



2018

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame

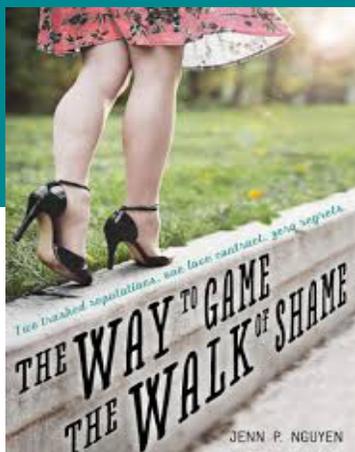
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Book Review

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame

Author

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Illustrator

Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

310

Year

2016

Publisher

Swoon Reads

ISBN

9781250084071

Taylor Simmons' reputation is officially ruined. She was seen leaving a party with none other than Evan McKinley, resident playboy at their high school. When she wakes up in his bedroom the next morning, neither of them can remember what actually happened that night. Rumors abound, and Taylor has to come up with a plan, and fast, before her chances at valedictorian and a full-ride to Columbia are jeopardized. She coerces Evan into signing a contract stating that they will fake a relationship so that their leaving the party together makes sense and is not scandalous. Evan is at first loath to be complicit in such an arrangement, but agrees nonetheless. As the two get closer, they get to know each other better and realize that Taylor is more than just a smarty pants Ice Queen, and Evan is more than a bumbling surfer dude who enjoys the company of women too much. Their fake relationship slowly starts feeling more real to both Taylor and Evan. It takes a lot of soul-searching and advice from others, but eventually the two realize they are better off together, despite their seemingly different personalities and lifestyles.

This book is a great teen romance, full of sweet moments, laugh-out-loud humor, and relatable main characters. The plot is fun and surprisingly substantial for a teen romance: Taylor is having trouble knowing for sure what she wants to do for college and for her future relationships; Evan is dealing with a rude stepfather and a biological father who won't reach out to him. The two develop a sweet relationship based on long conversations and mutual respect, which is a good ideal for teenagers to have. One downside is that Taylor and Evan meet at a party when they're both drunk, and the last chapter of the book describes what happened at the party that they couldn't remember. While there's nothing terribly explicit, the chapter seems to glorify teen drinking and partying, showing that good things like a loving relationship come from such parties and behavior. However, the majority of the book is sweet and fun, and teen romance lovers will appreciate this classic take on the "fake relationship" romance plot.

*Contains severe language and moderate sexual content.