ |your imagination is only the limit. (65 words)Sixteen-year-old Maya Stark has a lot to sort through. She could graduate from high school early if she wants to. Sheâ™s considering it, especially when popular cheerleader Vanessa Hartman decides to make her life miserableâ “and Mayaâ™s ex-boyfriend Dominic gets the wrong idea about everything. To complicate matters even more, Mayaâ™s mother will be released from prison soon, and sheâ™ll want Maya to live with her again. Thatâ™s a disaster waiting to happen. And when Maya plays her dadâ™s old acoustic guitar in front of an audience, she discovers talents and opportunities she never expected. Faced with new options, Maya must choose between a âœnormalâ • life and a glamorous one. Ultimately, she has to figure out what matters most.

## **Book Information**

Series: Diary of a Teenage Girl (Book 3)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Okay, for starters let me say that I have read all of the previous DOATG books and adored them. I

was so excited when Melody Carlson decided to continue the series with Maya... and even though, throughout Maya's first two diaries, there were quite a few contradictions from Kim's books, I still enjoyed them. But how can Melody Carlson end the series with this book? Warning: the following contains spoilers. First of all: there were way too many blatant contradictions. Mike and Jill own the Paradiso again- but in Kim's last book, *Than Was Then...*, *Redemption* owned it. Secondly, there are far too many unfinished plot lines. What was the whole point of the issues with Wyatt and Vanessa? It never goes anywhere. Ditto for Siobhan... and by the way, that was one plotline that really interested me. I felt like it had a ton of potential... but it fell flat with merely a few mentions here and there- literally. And Chloe and Jeremy (it was implied in previous books) would end up together, but they apparently broke up (although it's also hinted that they are getting back together, which was a total relief.) And why on earth would Laura quit the band for college when in *Face the Music* (Chloe book 4) she said something along the lines of "I wouldn't care if I just had to drop [my college classes] if it meant we could hit the road again." And why isn't Willy *Redemption*'s manager? Very few things are explained. This book just created many questions that, apparently, are never going to be answered, seeing as it's the final DOATG book. I loved the Samantha McGregor books, Carter House Girls, TrueColors... and all of the other DOATG books. Melody Carlson is by far my favorite author (even after this book).

I recently received a book entitled *What Matters Most* from Waterbrook Multnomah publishers. As part of their blogger review program, they send books to me free of charge, and I agree to read the books and review them on my blog. This book is actually book #3 in a series. The series is called *Diary of a Teenage Girl*. The books are written by Melody Carlson. If you are interested in purchasing this book online, go here: [...] The book is actually written for a teenage audience, and I think most teenage girls would enjoy it. As an adult, some of the "teenage" topics that the characters in the book deal with and talk about (such who-likes-who) were a little tedious for me to read, but, as I stated before, I think most teenagers would find the book fun to read. The story is about a girl named Maya who has family problems which basically cause her to have to make many decisions about her life without the input of her mother and father. The decisions she must make are often decisions that will affect the rest of her life. In other words, Maya is not just dealing with issues such as what clothes to wear or if she should go to the movies over the weekend. These are "real" decisions. In fact, the book gets its title because Maya is having to make decisions about "what matters most" in her life. Maya is, I think, a good role model for teenage girls for several reasons. One is that she prays before making decisions. Also, she is mature and sets a good example of how

to treat others and how to use/have good morals. Since so many books aimed at teens contain such bad examples of teenage behavior and morals, it was wonderful to read a book in which the teenager sets an example that is positive!

I have enjoyed Maya's story since she was first introduced in the Kim books of this series. She has struck me as a character that is very real, very down to earth and someone who is trying to figure out life each day at a time. Her story is different from other teens in most Christian YA fiction. First off, there's the fact that Maya is biracial, which sadly is uncommon in most Christian lit. Then there's the fact that she's struggling with a mother who is unable to take care of herself or her own daughter. Maya is extremely mature for her age and it's interesting to see her compared with other teens. While they may have more things material wise, she's far more richer in knowledge of the future and mental growth. Once again, I really enjoyed reading the Green tips at the end of each chapter. I may not agree with all of them, but the fact that they're even there shows a nod to those who do care for this topic. I have yet to really see this featured in other Christian fiction books so this is a major plus for the series. I've also learned a lot about recycling and conserving which is something I need to work on. I also enjoyed seeing more about the band Redemption. I enjoyed reading about them in Chloe's series so it was great to see first hand experience about what it's like to be a rock band again. The outcome wasn't what I had expected but still interesting. The only thing that bothered me about this book was that I felt there were a lot of loose ties at the end of the book. I've read every book in the entire Diary of a Teenage Girl series and each time one of the other girl's stories ended, I felt a sense of completion. However with this book I felt like I was left hanging.

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