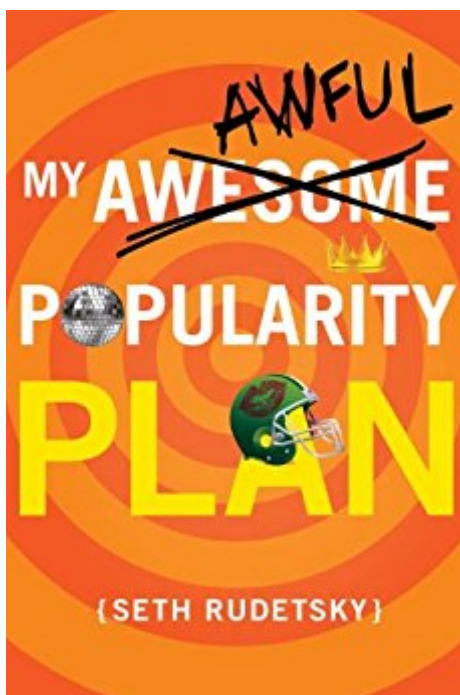


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My Awesome/Awful Popularity Plan



Synopsis

Justin has two goals for sophomore year: to date Chuck, the hottest boy in school, and to become the king of Cool U, the table in the cafeteria where the "in" crowd sits. Unfortunately, he has the wrong look (short, plump, Brillo-pad curls), he has the wrong interests (Broadway, chorus violin), and he has the wrong friends (Spencer, into Eastern religions, and Mary Ann, who doesn't shave her armpits). And Chuck? Well, he's not gay; he's dating Becky, a girl in chorus with whom Justin is friendly. But Justin is determined. In detention one day (because he saw Chuck get it first), Justin comes up with a perfect plan: to allow Becky to continue dating Chuck, whom Becky's dad hates. They will pretend that Becky is dating Justin, whom Becky's dad loves. And when Becky and Justin go out on a fake date, Chuck will meet up with them for a real date with Becky. Chuck's bound to find Justin irresistible, right? What could go wrong? Seth Rudetsky's first novel for young adults is endearingly human, and laugh-out-loud funny, and any kid who ever aspired to Cool U will find Justin a welcome ally in the fight for popularity. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed Seth Rudetsky's humorous Young Adult novel. *Awesome/Awful* is fun, entertaining read; not a guide for surviving high school. Having spent nearly 15 years in the public school system, I've come to know these student 'types' pretty well. Not to say that all the characters are stereotypical, they each have their own unique qualities, strengths and weaknesses; that set them apart as individuals and make them interesting. Teen angst comes in many forms and Rudetsky does a great job of exploring that here. Though *Awesome/Awful* has an overall positive LGBT message, it's not a preachy or agenda-driven book. Are there lessons that can be learned from it? Yes, of course- but I believe Rudetsky's goal here was to tell an entertaining story, not jump up on a soapbox and preach. It's hard to review it with complete objectivity- being familiar with Rudetsky and his public persona- both on stage and on the radio. The novel is written and reads the way he (Rudetsky) speaks in public. Someone unfamiliar, may find a totally different experience, finding the rhythm and patter of written word. I heard Rudetsky's voice in my head from the first to the last word on the page. Like Rudetsky, the character of Justin is an original. The way he thinks, what he says and does; always has a perspective that many might not think to see, on their own- or in the same light. Justin is on a journey of self discovery and trying to find his place; or, create his desired place in his school. His wacky perspective and attempts at love and popularity are both engaging and endearing, no matter how misguided they might be. In the end, the characters learn something about themselves, without letting go of their individuality.

A few weeks back I heard just the ending of Seth's interview on NPR's "Fresh Air." I was hooked. I watch Seth all the time on YouTube and wanted to see his humor and insights turned into fiction. He did it. I laughed out LOUD (guffawed) several times while reading and could not put it down. Read it in one sitting, although in different chairs if you must know, but really enjoyed the characters. It reads as fast as Seth talks, so it's a fast and furious albeit delightful ride back to those terrible yet wonderful high school years. It was a little like reading "Forever" (and remember how thrilling that was back in the day) with a refreshing gay twist. About time. Thank you Seth. Write On!

Love it! I have a new hero in Mr. Rudetsky. I'm not gay, nor am I a teenager, and I have only recently returned to my youthful interest in theater but I loved everything about this book. The narrator sings from the page! The characters are realistic and not above base motivations (just like real people are!) In a publishing world of friend farming, marketing handles and cultivating niche audiences, this book rises above all that because the narrator is such a hoot! Brava!

This book is hilarious and real. Seth has written a story that is inspiring and tells the tale of a high school sophomore who just wants to be popular (well, who didn't?). A great story for kids who feel like they don't fit in! The story will inspire and amaze them!

I got this book for my 11 year old who listens to Seth Rudetsky on the radio all the time and is a big fan. She loves his books and is looking forward to more. She tells me that reading the books she can hear his voice talking which, if you've ever listened to his shows you will know what she means. He is hilarious!

I happened upon Seth's book when I first heard his interview show on Sirius radio. I am a retired Children's/Young Adult librarian. I love the theatre and this was a perfect match. Seth has a flair for drama which is shown in the text. I think Justin is a hoot. The action is fast-paced and the ending is perfect. I am sure there's and teens will love this book. I can't wait for his next novel to come out.

Seth Rudetsky has written a book that is as funny as he is. It will make you laugh out loud at situations we all can relate to. Although I am not a Young Adult, or in high school, I still thoroughly enjoyed this book. The book will make you feel good about being yourself and lets you know that being yourself is what will make you the happiest!

fun and funny!

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