



2015

Con Academy

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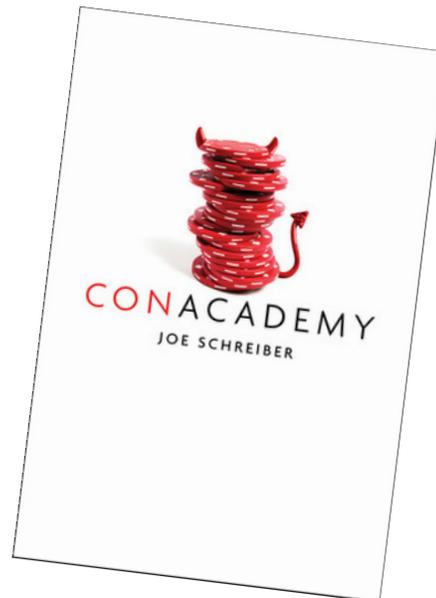
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Book Review

Title: Con Academy
Author: Joe Schreiber
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers
Publication Year: 2015
ISBN: 9780544320208
Number of Pages: 240
Interest Level: Dependable
Rating: Young Adult



Review

Will Shea is attending an elite boarding school, but what no one else knows is that he coned his way in. At least, not until he meets Andrea who discovers his secret because she is a con herself. They think that the school is too small for both of them to be in, so they make a bet. The first one to con the rich Brandt Rush out of fifty thousand dollars gets to stay at the school. The other has to leave. Will sets up a poker scam with his uncle, but while he's at school he discovers a secret society that might finally give him a place that he belongs. One scam after another follows until it is difficult to see who is conning whom.

Con Academy is full of twists, cons, and revenge. Will's motives for going to this school are interesting (everyone who goes to school there becomes a millionaire), but there is a question about ethics in scamming to get to the good life. Will is a believable teenager with occasional bad, impulsive decisions, but he is still likable. His slow relationship with Gatsby is a nice change from many YA novels where the romance can become more important than the plot. This is a fast-paced book that many readers will enjoy.