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Just Friends

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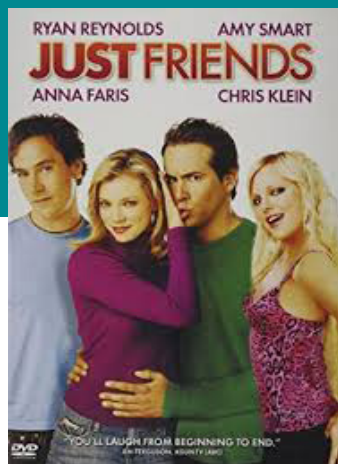
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Book Review

Just Friends

Chance is a truant heartbreaker, and Jenny is shy and studious. With one quick lie they convince everyone that they've been best friends since they were children, and the lie grows into a deep friendship that each relies on. However, it becomes something more when they both realize their feelings for each other and refuse to admit the truth, resulting in heartbreak and anguish on both sides. Chance's family is falling apart and Jenny is humiliated beyond anything she could have imagined, and neither can predict if revealing their love will save or ruin their relationship. They've bonded over a hundred fake memories, but the prospect of making genuine memories together is what eventually pushes them to admit that their relationship is more than platonic.

Jenny and Chance are two people who collide unexpectedly, yet they bring out the best in each other. Their characterizations are strong and distinct, and their believability makes them easy to understand and relate to, despite the outrageous circumstances they come to find themselves in. Chance's horrific family life is a reality, as is Jenny's intense humiliation and shame at the hands of her ex-boyfriend. This book explores their emotions in reaction to these traumatic events, a valuable insight to the stereotypical "friend-to-lovers" trope, and expands this story beyond a romance. Instead, it functions as an exploration of teenage emotion and reaction to trauma, resolved in the love born between friends and family. These teenagers are dealing with very adult situations, and they find themselves surviving their traumas with maturity and growth.

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Illustrator

Reviewer

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Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

310

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