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Valerie Winslow never thought life in the tiny country of Schwerinborg could be so great. But then she never thought she would be dating the prince of Schwerinborg either! Georg, a "real" prince, is also her first "real" boyfriend.

And then everything falls apart. Georg's decided they need to cool off for a while and her dad's sending her back to Virginia to visit her mom.

Valerie's bummed -- until she decides to go out with her old crush, David Anderson. David may not be a prince, but maybe he'll take her mind off of Georg -- or will he?

Spin Control Details

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From Reader Review Spin Control for online ebook

Karen Keyte says

“Yep. I, Valerie Winslow, a totally boring, non-cheerleader, non-athletic, non-popular sophomore redheaded nobody from Vienna, Virginia, have officially hooked up with an European prince. A prince who knows how to kiss in the most knock-me-on-my-ass way, and who is formal and polite and looks beyond hot in a tux, but who also knows how to kick back and be cool and totally un-prince-like when we’re alone, if you catch my drift.” - Val Winslow

After one fabulous date and a wonderful weekend, Valerie Winslow is totally blissed out over her brand new relationship with Prince Georg of Schwerinborg. When her mom came out of the closet and asked her dad for a divorce six weeks ago, Val didn’t opt to come to Europe with her dad because she thought she’d find Prince Charming. Nope, it was more that she didn’t want to stay in Virginia and deal with the weirdness that is her mother with a girlfriend. Well whatever, because she’s found romance anyway. And her bliss is sure to last all the way to ... Monday?

Everything comes crashing down when the Schwerinborgian press gets a hold of the wrong end of a rumor and decides to run an article - a front page, screaming headlines article, no less - implying that Val might be a corrupting influence on their beloved Crown Prince. As if! Now Val’s dad, in his capacity as protocol advisor to Georg’s parents, is telling Val that she and Georg will have to be much more discreet in the future. Well, it looks like that won’t be a problem because Georg has just told her (on the phone, if you can believe it) that he thinks they need to ‘cool it.’

While Val is agonizing over how, exactly, Georg might define ‘cool it,’ her father informs her that he’s sending her back to Virginia to spend the week of winter break with her mother. On the one hand, Val will have to finally face the fact that her mother is a lesbian. On the other hand, Val figures she can spend some quality time with her three best friends, Christy, Nat and Jules. There’s also the enigma of David Anderson, who Val had a crush on for like, ten years (seriously, ever since they took care of the class rabbit together in kindergarten), and who finally decided he was interested in her just before she left for Schwerinborg. Maybe cooling it with Georg will give her the chance to heat things up with David, just like she’s always dreamed.?

Niki Burnham’s three stories about Valerie Winslow (Royally Jacked, Spin Control and Do-Over) are some of the best examples of why Simon’s Romantic Comedies line for teens was so popular. These stories may be light and funny (at least most of the time) but they are also incredibly well-written, Val is an engaging heroine - smart, slightly geeky and witty - who reacts to the gigantic changes in her life about as well as you might expect. There’s some resentment, some subterfuge and some tears, but Val also knows how to see the humor that’s so often right in front of her. Spin Control is a quick read, but it manages to deal intelligently with a couple of significant issues while still maintaining it’s quirky humor.

°??.:.*?Arianna°??.:.*? says

This book was kind of interesting with the drama of her dating a prince and all of the other problems that come with it, but the book got boring around the time she goes to visit her mom and friends. As I read further, I got even more bored with the emails and the date between David and Valerie. I'm only going to continue this to find out if there is anymore drama between Valerie and the mean girl at her school, and to find out what will happen between Georg and Valerie.

Jenna says

3.5 STARS

Katerina says

Plot Line: Quite dreadful, really. Nothing much happened, except for the fact that she realized that she absolutely ADORES Georg. But really. It was extremely predictable.

Writing style: Predictable plot lines can often be balanced with amazing writing. But this book had neither.

Judge a book by its cover: In this case, yes. This book was dreadfully boring.

In summary: A nice, light read. But very meaningless, very thoughtless, and EXTREMELY chic lit. This is the kind of story you'd read as a last resort. There is a fine line between fun reads with light-hearted story lines and good writing and fun reads with poor writing and dull story lines. This is very much a last resort book.

Heather Adkins says

I read teh first book, Royally Jacked when I was still in high school. I think I had more of a hankering for books like this back then. Now I feel a little out of my depth, shallowly speaking. Are teenage girls really like this? Every conversation begins and ends with boys, and they're madly in love at fifteen years old. It's a cute story, with agreeable characters, but I suppose I expect more from a novel now that I've been reading more mature books. I've read young adult that has more substance than this. I recently read Goddess Games by the same author, and somewhat enjoyed it.

Katie Fitzgerald says

This is a review of both Spin Control and Do-Over.

In these last two books in the trilogy now compiled as Royally Crushed, Valerie continues to experience the ups and downs of her relationship with Prince Georg. In Spin Control, she believes she has been dumped, so when she heads home to Virginia for Winter Break, she goes on a date with David Anderson, only to discover that she loves Georg more than ever. In Do Over, she returns to Schwerinborg to reconcile with Georg, and to work on gaining confidence in his feelings for her, even if they can't always demonstrate their affections where the press can see. Before the end of the trilogy, Valerie also sees her dad start dating again, and finally finds a way to come clean with her friends about her mother's newly revealed homosexuality.

I know this trilogy is not the best-written in the world, but I really loved reading it. The ultimate outcome was fairly predictable, but the emails between Val and her friends in Virginia, and her awkward uncertainty around Georg, as well as the cattiness of the girls in her Schweringborgian school, all made for great

entertainment. I was distracted repeatedly by references to Heath Ledger, who has died since the publication of these books, but the Google books preview of the new edition shows that this problem has been corrected with several passing references to Ledger resting in peace. The only other thing that felt vaguely out of place was the fact that Val and her friends email rather than text or send Facebook messages, but I am sure there are teenagers out there somewhere for whom this is still the norm, so it doesn't ruin the books by any means.

All in all, these are light reads, even at their most serious moments, and they provide insight into all the drama of first relationships without ever becoming too weepy, or losing hope that the ending would be happy. The series was definitely worth finishing, and I'll be looking for more from Niki Burnham, starting with her latest book for teens, *Shot Through the Heart*.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Randstostipher "talnlankyrn" Nguyen for TeensReadToo.com

When we last left Valerie, she had moved to Schwerinborg with her father after her mother dropped the news that she was gay. After arriving, Valerie set her eyes on Georg, the royal family's very cute son. And in the end Valerie got the guy and is beginning to get used to her new life in Schwerinborg.

Valerie Winslow is back with a whole new set of problems. Turns out dating a future prince isn't the easiest thing in the world to do. What with all the cameras and reporters tracking your every move, and the tabloids hungry for some juicy inside news, it sure doesn't help when you are caught in the bathroom with the prince - and when a pack of cigarettes falls out from behind the toilet.

But when a newspaper takes the story a little too far, the entire royal family and their staff that handles public relations are trying to make things right. With all the pressure, though, Georg decides that he and Valerie need to "cool off" for awhile, but what exactly does "cool off" mean? Valerie's father thinks this is the perfect time for a visit with her mother, while things settle down in Schwerinborg.

Going back home shouldn't be so bad, what with getting to hang out with her friends and her mother. But it turns out that Valerie's "relationship" with Georg made headlines in Virginia, and now her friends all know what Valerie has been keeping from them. To make matters worse, Valerie still hasn't told them about her mother and her girlfriend.

Going back to Virginia does have its advantages when Valerie decides to go on a date with her longtime crush, David Anderson, who apparently has had his eye on her since she left. Will going out with David help Valerie decide if he is the right one for her? Or will it just make her miss Georg even more?

SPIN CONTROL is the perfect follow-up to the last novel, ROYALLY JACKED. The author makes Valerie stronger than ever, what with all the issues she has to deal with. Not only that, but SPIN CONTROL delves deeper into the issue of having a parent or any family member that is gay and helps us see it in a whole new light. This is another great read from Niki Burnham, who never seems to disappoint.

Cathy says

Dating a prince isn't as easy as one would think - especially when dealing with jealous school mates and the

press. Great book as Val and Georg try to be normal!

Geli says

Niki Burnham is now one of my favorite authors. She captured me with "Royally Jacked" and stole my heart with "Spin Control".

These books are just completely awesome! If you are into teen comedic romances, than you should totally be reading these books.

"Spin Control" picks up right where "Royally Jacked" left off. In this one the main character Valerie has to go back to the States, after living in a German palace for a month, because of a little media problem shes having with her new bf. But home doesnt get any better. There are several issues she has to face with her friends and her mom, who just came out the closet. Going home also makes her have to decided who she wants to be with: David, the guy shes been crushing on forever who is FINALLY starting to notice her or Georg, her prince who really gets her and doesnt judge about the whole gay mom thing.

Though its probably true that a prince doesnt fall in love with an ordinary girl, all the time, its concept and meaning are completely heart felt and relatible. You'll love every part of it!

Lillian says

Spin Control was okay, I suppose. I liked the first book better if I recall correctly! I mean, I don't MIND that there was a sequel but I don't think it was really necessary? I do like that Val figured out she really likes Georg, but... I felt like the whole David thing was a bit... contrived? Haha. First time I ever used that word but it's true. Val's mom was kind of annoying but I don't mind her. Val's friend Cristie? I'm not even sure, she was a bit annoying. I don't know. Not really my favorite, unfortunately!

Kaitlin (BooksWithKaitlin) says

I still dislike the main female character. I feel that she was very immature and bratty. I feel like certain situation should have been dealt with differently. I also hate how the out look of the LGBTQ community in this book. It is really annoying how the main female character talked about it. It just rubbed me the wrong way. I do not feel like she grew much as a character; only until the end did she somewhat mature and that is stretching it.

I honestly don't know if I would read the third book since the main character was so hard for me to like in two books. Each book is over 300 pages and I don't know if I can read 300 more pages.....

The main guy character is alright. I still feel like he is a one dimensional. I feel like that there was no development in his character one bit. I feel like he character is only there for the main female character, nothing more. That is a little disappointing because I wish there was a little more then just surface characteristics about him.

I feel like there is not plot in this story either beside the female and the male just dating each other and

nothing more with a few problems going on. Overall I was disappointed in this story. I was wishing there was more.

Tiffany says

In the first in the series Valerie moves with her Dad to a small country and fall in love with a prince. She doesn't want to live close to her home town because her mom just announced that she is a lesbian and is filing for a divorce.

In this novel because of some rumors escalating the prince decides he and Valerie need to "cool it" for a little bit and so Valerie's dad decides to send her home for a week. She decides to go out with the boy she has had a crush on since fifth grade. There were many things I didn't like about this sequel. Here are some; she had several discussions with her mom about her mom being gay, she was dropped off at a PFLAG meeting where there were even more discussions about being gay, she had discussions with her friends about her mom being gay, and then on a date with David he discusses his belief's about gay marriage. I didn't want to read a novel for all of this. Plus the book just gives off this feel of not being anything realistic. Yes I know it is a fiction novel but probably the relationship with her and Georg (the Prince) is what makes me feel that way. Who knows, I will read the 3rd book in the series though just because I'll have to know how the series ends. I am personally hoping it ends with Jon or Jake whatever the boy's name is from her school. How is a relationship with a Prince going to work the girl is only 15.

Amanda [Novel Addiction] says

This is one of those books that I read in an hour and a half because it's so easy (and short). But you know what? It was cute. This is one of those books that was teen fiction blew up and became a thing that everyone wanted to read. And it actually dealt with some fascinating issues - a parent possibly cheating on another, gay marriage, what exactly "cool it" means when it comes to relationships, etc. Had I read this when I was 12 or 13, I would have gobbled it up.

Is it the best thing ever written? Hardly. But it was cute and amusing.

Heather says

Update August 17th, 2017:

I definitely didn't read the first book because the order in book series was not relevant to me at the age of 10 apparently.

i didnt really like it and i read it a while ago so i dont really remember it so i dont really have n e thing to write about.

Stephanie says

Niki Burnham's sequel to *Royally Jacked* is even better than the first. *Spin Control* takes place right where *Royally Jacked* leaves off with Valerie finally getting her Prince. But her life isn't the fairy tale she thought it would be when the newspapers start a horrible rumor about her. Her life begins to spin out of control. Then Georg suggests they "cool off", and a confused Val heads home to spend Winter Break with her mom and unfortunately her mom's girlfriend, Gabrielle. Back home she has to face her friends who still don't know that her mom has come out of the closet and are already mad at her for not telling them about her relationship with Prince Georg. But things start to pick up when her old crush David pops back into the picture.

Spin Control answers all the unanswered questions *Royally Jacked* left. Burnham delves into Val's relationship with her mother and the secrets she had kept from her friends. And we find out whom her heart truly belongs to. It's a lighthearted comedy that will leave you grinning from ear to ear. If you haven't read either book, you should order them both today. You won't be disappointed.
