



Faking Normal

By Courtney C. Stevens



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An edgy, realistic debut novel praised by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Sepetys, as “a beautiful reminder that amid our broken pieces we can truly find ourselves.”

Alexi Littrell hasn’t told anyone what happened to her over the summer by her backyard pool. Instead, she hides in her closet, counts the slats in the air vent, and compulsively scratches the back of her neck, trying to make the outside hurt more than the inside does—and deal with the trauma.

When Bodee Lennox—“the Kool-Aid Kid”—moves in with the Littrells after a family tragedy, Alexi discovers an unlikely friend in this quiet, awkward boy who has secrets of his own. As their friendship grows, Alexi gives him the strength to deal with his past, and Bodee helps her summon the courage to find her voice and speak up about the rape that has changed the course of her life.

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Faking Normal By Courtney C. Stevens Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #157797 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-02-25
- Released on: 2014-02-25
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Sixteen-year-old Alexi has a secret; something bad happened to her last summer, but she is not saying what. Publicly, she pretends that everything is alright, but privately, she counts compulsively and painfully scratches herself. She is, she thinks, “fresh out of happy,” but “faking normal” is a skill she learned last summer. Then Bodee—the quiet, shy boy next door—moves in with her family, and Alexi finds a friend and confidant. Meanwhile, an unknown boy begins leaving song lyrics for Alexi that have an uncanny capacity to capture her moods. She calls the boy Captain Lyric and realizes that she is falling in love with him. But who is he? And what is the secret Alexi resolutely continues to keep? First-time novelist Stevens does a nice job of managing these unknowns, though many readers will have guessed the answers before the big reveals. Nevertheless, Alexi, though occasionally exasperating, is a well realized, sympathetic character, as is Bodee, and the resolution of their slowly evolving relationship is deeply satisfying. An engaging read for romance fans. Grades 9-12. --Michael Cart

Review

“A beautiful reminder that amidst our broken pieces we can truly find ourselves.” (Ruta Sepetys, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Between Shades of Gray*)

“Somewhere between Sarah Dessen and Laurie Halse Anderson lies Stevens’s rich debut about two adolescents grappling with extraordinary trauma....the mood is intense and the story moves briskly, complete with an ending so surprising that some readers may flip back to the beginning to start fresh.” (Publishers Weekly)

“Reminiscent of Melinda in *Speak*, Alexi tries to find her voice. A story that resonates.” (Kirkus)

“Debut novelist Stevens has written a powerful and fast-paced first-person story of a young woman who finds an inner strength she never knew she possessed.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

From the Back Cover

Alexi Littrell hasn't told anyone what happened to her over the summer. Ashamed and embarrassed, she hides in her closet and compulsively scratches the back of her neck, trying to make the outside hurt more than the inside does.

At school, nobody sees the scratches or her pain. The only person she connects with is the mysterious Captain Lyric, who writes song lyrics on her fourth-period desk for her to complete. With pencil marks and music, Alexi carves out a comfortable space for herself as she and the Captain finish each other's songs—words on a desk feel safer than words spoken aloud.

But when Bodee Lennox, the quiet and awkward boy next door, comes to live with the Littrells, Alexi discovers an unlikely friend who understands her better than anyone. He has secrets of his own and knows all about suffering in silence. As they lean on each other for support, Alexi gives him the strength to deal with his past, and Bodee helps her find the courage to finally speak up.

With her powerful, moving debut novel, author Courtney C. Stevens emerges as an extraordinary new talent to watch.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ashley Staley:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Faking Normal.

Kenneth Allen:

The book with title Faking Normal possesses a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. That book exist new expertise the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you in new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Robert Delaney:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, brief story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not attempting Faking Normal that give your satisfaction preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading routine all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world much better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for all of you who want to start studying as your good habit, it is possible to pick Faking Normal become your personal starter.

Sharon Hite:

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