



2018

Romeo, Juliet & Jim

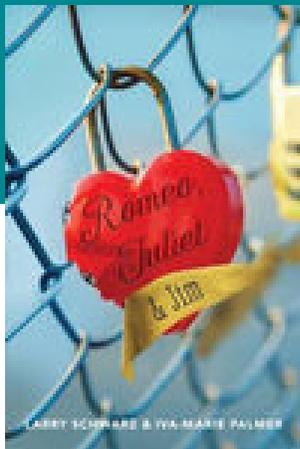
Charlotte Esplin

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Book Review

Romeo, Juliet & Jim

Author

Lany Schwartz and Iva-Marie Palmer

Illustrator

Reviewer

Charlotte Esplin

Rating

Significant Shortcom-

Level

Young Adult

Pages

278

Year

2017

Publisher

Henry Holt and Company

ISBN

9781627792509

As children of the two biggest fashion houses in Paris, Romeo and Juliet engage in a relationship that they know is wrong. Doing all they can to keep their relationship a secret, the two teenagers meet up for undercover rendezvous in secluded hotels. All is well until one day, the pair are nearly discovered, an event that leads them to meet Jim. Young, rich and handsome, Jim fits in perfectly with Romeo and Juliet. The three quickly become friends, but Jim is holding a secret deep within his heart: his father has plans to destroy both fashion houses to make them his own business. In fact, Jim has only been brought to Paris to spy on Romeo and Juliet in order to give his father the upper-hand. If this wasn't complicated enough, the three quickly become a love triangle. Juliet shares an intimate relationship with Jim because Romeo was seen with a beautiful model at a party. The story ends on a cliff-hanger alluding to a sequel in the future.

To put it politely, this teenage novel is poorly written. Crucial parts of the story, like when the couple meet Jim, are blown so far out of proportion and told so dramatically that the implausibility ruins what could have been a good story. Each event is dripping with drama, and so far detached from real-life that it almost ruins the fun of it. In short, there was no skill in this story, and the reader did not have to think much to understand what was going on. This novel does do a good job of capturing the essence of teenage love, complete with personal fable and the belief that nothing will ever be right again if heartbreak were to ensue. Female readers will either love Juliet or hate her, as she is beautiful and unique, admired by every boy in town. Jim experiences a difficult relationship with his father, which could appeal to teenagers struggling with familial relationships. The cliff-hanger the story ends with will leave readers unsatisfied and disappointed. The book is too shallow for any underlying themes or lessons that could be learned. For a lighthearted read that demands no thinking on the reader's part, this book fits the bill.

*Contains moderate sexual content, and mild language.