



The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys

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In Finley's middle school, kissing frogs might lead to princes--if there were any frogs! Categorizing classmates leads to a battle of the sexes in this M!X novel from the author of *Just Another Day in My Insanely Real Life*.

According to Finley and her BFF, Maya, middle school boys can be put into three separate categories: tadpoles, croakers, and frogs. Per their official Life Cycle of Amphibian Boys, while tadpoles are totally not developed yet (read: boys who still love fart jokes and can't have a normal conversation with girls without making fun of them), a frog is the top of the boy food chain--evolved and mature. Sadly, not many boys have reached that elusive frog status at Staunton Middle School.

Finley thought she had everyone pegged, until Zachary Mattison enters the picture. After suddenly leaving the year before, Zachary's surprise reappearance at SMS forces Finley to see him in a new light. And when the official life cycle list falls into the wrong hands, it causes a battle between the boys and girls that turns into an all-out war--one that Finley isn't sure anyone can really win...

The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys Details

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From Reader Review The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys for online ebook

Gmr says

Ultimately, this is a story about growing up.

We start in the shallow end of the pool and wind up in the great big beyond...but along the way, there are bumps, bruises, and lessons to be learned. Perhaps it would be better said then that this story is about those bumps and bruises because poor Finley is in for quite a few. It all starts with the rating system that she and her friend Maya created to help sort out the boys from the...well, those that were taking the next step in their path toward manhood. It's fine and dandy until the information falls into the wrong hands. ~dun dun dunnn~ Things get out of hand as the boys turn against the girls in a battle of whitt's to see who can out frog the other. Trust me...my wording may be funny but the back and forth between them is even funnier.

Aside from the back and forth bantering between the sexes, we also have a little girl to girl rivalry. The story delicately explores the intricate nature of the relationship between best friends, in this case girl friends. It reveals the unspoken competitions, the hurt feelings, and the overall sense of leaving one another behind that can (and sadly does) happen as we grow up. Is it all preventable? To some degree...and that's where the tale is reassuring for those that are going through that pothole riddled road in their own lives (or have little ones that are headed that way). Don't let the lessons fool you though, there is plenty of fun to be had between the pages and the life cycle of the frogs, I mean boys....is just the beginning.

In conclusion, another great read to grow with from an author who has become a well recognized name in her chosen genre. Her stories feature relatable characters in realistic situations that make it easy to step right into, whether you be the target audience, or somewhere beyond. Boys turn against the girls in a battle of whitt's to see who can out frog the other. Trust me...my wording may be funny but the back and forth between them is even funnier.

review copy received in exchange for my honest review...full post can be seen on my site

Sandra Stiles says

I received a copy to facilitate my review. The opinions expressed here are my own.

Finley and Maya are best friends and eighth graders. Like most middle school kids they are trying to figure out the opposite sex. They have made a scientific study out of it. They have created a "guide" called "The Amphibian Life Cycle". They have compared boys to frogs. Yes you heard me right. First they have the Tadpoles. Those are the things that don't quite resemble frogs, yet you know that they are on their way to becoming frogs. For middle school boys it means they are trying hard to turn into the boys you will one day find as mature beings in high school, yet they have too much immaturity to be their yet. Next they have the Croakers. These are the boys whose voice has begun to change and they are at a point where they can talk to or attempt to talk to girls, even if what they say is stupid. Then you have the Frogs. These are the boys who seem to have matured. They can carry on an intelligent conversation. Finley doesn't seem to realize that it isn't just boys who go through this transformation, but kids in general. I know, I've been a parent and I'm a

middle school teacher. We get some kids into our sixth grade classes that you know are going to be tadpoles most of middle school. You pray that they will be able to become at least Croakers by eighth grade. Then you have the scary kids who come as frogs. I say scary because they come already acting like little adults. This can be good or bad based on how far ahead their frog mentality is.

When Zachary Mattison, previously known as Freakazoid returns after being gone for several months he has gone from tadpole to definite frog. This befuddles both Maya and Finley. When "The Amphibian Life Cycle" becomes public knowledge then a war breaks out. Friendships are tried and tested. You see what bullying can look like to one person and how it can be viewed differently by another.

Did I enjoy this book? Oh yes! I want to read this to my class. It is definitely worth at least doing a book talk and starting a conversation in class. This is one I foresee getting more copies of. I will also be purchasing "Trauma Queen" by Barbara Dee. If it is as good as this one I won't be able to keep it on my shelves. I am going to recommend this to all of my fellow teachers, parents and to middle school teachers everywhere.

Nicole M. says

This book is about a girl named Finley. She is in 8th grade. She and her best friend Maya are best friends till the end. They both came up with a way to rate their boys in middle school. They call it the Life Cycle. Tadpole, Croaker and Frog. The Tadpoles were the immature boys that just never really did anything well. Croakers were the slightly mature but shy type. And the Frogs were the completely mature and kind boys. It goes well but everything turns around when the Life Cycle goes into the wrong hands an entire war from the boys and girls happens. And this is something no one was expecting.

I really enjoyed this book. I would recommend it to anyone who likes a good interesting book to read.

Katie Fitzgerald says

Eighth grader Finley keeps a chart in the back of her science notebook, where she tracks boy behavior in terms of the life cycle of a frog. Boys who are utterly immature and whose voices haven't changed yet are Tadpoles, while Frogs are the most evolved - and most desirable - boys in school. When Zachary Mattison, a former student who left school after some personal problems in seventh grade, moves back to town, Finley has a hard time figuring out where he belongs on her chart. When the chart accidentally goes public, she has an even harder time dealing with the battle of the sexes that erupts.

Though there are appealing elements to this story - the former student returning to school with a new look, the implications of private information being shared, and Finley's mother's career as a mommy blogger - most of it falls flat. Using science to explain boys has been a recurring theme in middle grade novels over the past couple of years, and this book does nothing to expand upon what has already been done. The author tries to make Zachary a mysterious and intriguing character, but the suspense surrounding him never really pays off. In general, the characters are all fairly flat; not even Finley has much of a personality beyond her science chart and the fact that she isn't sure how to interact with boys.

Aladdin Mix books are very much hit or miss. While *At Your Service*, *30 Days of No Gossip*, and *Best Friends... Until Someone Better Comes Along* were all hits this past year, *The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys* is an unfortunate miss.

Arabella says

AMAZING! really helped what with me bieng a middle schooler...

Ms. Yingling says

Finley and her friend have categorized boys into tadpoles, croakers and frogs, based on their evolution from elementary, fart-obsessed kids to fully evolved humans capable of being boyfriends. Since middle school is a maturing process, some of the boys change in interesting ways. Such is the case with Zachary (aka Freakazoid) who was annoying in elementary school, moved away, and came back... sorta cute. Combine this ever changing scenery with problems in school that include an evil Spanish teacher, problems with Maya, annoying younger siblings and a mother who cares more about them than Finley, and it's easy to understand Finley's general discomfort. When her notebook is discovered and Maya turns against her, Finley must figure out how to salvage her reputation as well as her growing relationship with Zachary.

Strengths: Ah, personal identity. This is truly THE middle grade drama, not bullying or class elections or dances. Even with all of the digital technology out there, plenty of paper notes and notebooks are kept by students, and trying to figure out how everyone else fits into the world is a rather strong preoccupation. Dee captures this well, with all the squirmily embarrassing details in which middle grade readers revel as well as a nice, light romance.

Weaknesses: Boys are divided into categories of weasels and beagles, not frogs. Oh, wait. That was me and my friends. In college. No, this was perfectly spot on, except that even though I talk to middle grade boys at length every day, I've never really noticed the voice change problem.

Carole says

3.5/5

<http://my-bo0ks.over-blog.com/2016/10...>

Je remercie Babelio pour m'avoir permis de découvrir Les garçons (du collège) ne sont pas (tous) des crapauds de Barbara Dee.

Un titre accrocheur, un résumé drôle et sans prise de tête, il ne m'en fallait pas plus pour avoir envie de découvrir cette histoire.

Nous y suivons Finley (et Maya, sa meilleure amie), collégiennes qui classent les garçons en trois catégories. Les têtards, les crapauds et enfin les grenouilles. Pourtant, le retour de Zach, absent pendant 1 an, va bouleverser leurs théories. Pendant cette absence, il est passé du têtard au prince charmant.

Les garçons (du collège) ne sont pas (tous) des crapauds est une lecture vraiment légère. Certes, jeunesse, mais on passe un très bon moment en compagnie de Finley, Maya et toute la bande. En fait, on s'attache facilement à elle et à sa logique imparable concernant les garçons de son collège. L'amitié, les clichés et surnoms débiles du collège sont de rigueur et nous ramènent facilement à cette époque avec une pointe d'humour.

La plume de l'auteur est fluide et on ne s'ennuie pas une minute. Les pages défilent assez facilement d'autant plus que le roman n'est pas très long.

Au fil des pages, on voit grandir Finley et surtout murir tout en faisant la découverte de la transformation de Zach. On en ressort satisfait, avec une belle morale.

Cerise Heartfilia says

I love the book . It is a middle school book, but I really don't mind I like these stuff. I think it is a great story and a well written book. It was very pleasant to read. The story really catch me up , I was constantly wondering "what is going to happen now" . ??????????????

Rebecca G. says

To define this book as perfectly and powerfully written would be the correct word to use. Also, to say this was a book that showed that misunderstandings may lead to your own realization would be correct. This is the kind of book that has you flipping pages all night because of each chapter's small and suddel cliffhanger. This is reading about the life of Finley Davis who observes boys' behavior and charts it using frogs as the comparison. This soon causes a misunderstanding for the whole class. My favorite character had to be the main character,Finley, because she kept her cool when she was bullied at school and is definitely more daring than I am. If you are looking for a book just to be filled happiness, I recommend this book. This was a truly five star book that had me at the edge of my chair, and I hope my classmates enjoy this book.

Cindy Hudson says

Finley and her best friend Maya thought it would be a cute idea to categorize the boys in their middle-school classroom according to how they behaved. Tadpoles were boys who still acted immature for their age, croakers were showing signs of maturity, and frogs were fully-developed, able to talk to girls without their voices breaking or making some insensitive remark. But things get confusing for Finley when Maya doesn't seem to be interested in the list anymore and a boy she thought was kicked out of school the year before returns. In Finley's opinion, Zachary jumped from tadpole to frog in the time he was gone. But when Finley's list goes public, war breaks out between the boys and the girls. Finley will have to get creative to bring peace back to her school.

The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys by Barbara Dee does a good job capturing the confusing time that is middle school. Boys and girls who used to play together in elementary school suddenly find that the rules have changed as they become interested in each other in a whole new way. But it's confusing to both sexes. They are likely to wonder how to act around each other.

The boys are understandably outraged at being categorized just for being who they are. The girls wouldn't like it if they were treated the same way. On top of that, a mean girl just wants to stir up trouble. Finley and Maya go through some difficult times in their friendship before realizing what's most important to them. It all makes for an interesting look at relationship dynamics among 12 and 13 year olds. I recommend The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys for readers aged 9 to 12.

The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Jennifer Gallman says

Middle school is perhaps the most awkward set of years in a person's lifetime. For girls, this is the age where boys are either still gross or becoming attractive. For Finley and Maya, boys are categorized three ways at Fulton Middle School: Croakers, Tadpoles, and Frogs.

Finley and Maya have created the ultimate, and almost perfect, guide to boys. Croakers are boys whose voices are in the midst of changing, thus they "croak" when they say certain words. Tadpoles are the immature boys who prefer to act silly at every moment. Finally, Frogs are mature boys who can carry on a conversation with you and make eye contact. They are the epitome of the Amphibian Life Cycle.

Finley is outside retaking a yearbook photo of Maya when she notices a possible "Frog" in the distance. Spying with her lens, she suddenly realizes she has been seen, and she quickly begins talking to Maya as the boy calls Finley's name. Confused, Finley asks if she knows the boy, and he tells her that he's Zachary Mattinson, the "Freakazoid" from seventh grade who disappeared halfway through the year. With Zachary's reappearance, Finley's almost perfect guide quickly becomes imperfect.

With authentic middle school voices, Barbara Dee presents middle school social life with humorous accuracy. Being a middle school student isn't easy, and Dee brings the drama of boys vs. girls and the challenges of curriculum (Finley and Maya's Spanish class) to life.

A middle grades reappropriation Mean Girls.

See my blog at reviewscomingatya.blogspot.com.

Gisbelle says

My thanks to *Aladdin* & Edelweiss

Point of View: Single (Finley)

Writing: First Person | Past Tense

Setting: Georgia

Genre: Middle Grade | Realistic Fiction

It was a cute and fluffy read for me. However, I didn't like the fact that these little girls were too crazy about boys. The way they analyzed those kids showing that they were a little shallow themselves. It was fun and all, just it didn't make me love the book much.

The pace was a little slow that it took a while for something remotely interesting to finally happen.

Charlie says

I expected more from this book, but found the story and characters sadly lacking. Yes, the book is about Finley's character development, which was good to see, but the pace of the story itself was lacking, the characters around Finley largely underdeveloped.

Susie Honsinger says

Review by 11-year-old here:

This book was hard to part with after i finished it- I just wanted to read more! It was well balanced with Family, Friends, School (blergh), Boys, and General Awesomeness! Finley is so real- so many troubles, NOT ENOUGH TIME! Her mom seems preoccupied with the Terrible Two, Maya is becoming distant, and, weirdest of all, Freakazoid, who left last year, is BACK. And a fully fledged Frog. That's all I'm telling you, so just read it yourself! (Helpful Hint- Wear gloves while reading this book- FLYPAPER ALERT!)

Jenna says

I received The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Finley and her best friend Maya have a whole system worked out to categorize the boys in their middle school as tadpoles, croakers, and frogs, with frogs being the most evolved and, therefore, the most worthy boys. At least they're able to talk to girls. The Life Cycle of Amphibian Boys is pretty complex and it's interesting to think about, but in the end, all left me thinking about was how immature Finley and Maya were to develop it in the first place. I'm not sure they would be tadpole-level, but maybe lower-croaker.

Maya's ready to move on from the Life Cycle anyway; Finley's doing most of the work at this point. It's her crutch, something she feels a need to hold onto even after she realizes that Maya hasn't contributed in awhile, and especially as she and Maya start having problems. At the same time, Zachary, who used to be known as Freakazoid before he moved away (definite tadpole!), is back in town and had suddenly become a frog. His eyes are almost purple! Naturally, Finley and Maya both like him, as do all the other girls, but it's Finley and Zachary that develop a friendship. He remembers that she was kind to him when he was known as Freakazoid and now that Finley's spending less time with Maya, she needs a friend as much as he does.

I was impressed by the way Maya stands up for Finley when Finley leaves the Life Cycle notebook unattended and some mean girls read it out loud to the whole class. Maya had been kind of mean to Finley earlier, but she comes through when it counts. Maya and Finley aren't speaking at the time and no one knows Maya contributed to the Life Cycle, so she could have kept quiet about it. Instead, Maya defends Finley and owns up to her part in it. Unfortunately, it doesn't help that much and Finley's pretty much ostracized for awhile.

Although Finley eventually learns some valuable lessons about friendship and growing up, The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys moves a little slowly. The parts about Finley's home life could have been more interesting. Her mother is a mommy blogger raising toddler twins in addition to Finley, and Finley feels like her mom, who worked outside the home when Finley was young, was less involved with her own childhood than she is with the twins. I'm not sure why that part of the book didn't work for me, but I found myself skimming and not caring very much about Finley's family angst.

The (Almost) Perfect Guide to Imperfect Boys isn't a bad book, but it doesn't quite live up to my

expectations for it.
