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Some Girls Are: A Novel



Synopsis

From Courtney Summers, the author of *Cracked Up To Be*, comes a dark new tale of high school rivalry in which vicious rumors and nasty tricks are the currency that buys you popularity or seals your fate at the bottom of the food chain. Climbing to the top of the social ladder is hard--falling from it is even harder. Regina Afton used to be a member of the Fearsome Fivesome, an all-girl clique both feared and revered by the students at Hallowell High... until vicious rumors about her and her best friend's boyfriend start going around. Now Regina's been "frozen out" and her ex-best friends are out for revenge. If Regina was guilty, it would be one thing, but the rumors are far from the terrifying truth and the bullying is getting more intense by the day. She takes solace in the company of Michael Hayden, a misfit with a tragic past who she herself used to bully. Friendship doesn't come easily for these onetime enemies, and as Regina works hard to make amends for her past, she realizes Michael could be more than just a friend... if threats from the Fearsome Foursome don't break them both first. Tensions grow and the abuse worsens as the final days of senior year march toward an explosive conclusion. "This story takes an unflinching look at the intricacies of high school relationships Fans of the film *Mean Girl* will enjoy this tale of redemption and forgiveness." • School Library Journal

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Customer Reviews

I read this for Banned Books Week. Plot: Fresh yet easy to relate to as I'm sure most people have felt some bullying in their life. This book is compared to Mean Girls, but the girls (and some of the guys) are even meaner. There were times when it was hard to read this book. The plot moved at a decent pace, too. Setting: Your everyday town and high school. Characters: Regina was definitely an intriguing character. It was interesting to see her change from being a popularity follower and bully to being her own person and a victim of bullying. While I didn't connect to her as much as I would have liked, I admired her strength, spunk, and flaws. It was hard not to feel sorry for her. I really liked Michael. I'm a sucker for the loner underdogs anyway, but he had an interesting past to go with his character, too. Anna, Kara, and Donnie were really good at making me hate them. Relationships: The relationship change between Regina and her friends during the course of the novel was interesting. I would have liked to see more of a relationship between Regina and her parents, but it helps explain in a way why popularity might be so important to her. Regina's relationship with Michael was also well done. Writing/Voice: I really like Summer's writing style and the voice was strong. Ending: It seemed a bit abrupt, but things wrapped up well. Overall, I liked this one pretty well but not as much as Cracked Up to Be. I definitely disagree with the person who wanted this book banned and feel it was a good display of how ugly teenagers can be. 3.5 stars

Did you ever read one of those books that gave you a pit in the middle of your stomach after the first chapter because you just knew what was going to happen? Yeah, this was one of those books for me. And I don't mean to say that the book was predictable. It wasn't. But girls can be. The book starts with Regina and her friends at a party. Regina is the designated driver and everyone else is drunk. While Regina's best friend Anna is passed out, Anna's boyfriend tries to rape Regina. Regina makes the decision to keep this to herself because she is afraid Anna won't believe her. But then one of Regina's frenemies (Kara) tells Anna that Regina and Donnie had sex. Suddenly, one of the members of the Fearsome Fivesome is being frozen out. This book was like a punch in the gut. All of the bitterness and hatred that Regina experienced was palpable. I could feel her pain, as well as her anger. Regina is not an easy character to like. Throughout the book, we learn a lot about Regina,

mainly that she was a bully who dished out a lot of the same behavior that she is now suffering through. She is not a very likable character and part of me enjoyed that she was a bully who was now being bullied. But it says something about the author that I can feel so much sympathy for a girl who probably doesn't deserve a lot of it. She doesn't get sympathy from the kids she used to bully, kids she is now trying to ingratiate herself with because she doesn't like to be alone. I loved her relationship with Michael. As one of the people she bullied, he doesn't cut her any slack, yet he still sympathizes with all the hell she is being put through. Yes, a romance eventually develops but it is slow and steady, as it should be considering all she put him through. Regina is a girl who gives as good as she gets and the character growth in this book is as slow as the romance. There were parts of the book where I wanted to shake Regina and make her see that the stuff she is doing out of revenge is almost as bad as what the girls are doing to her. When the book ends, I want to believe that Regina realized what she was doing and realized all of her mistakes. But I am not sure that's the case.

Regina Afton was a member of the Fearsome Fivesome, until some evil rumors started by a very evil girl started going around. The rumor being that Regina and Anna's boyfriend slept together. Anna is the Alpha so when she wants someone destroyed, it happens. Regina doesn't know what to do, no one will listen to her that it isn't true, no one except Michael. Why would Michael be nice to her when she destroyed his life? Through his kindness Regina starts to think that there might be more to their relationship, that is if the Fearsome Foursome doesn't kill her first. This book is intense. Ten times more vicious than Mean Girls, this book gets you in the faces of small town bitches. Honestly these girls have so much power because everyone has known everyone else for too long. I really loved how realistic and gritty this book was. Courtney Summers made my skin crawl as I read about the awfulness that Regina was going through. I loved the dynamic of the relationships, how high school and true they felt. All the emotions were penned precisely so you could feel how dire some of the situations were and how elated Regina felt when she fought back. I definitely recommend that you read this book, if not today, tomorrow for sure. There are not any real faults with this book although she did have the tendency to have really long sentences. It was fast paced, kept you on the edge of your seat, you really got to know and feel for the characters, and it was INTENSE! So, pick it up at your local bookstore, library or your own bookshelf if you have bought it but not yet read it. (Unless you only like fantasy books, then you won't like this at all.) First Line: "Hallowell High: You're either someone or you're not." Favorite Line: "I wake up wired, and I go to school wired, popping antacids like they're candy."

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