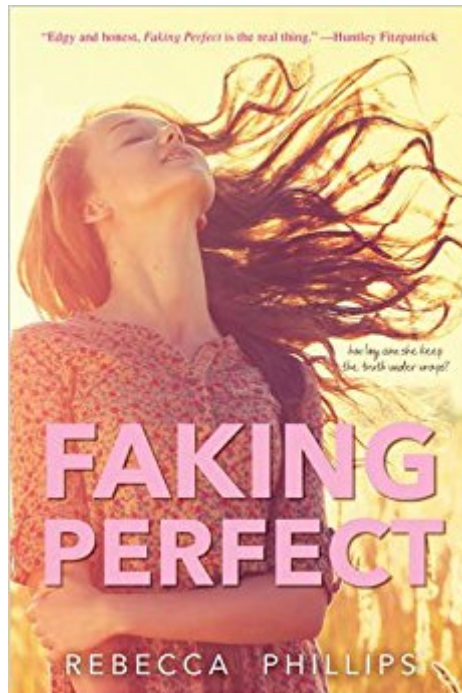




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Faking Perfect



Synopsis

When Lexi Shaw seduced Oakfield High's resident bad boy Tyler Flynn at the beginning of senior year, he seemed perfectly okay with her rules: 1. Avoid her at school. 2. Keep his mouth shut about what they do together. 3. Never tease her about her friend (and unrequited crush) Ben. Because with his integrity and values and golden boy looks, Ben can never find out about what she's been doing behind closed doors with Tyler. Or that her mom's too busy drinking and chasing losers to pay the bills. Or that Lexi's dad hasn't been a part of her life for the last thirteen years. But with Tyler suddenly breaking the rules, Ben asking her out, and her dad back in the picture, how long will she be able to go on faking perfect?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Lexi Shaw just wants to be a regular high school senior, with a regular boyfriend and a regular family. She fakes having a perfect family life even though her father chose drugs over her when she was four and her mother is an alcoholic who seems to only attract sleazeball boyfriends. Then she gets tangled up with Oakfield High's notorious bad boy, Tyler. She must keep their tryst a secret if she will ever catch the eye of the wholesome, perfect All-American Ben. She swears Tyler to secrecy, telling him to avoid her at school, keep feelings out of it, and to keep his mouth shut about her unrequited crush on Ben. Suddenly Lexi's fake world is crashing down around her. Her father works his way back into life, Ben makes a move on her, and Tyler develops feelings for her. The protagonist's perfect facade is cracked and she must find a new identity. Fans of Sarah

Dessen's novels will enjoy this book. Phillips will soon be a must-read YA writer for those who love romance and drama. VERDICT A title that will be enjoyed by fans of love triangles where the underdog comes out on top and of strong female protagonists who become comfortable in their own skin. —Morgan O'Reilly, Riverdale Country School, NY

"Edgy and honest, *Faking Perfect* is the real thing." —Huntley Fitzpatrick
"Poignant, edgy, and real, *Faking Perfect* is an honest look at the courage and strength it can often take simply to be yourself." —Julianna Scott, author of *The Holders*

I didn't like this. Lexi is initially painted as a good girl, who is trying to struggle through a really hard life, and tries to hide her hardships by acting fake. Too much of this book felt fake. I didn't really like Lexi or feel sorry for her (although I did despise her mom). She put people on a pedestal or considered them trash for very superficial reasons. She was a poor judge of character. She used people (some of whom had lives that were just as hard, if not harder, than hers). Her motivations, etc. did not make sense to me. Also, I don't expect books about high schoolers to be exceedingly realistic, but her attitudes toward casual sex, drugs, etc. reminded me more of a 25-year-old guy's.

Tyler Flynn. Tyler Flynn. Tyler Flynn. I fell in love with him immediately. I loved watching his and Lexi's relationship grow throughout the book!

It was a good book that showed the lead characters self courage and her fixing her mistakes. I love Tyler

Not too bad. I have read worse; at least the grammar was correct and the book flowed nicely.

Recommend

ORIGINALLY POSTED ON: [http://athousandwordsamillionbooks.blogspot.com/Screw Up Girl](http://athousandwordsamillionbooks.blogspot.com/Screw-Up-Girl),
hooking up with resident bad boy, who specialises in all things no strings attached while is not so secretly in love the good boy who she knows won't tolerate the bad boy one bit. But now that she's finally got the good, golden, perfect guy, the bad boy has already fallen hard! Add in a mom who cares about sleazy boyfriends more than her daughter and an absentee drug addict father, *Faking Perfect* has the workings of a pretty good contemporary! And yet, I could use only one word to

describe what I felt through the whole book: nothing. The writing was so detached, I should say- with no exaggeration or emotion, even though all the elements for a good book were there, there was nothing I felt. I did finish the book, but I feel like I must elaborate. Her mother doesn't care about a thing she does? And rather than feeling anything, or even holding some sort of grudge, she simply accepted it. No feelings involved. Her new 'perfect' friends. That was a concept I didn't get AT ALL! She knows, she knows that they're not really her friends, that she's someone completely different around them, that they think she's some screw up and they're always judging her, but she doesn't care. She even calls what she's doing a facade, but she keeps at it. But even that is talked about as if it's nothing. And then she starts dating the golden boy. And then she KNOWS that he's controlling, that he's pitting her against her best friend, and that it's all an act with him and the kisses done make her feel anything, but keeps at it. I mean, if you know, then why are you still there? Overall, a book I wouldn't really recommend. 3 stars.

Faking Perfect is the story of Lexi, a girl with a not so good home life who thinks that the answer to all her problems is to try and fit in with the popular crowd. Unfortunately for her shiny image, she also has a weakness for the bad boy type. She seduces the resident tattooed, weed-dealing bad boy, Tyler Flynn, at the beginning of her senior year and carries on a secret relationship with him. She makes him avoid her at school, keep her secret and never ever tease her about her crush on her friend and local golden boy, Ben. This was a really fun contemporary romance with some great characters and some really nice writing. It was a lot fresher and feistier than a lot of contemporary romances I've read and I read it all in almost one sitting. I really liked Lexi. She was fun and the typical confused teen trying to figure herself out. Most of all I love her sarky attitude. She was flawed but still likeable, and I liked the way she developed over the course of the book. She was so relatable in the way she felt so much pressure to conform to being the image her friends wanted of her. The plot moved along nicely, and although I could kind of see where it was going most of the time and managed to predict most of the plot points, I didn't let my mind at all because there was plenty going on. The author highlighted a lot of high school struggles and issues: teen pregnancy, popularity, drugs, drinking, sex and this kept things pretty interesting. I really enjoyed this one and can't wait to read Rebecca Phillips' new book due out in August! I received a copy of this title via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. *

*ARC provided by Publisher
Faking Perfect is an intriguing, well-written, young adult contemporary romance by Rebecca Phillips. In it, Lexi Shaw's life is anything but perfect, though she does her

best to make it appear as if it is. By day, she's the smart popular girl at school with a crush on an equally popular boy. But at night, she's sleeping with the good-looking high school bad boy because she knows he can keep a secret and follow the rules for which she needs him to abide. Except after six months of doing what they do, Tyler Flynn decides to break the rules Lexi set, and then what started out as the perfect distraction becomes anything but when it appears the bad boy wants more. I really enjoyed this read. Lexi tries so hard to hold onto the image of who she wants to be that she doesn't even realize living up to that image is part of what is smothering her. Her life is so messed up and she's struggling to deal the only way she knows how...avoidance and denial. Because of my day job, I've known a lot of at risk teenagers just like Lexi and I have seen all too often the kind of masks these kids put on to deal with the painful disappointments and experiences in their lives. Rebecca Phillips does an excellent job of showcasing Lexi's real issues: the struggle for self-identity amidst a dysfunctional home life and her own fears of not being good enough for those around her. This is a brilliant, honest look at issues that are all too common with today's teens, and the author deftly portrays how easy it is for some youths to pretend things are fine and have the people around them believe that when the reality is far, far different.

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