



2006

Diva

Cassandra Fugal

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Flinn, Alex. *Diva*. HarperCollins, 2006. ISBN 0060568437. \$16.99. 261 p.

Reviewer: Cassandra Fugal

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Singers--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; self-confidence--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Caitlin McCourt wants to be a diva. Not the "look at the \$500 shoes my daddy bought me" type diva, but a real diva: an opera diva. To follow her dream she leaves her "friends" and attends a performing arts high school. But if she hoped changing schools would fix all her problems, she was wrong: her mother does not understand her nor her love of opera (not to mention Caitlin has to cope with her mother dating a married man); she escaped physically from her abusive ex-boyfriend but is still tied to him emotionally; and she cannot leave behind the overweight girl she once was and accept the beautiful young woman she has become.

Through first person narrative, emails, and blog posts the reader becomes engrossed in Caitlin's life as she shares her dreams, her fears, and her determination to become a diva. Even those who don't like opera will gain an appreciation for it as Caitlin relates the music and stories she loves to her life.