

[PDF] Friction (Richard Jackson Books (Simon Pulse))

E. R. Frank - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Friction (Richard Jackson Boo

Author: E. R. Frank

Released: 2004-11-01

Language:

Pages: 208

ISBN: 0689853858

ISBN13: 978-0689853852

ASIN: 0689853858



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Description:

Most well-known for her devastatingly poignant teen tales of urban desperation and redemption, renowned young adult author E. R. Frank switches gears and narrows her focus to the pivotal events of one 8th grade classroom. The progressive petri dish of Forest Alternative's middle school is stirred the wrong way when sophisticated, tongue-ringed Stacy makes the scene. Almost immediately, Stacy takes advantage of the school's relaxed and experimental atmosphere to start a little excitement. For reasons known only to herself, she begins to insinuate that Simon, the 8th grade's idealistic, good-looking young teacher, is in love with Alex, Friction's mild mannered first person narrator. Embarrassed and infuriated, Alex tries to squelch the gossip, but only manages to make herself look more guilty to her classmates. When she finally confronts Stacy, Alex is horrified when Stacy tearfully admits that the reason she's been spreading the rumors is to draw attention

away from the fact that Simon is actually molesting her. Confused and half caught up in Stacy's stories herself, Alex makes the mistake of trusting her shifting feelings instead of what she knows to be true, irreparably harming her admired teacher in the process. *Friction* is a provocative, deadly accurate portrayal of puberty, in all its manipulative, perplexing, unmanageable glory. Alex's quest to discover the definition of truth is a journey every teenager makes, and teen readers of *Friction* will take great comfort in the fact that a trusted author, who clearly hasn't forgotten adolescence herself, is helping to chart the path. (Ages 12 to 15) --*Jennifer Hubert* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From School Library Journal Grade 6-10-Alex, an eighth grader in Forest Alternative school, is the only girl on her school's soccer team, and best friends with Tim, a boy she has known all of her life in this novel by E.R. Frank (Atheneum, 2003). Alex finds her life changing dramatically after Stacy, a new girl, arrives at the school. Stacy challenges Alex's relationship with Tim and with their non-traditional teacher, Simon. After a class camping trip, Alex learns that there are rumors circulating around school. Stacy inflicts her dysfunctional unhappiness on everyone, and the power she wields with her fantasies causes friction among the kids and the adults connected with the school. The narrator, Jessalyn Gilsig, presents a very credible voice for Alex, and her innocence and naivete come through clearly. There is a limited attempt made to differentiate characters, but since Alex is the narrator, it would have been more effective if the other characters had not been given different voices. There are many conversations in this story, and listeners may find the constant "s/he goes" instead of "s/he said" very distracting, even though it's the vernacular of those speaking. That phrase is much more effective written than spoken. Young adults who enjoy the gritty realism of Frank's stories will respond positively to this recording.

Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, WI

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