



2014

Being Sloane Jacobs by Lauren Morrill

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Wadham, Rachel (2014) "Being Sloane Jacobs by Lauren Morrill," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol34/iss2/1>

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Author: Morrill, Lauren

Title: *Being Sloane Jacobs*

Year of Publication: 2014

Publisher: Delacorte

ISBN: 9780385741798

Number of pages: 352

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Ice Skating; Hockey; Trading Places; Family problems; Interpersonal relations; Romance; Realistic Fiction; Novels

Review:

In an attempt distance themselves from their family problems an ice skater and a hockey player head off to sports camp. But when the two girls, both named Sloane Jacobs, accidentally meet they find an even more elaborate escape plan presents itself and the pair decide to switch lives. Both girls have been struggling to excel and they find they are looking forward to avoiding all the baggage that comes from past experiences. Trying to learn new skills while facing off with their new found nemeses and balancing the boys in their lives, the girls find that being someone else is not all it's cracked up to be. As they settle in they do find success, but soon their lives catch up with them and the girls realize they can't run from their problems any more.

With chapters told in alternating points of view Morrill expresses an interesting modern take on a typical literary plot convention that readers will recognize from other classics like *The Prince and the Pauper* or *Freaky Friday*. The novel, however, is quite predictable and despite their lack of experience both girls embrace their new sport in a way that is perfect for the story even if it seems a little implausible in real life. Additionally the emotional struggles each girl faces could have been addressed more evenly throughout the plot instead of leaving the confrontation and resolution till the very end. Even with its flaws this novel is largely fun and will engage readers who like sports stories with a touch of romance.

Reviewer: Rachel Wadham

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