



Runaway

Meg Cabot

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EM WATTS IS ON THE RUN

She's on the run from school, from work, from her family, from her friends, from herself.

With everyone she loves furious with her for something she can't explain, and nothing but the live Stark Angel fashion show on New Year's Eve to look forward to, Em's reached the end of her rope... what's the point of even going on?

But when she discovers the truth about Nikki's secret, she knows there's only one person she can turn to.

Will Christopher be able to put aside his personal feelings and help her expose her employer to the world? Is it even fair to get Christopher involved - since if he agrees, there's every chance that Stark Enterprises will try to have them both killed - this time, permanently?

MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO KEEP ON RUNNING

Runaway Details

Date : Published May 7th 2010 by Point

ISBN : 9780545040600

Author : Meg Cabot

Format : Hardcover 310 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review Runaway for online ebook

Sara says

*Emerson Watts had a body of a model Nikki Howard, but it seemed that the body her brain was in, was some sort of jinxed.
or maybe, it was because of Em's fault.
but Em wouldn't let people rule over her anymore, she would find a way to escape and runaway after everything cleaned up.
and cleaned up meant, bring down Stark Enterprises.*

what a very very quick reading book. very teenage-ish I read it only in two hours. but as fast-paced as it was, pretty cool full-packed in action, comedy, romance and fashion blended together!
one nice series to read.

Below here is the review. and SPOILER!!!

The characters.

one of the best thing about Meg Cabot was, she wrote so many books. and that meant, her writing style, her characterization, were much improved. in this series, the characters were all cute, lovable, and very *alive* . that's how much I loved them.

Emerson Watts. not many people like a girl like her I guessed, she was too impulsive and took her pride very high above anything, but did I hate her? HELL NO! for me, she was ONE OF THE BEST MAIN CHARACTER in Meg Cabot's books. just as cool as Susannah Simon but in different world.

Suze, was a fighter in boots with spikes, and axes in her bags. while Em fought in high heels, bikinis, and of course, her straight A's brain.

Christopher stated that Em was too loose, even after Nikki tried to brained her every moment they met. but I thought, it was one of the best thing about Em. she was very independent and sometimes, thought too highly of herself she didn't even try to ask anyone's help. but how could she anyway, asked for help? it wasn't like anyone could help her. she was always fight on her own, since her mother always taught her so, even though she made so many mistakes, after all she would try to clean up the mess she made. plus, she was brave. very, very brave girl.

and the part she blown up Brandon's new car? that's so cool I wanted to clap!

for someone who was on the edge of everything, the part she could turn everything to be her weapon mercilessly, she was just as dangerous as anyone could be.

that's a note for Robert Stark: Don't ever try to mess with Emerson Watts's brain.

Christopher Maloney. I guess he had been a little annoying at first, but I didn't take any of it on mind since he's always be one of the BEST MALE. not just in Meg Cabot's books, but in many young-adult books. if you wanted to compare him with... maybe even Jesse de Silva from Mediator by Meg Cabot? Jesse was totally blown up. and I assure you, I'm a fan of Jesse. or maybe, it was just because I liked bad boys more in fictions.

I could understand why he was mad at Em, he was just trying to help her but Em was always been too reckless and independent to ask for his help. and that made him frustated, how could he help someone who didn't even trust him?

well, he wasn't as mature as Em, but still he was just 17th year old guy. and normal. and not someone whose brain was put in someone else's body.

Brandon Stark. it was weird enough to see a villain this idiot, but since he was an airhead, the kind of popular jock who liked to bully, just... well.

like everyone who reads this book, at first I hated him. and always, thought of him as an idiot (which didn't improved till the end). and then, we knew like any other jocks, he was a scaredy-cat and we liked him more. and at the end, we saw how much useless this guy to like and wondered how could a jock like this being the head of Stark Enterprise.

I was thinking that Stark Enterprise was going to fall.
but with Felix and Christopher? maybe not fell so down.

Nikki Howard. he was just like Brandon Stark. idiot, airheaded, popular kids who liked to bully. and whiny creature I wondered how could she have a brother like Steven.

but as evil as she was, she was getting better. though still, I didn't care what Em said about 'high self-esteem' or whatever. I didn't like her.

it just made me think that maybe boys like a girl this whiny.

Frida Watts. at first, I was sceptical, thinking she had another evil plans behind saving her sister. since she had been the main person I wanted to smack since the beginning of this series. but here, in Runaway, she acted much better I was thinking maybe some aliens kidnapped her and replaced with different person. but it was nice, though still felt weird. maybe the thing of her sister's brain transplanted beginning to made some sense in her mind.

still, how could she fell in love with Felix? we didn't know anything about that! it was just... buzz! dang!
Felix and Frida.
whatever.

Lulu Collins. cute girl, nice, even if she was an airhead, she was still one of my favorite. because she was true with herself and pretty loyal. she was a nice side character, seriously.

Stephen Howard. the part he was being with Lulu was so predictable but lovely too, seriously. I really wanted a brother like him, though Em wasn't his real sister, he treated Em even better than his real one. maybe because Em was much less whiny than Nikki. I understand that much.

Gabriel Luna. poor guy, he didn't know anything and then bunch of strangers bumped into his house. still, I appreciated how he could handle it well.

though it was weird, I liked Gabriel-Nikki couple. maybe Gabriel was too good for a ~~bitch~~, but they were a cute couple it was funny to see.

Robert Stark. he was evil, but smart too. I didn't understand why he had such an idiotic son.

still, we saw how much similar they were, they underestimated people much. he didn't know, that Em wasn't an airhead he could push around. he had to learn to be not so prideful.

The story

whoa, so much to tell!

this book, I thought have one of the nicest ending in young-adult series. maybe it was too happily-ever-after, but we didn't left being confused and everything was set at the right place. because every problems were answered very clearly. there were no gaps we wanted to smack. it was like everything was real, and I loved it.

okay, happily-ever-after part was a little... you know, sad. but hey, this is an young-adult book. what are you expecting anyway? plus, it was the best clear ending to made. though, of course. the I had never been an epilog's fan. that's why I tried to not roll my eyes much, when read it.

but, the romance part? I thought that was too much. I could roll my eyes back and forth when Em and Christopher arguing over and over again. I thought they were too hot-headed to be together, but maybe that was just because they were being pushed to the edge. I mean, they were bestfriends back then, and they were fine. it was just because all the problems in the air.

well, this is just a great as Mediator series, or maybe, even better (since I love the fashion part and Mediator has too much books). I hoped Abandon would be as good as this series.

Kristi says

Meg Cabot is awesome. Just plain ole' freaggin' awesome. She can do no wrong in my eyes!

Runaway was a fantastic ending to this series. The secret behind the Stark Enterprises, is so simple, it's brilliant! I couldn't believe that I didn't figure it out sooner!

If you've never read Meg Cabot before, I highly recommend that you check her out! If you like something entertaining, funny and not all that serious, anything written by her would be up your alley.

As I said above this was a really great ending to the series. It wrapped everything up nicely which I so appreciated. I hate when a series ends and it leaves so many plot points open, the Nikki Howard series is not like that.

The characters seemed a little flat this time around, but I think it might have been because we have been introduced to these characters through the two previous books..... so perhaps there was a little less emphasis on character development.

The writing is the classic Meg Cabot style, it is utterly addicting, honestly when I start reading a Meg Cabot book I cannot put it down! Runaway was no different.

I'm ready for more!

I apologize that this review is absolutely horrible, but it was just fantastic! Read it!

Rambling Reviews says

Meg Cabot is, for me, a guilty pleasure. Pure chick-lit escapism, I read her books when I really just don't want to have to think much. So I'm not against her books in general. I just really did NOT enjoy this series.

It felt like there wasn't actually too much story, so Ms Cabot had to do some SERIOUS filling in.

I just couldn't stand the constant references to actually being dead. Like, 'Oh I could totally go and do that. If I wasn't dead already, that is.' EVERY TIME there was even the slightest opportunity to mention it. Along with the constant referencing to events that had just happened, it got exasperating, then old, then I just didn't want to read the book any more and to be perfectly honest, I pretty much skipped through the last half of this book.

To like a book it's kind of essential you like the main characters. And apart from Lulu (who was only occasionally annoying) there really weren't any I sympathised with, cared about, or enjoyed reading. Most of them just seemed confused and did things without any reason or explanation...

My main problem was with Em. She was unintelligent, poorly spoken, selfish and irritating for a supposedly smart person. She whinged and whined and only occasionally actually kicked butt - verbally or physically. She treated Christopher terribly, (although he wasn't much better, they both acted like a pair of five year olds), she treated her family terribly, and on the whole made me slap some sense into her.

I generally feel, with Meg Cabot characters, that if I met them in real life, I'd be friends with them. If I met any of these characters in real life, ESPECIALLY Em Watts (whose very NAME just annoys me) I would probably just like to punch her.

spacnaiads says

Airhead is really fun. I love how it has this dark premise with brain transplants and an evil MNC but tonally it's... Meg Cabot. The strength of the series is how readable and enjoyable it is, but its weakness is its mixed messages.

Thematically *Airhead* is about the destructive power of MNC's on America and the environment, but the main company Cabot uses as the antithesis to cheap mass-produced goods is... Apple. Like, yes, a Macbook Air is in a different price bracket than a Stark Quark, but both are still Fortune 500 companies relying on cheap overseas labour before selling goods for vastly inflated values? What?

Not to get started on the straw feminist mum/the makeover thing. Putting on lipstick is Still Not Feminism. I think the message Cabot was going for was "looks don't matter", but it ended up being somewhere in the valley of "it's important to do whatever you can to your vile ugly face to make it respectable enough to show in public!"

Finally, Christopher was rubbish? Had no redeeming qualities? He spends the whole book acting like Em owes him something when she owes him nothing. I at least expected him to have to apologise for his appalling behaviour before the inevitable ending, but apparently not. What a dick. Em could do so much better than him oh my god.

But I mean, listen: I really, really, genuinely did enjoy this read. Like, I've read the Princess Diaries 10 at least twice now, and I'm going to read it again this year, because I genuinely love it, but through my love I can recognise that the moral of that book kind of ended up as "you should just sleep with your teenage boyfriend when he wants". So in summary: *Airhead* was fun but don't look too closely.

Cyndi says

The story kicks up in this book. There are planned murders, blackmail, and romance. Just as our heroine learns the ins and outs to her new life, things shift again. Great story with wonderful characters.

Kitty says

Unfortunately, I read this book before I read the second book of this series - "Being Nikki". I finished

"Airhead" and was dying to read "Being Nikki" and "Runaway", but the person who borrowed "Being Nikki" has not returned it yet, so I borrowed "Runaway". To my dismay, I couldn't help myself from taking a peek at this book, and then obviously not being able to tear myself from it. I only stopped once I reached the end, and unfortunately, it was a loose ending, but it was also very sweet.

This book was a little confusing since I haven't read "Being Nikki" yet, but I did understand it a bit more when I did the worst thing ever, go on wikipedia and read the entire plot summary. I then knew exactly what would happen, but I will definitely still read the book. This is only a trilogy, so there's only three books. I would really love to keep reading about Em/Nikki's life, but for some reason, I think I've sort of read enough!! But of course if Meg Cabot miraculously decides to extend the trilogy to a ten book series, I would jump at a chance to get my hands on those book!

Kayla says

(Spoiler Warning! Do not read unless you have read the previous Airhead novels).

Well things aren't looking good for Emerson Watts. Not only has she been kidnapped by Brandon Stark, but she's also been forced to break the heart of Christopher (the one boy she loves). All so she can keep the real Nikki Howard safe. For those of your reading who haven't read the Airhead series Emerson's body was destroyed and her brain was transplanted into Stark supermodel, Nikki Howard's. Emerson was forced into Nikki's life just to discover everything was not what it seems. She and her family were informed Nikki was brain dead when Emerson's brain was put in—that wasn't the case. Nikki was murdered by Robert Stark to keep her quiet because she was trying to blackmail him. But the real Nikki Howard is alive and kicking in a new body.

Now Emerson must get Nikki to share the secret worth being killed over. Nikki's willing to give up that information—but only if she gets her real body back. Things don't get easy for Em who now is dealing with problems with her parents, her own broken heart, keeping Nikki and her family safe, all the awhile dealing with Brandon.

With the help of her sister and Lulu Em gains the upper hand. And soon enough, with the help of Christopher and his cousin Felix, Em has a lead on the secret that got Nikki killed (well kind of killed). Now they need to fit the pieces together and expose Robert Stark. But it's a fight against the clock, if Robert Stark got away with murdering Nikki Howard once he can surely do it again. Not to mention Em (well Nikki) is set to walk the runway at the Stark Angels New Years Eve show in the million dollar bra—something Em's feminist mother does not approve of.

Runaway is filled with action, suspense and some all around hilarious dialog. While Christopher's supervillian/superhero mood swings get old, Em begins to understand why he is that way. With this being the third and final book in the series, readers can be assured they'll receive closer and not a cliffhanger. All around Runaway leaves you with a happy ending for all. But at the same time, leaves you wanting one more book (or even mini book) of life after controversy for Em and Nikki. Perhaps maybe even a spin off book about the adventures of Nikki pre and post "death".

Book Rating 8.5/10

Steph Su says

At long last comes the final book in the AIRHEAD trilogy, and it closes this series with a satisfactory bang. Everything you love about Meg Cabot is here—the voice, the boys, the romance, the misunderstandings—and the ending is clever without being seeming overly plotted, shocking yet unforced.

As is typical of Meg Cabot's books, everything is wrapped up nicely without overexcessive drama and writing. Em's down-to-earth attitude paired with Cabot's usual "teen girl" voice—y'know, the tangents? the silly yet sweet assumptions and misunderstandings?—provides for a great narrator. As this is the last of a trilogy, I have to say that the ending was good, if not, perhaps, worth getting through two books of mostly drivel to get to this point. It's shocking, it's smart, and it's totally plausible within the realm of Em's world.

The biggest problem that remains with me after reading this trilogy is that this could've easily been a one-book storyline, and RUNAWAY does give the impression that Cabot intentionally stretched it into a trilogy for financial reasons. Still, fans of the AIRHEAD series will love the way the plot develops throughout the course of these three books. If you've made it through BEING NIKKI, then you should definitely read RUNAWAY: it'll satisfy all your questions and leave you content.

Parvathy says

It's official I can't give more than three star rating to this series but I have got to say this series gets more interesting with each book. "Runaway" is the best book in the series not just because the series ends with this book but because it lacks all those redundant narratives that rendered the previous books less enjoyable. The story is fast paced and the characters less annoying although I can't say the same for Christopher because he is by far one of the most annoying characters that I have ever encountered and sorry to say he still holds the title. I was very impressed with how all the loose ends were tied together to give a satisfactory finish. Although towards the middle you kind of get what the story leads to before the characters in the story and it all becomes predictable after that but still you never once feel like putting down the book. I still maintain my view that the main protagonist is hypocritical and her hypocrisy is more illustrated in this book. Nevertheless I think this book is worth a one time read.

Rebekah says

The book actually rather annoyed me. There is a lot of content I would classify as filler and it got tedious to read. For example:

Every time Em mentions her clothes while locked in Brandon's house, she has to refer back to how Brandon bought out a whole boutique of her size. EVERYTIME! So when Em brings up her clothes ten times in the first fifty pages, I get tired of the references. Because I've already read how she got the clothes, I don't need to be reminded EVERY TIME SHE MENTIONS THEM. I really don't.

And then she and Christopher get into an argument and everytime she mentions him after this argument she must tell us that he is now her ex-boyfriend because of this argument. I KNOW ABOUT THE ARGUMENT! I read it the first time. I do not need to be reminded again, and again, and AGAIN.

This repetition happened A LOT. And it really got on my nerves. I realize that Cabot probably chose every

word very carefully, but to me there really wasn't enough plot to fill in the pages. So filler was used. And it made the plot drag.

A happy ending to the series.

Aly says

Good conclusion! I liked this much better than book 2. This is like the Original Get Out haha. Em, Lulu, Nikki, and Frida were total badasses and I loved it! Meg Cabot is so great about writing strong female characters who can save the day, it makes me so happy. This book was a quick read; the plot moved quickly and there was a lot going on to keep my interest. I'm glad everyone paired up and got their happy ending. The concept is pretty cool and I wonder how long until scientists and doctors can do an actual brain transplant? Maybe they already can... dun dun dun!

Fashiongirlgoldberg says

I really want to read this book! I also want to be the first to review it, so here it is. Runaway is the third book in the airhead series. I still haven't read the second yet unfortunately, but I heard it was better than the first book(which I enjoyed). Now if this is better than the second book, which was better than the first, then I'll probably rate it four stars. Hence my rating :D So anyway I was wondering, in the second book does she tell Christopher or does he figure out that she's really Emerson Watts(which I think is a way better name than Nikki Howard)? Well OK that's that. My review of a book which sadly enough I have not read yet and doesn't come out for a year. The end.

Myra Sullivan says

Being stuck in the body of a supermodel might sound like a dream come true for some girls, but for Emerson Watts, it's turning into a complete nightmare...

I was so hooked on this series that I finished book two, put it back on my shelf, and picked up book three. And kept reading. I didn't even bother changing my status on Goodreads. THAT'S how much I was in love with the story and HAD to keep reading. Oh my god.

I have to buy book one now. In hardcover. And then hunt down Meg Cabot and have her sign it and maybe beg her to bestow upon me some of her brilliance.

THIS WAS SO AMAZING!

I was (and still am actually) in a state of complete depression because this series is over. I LOVED it. Except I'm also ridiculously happy and on cloud nine and squealing every so often. Because it was just so perfect. And it was so funny. And the characters were SO wonderful! I cared about every single one! I can't believe I won't be reading about them anymore!! :(

This constant back-and-forth of being insanely happy and insanely depressed is pretty exhausting. But this is

a MUST-READ for everybody. The book has adventure, romance, a tonnnnn of comedy, and a fantastic conclusion that'll send you over the moon. What's most important of all is the message it sends. I loved it. And it was all wrapped up in the most awesome story.

Oh god, I'm getting depressed again. BUT IT WAS SO AWESOME!!! One of my top ten favorite books of all time (well, series I guess, since I loved them all). And it's not the only Meg Cabot book to make that list. ;)

Go and read it. GO. NOW.

Danielle Paz says

Uma das piores coisas que já li na minha vida. Obrigada, Ana Carolina.

Laura Martinelli says

I was really hoping for the series to redeem itself in this book, but unfortunately, that wasn't the case. There was a lot of potential in this series, which got promptly wasted.

The big problem I keep coming back to is the characterization. It's definitely the weakest part in the series, and it shows. Em doesn't grow at all in three books; by the end, she's still dismissive of pretty famous people. Also, for someone who stresses about her intelligence and goes on about how smart she is, Em's kind of dumb. Everything important about Stark or the operation, someone has to spell it out for Em before she realizes the truth. I think the only thing she figures out on her own is the spyware on her computer in the first book. For example, when she and Christopher discover Project Phoenix, they both can't figure out what the name means. I can understand being confused with the city, but then they have to look up alternate meanings of phoenix, and they still can't figure it out. It's not until Em goes to the shareholders' auction that she finally figures out "phoenix = rebirth." (And even then, she doesn't make the symbolic connection.) Not to mention, I cried bullshit when Em said she didn't really know what a phoenix is. She plays a fantasy MMO, *how the hell has she never heard of a phoenix*. (Again, if you're going to call someone a geek, make them a geek! /tangent) She doesn't even realize Brandon's motives for keeping her and Nikki under lock and key; Em even buys into Brandon's excuse of "Oh, sure, we'll get you a surgeon to switch brains back." It would have been more believable if Em was book smart but really horrible with people, but this is never a part of her character.

There's no foreshadowing to any of the revelations. We find out why Em's mom was so against superficiality and a straw feminist- it's because her mother stopped telling her that she was pretty! Aside from being a bullshit Freudian excuse, there's no lead-up to it. Em's parents only show up once a book, and after their appearance in the first book, they only exist to harp on her for neglecting her schoolwork. Our villain, Robert Stark, isn't menacing or even feels like a threat- he shows up once a book and leaves. The reveal about Project Phoenix auctioning off college students to do brain implants doesn't feel as earth-shattering or has any impact on the plot. Nikki could have had a great character arc about getting over her vanity and accepting her new body, but apparently, all Lulu has to do is make Nikki over into a Goth and suddenly everyone thinks she's hot again. *headdesk*

And the plotting is just bad. The worst part is when Em sneaks into the Project Phoenix auction and secretly films it on her phone. Stark catches her and smashes it. While it's not a great plot twist, it still would have put an element of mystery to the plot- how they going to prove what's going? Can they still bring down Stark? But instead, Em goes to Lulu, calls Christopher, and reveals...that Stark broke her iPhone, but she filmed the meeting on her *Stark* phone. BAD WRITING 101. SHOW DON'T TELL. It doesn't help that ten pages later, Em repeats this information to Stark. There's a decent plot gun here that doesn't get used, and the whole conversation with Christopher should have honestly been cut in the editing stages.

For a series about superficiality and accepting who you are, none of the characters ever seem to get this point. Everyone (except for the bad guys, of course) ends up happy, paired off and pretty. Em's still a model, but now she can tell people who she really is and is justified being a bitchy to the popular girls.

Which...really? This is the happy ending? It's almost like an aborted prequel to the *Uglies* series, where everyone in the country is obsessed with looking pretty, but have to be reminded that "People shouldn't be judged by their looks!" But they still want to be pretty instead of just normal. It's even the bad guys' motivation- well, Stark's is just money, but all of the shareholders are willing to kill off attractive coeds just to look pretty and young again. I feel like there's supposed to be a commentary on how we as a culture view attractiveness, but it fails so hard by making all of the main characters superficially attractive and keeping them that way at end. (I know I keep harping on about this series, but seriously- *Uglies*. Read it.)

There's some good points to the series, and the plot could have been decent. But Cabot drops the ball on the interesting plot threads, and the conflict never feels as big or as important as the characters make it out to be. (Not that I'm condoning the murder of attractive coeds, but you get my point.) It also feels like the books were set up to be a trilogy just for the sake of being a trilogy, and would have really worked better as just one volume. And I think I've gone on enough about how bad the characterization is.

I've mentioned in another review that I know that Meg Cabot can write good, well-plotted books, but sometimes it feels like she just writes something for the sake of publishing it and as whole, this is what the *Airhead* series feels like to me. There's just too much wasted potential here, and it really disappointed me.
