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10 Steps To Girlfriend Status (The Bird Face Series) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

"Without knowing or caring where I'd wind up, I sneaked out of the house and took off running." ã Wendy Robichaud is on schedule to have everything she wants in high school: two loyal best friends, a complete and happy family, and a hunky boyfriend she's had a crush on since eighth grade--until she and Mrs. Villaturo look at old photo albums together. That's when Mrs. V sees her dead husband and hints at a 1960s scandal down in Cajun country. Faster than you can say "crawdad," Wendy digs into the scandal and into trouble. ã She risks losing boyfriend David by befriending Mrs. V's cute hearing-impaired grandson, alienates stepsister Alice by having a boyfriend in the first place, and upsets her friend Gayle without knowing why. ã Will Wendy be able to prevent Mrs. V from being taken thousands of miles away? And will she lose all the friends she's fought so hard to gain? This story addresses first innocent romance, a blended family, friendship with an Alzheimer's victim, and an ancestral interracial relationship. ã ã ã ã ã ã

Book Information

Series: The Bird Face Series

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

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Fiction > Religious > Christian > Friendship #85 in ã Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Friendship

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

"Using Wendy as her narrator, ã Toney (8 Notes to a Nobody, 2015, etc.) delineates some of the highs and lows of an innocent first love in this fast-paced ã novel. The story goes beyond its

catchy title to tackle serious issues relevant to teens ...” A sensitive YA tale about love, change, and loss, with an empowering message for girls.” --Kirkus Reviews

10 Steps to Girlfriend Status introduces readers to Sam, a deaf teen who becomes Wendy’s friend and a major character in this book and the next books of the series. In this book, Wendy doesn’t know American Sign Language (ASL) and doesn’t have time to learn during the short period in which the story takes place. Later she decides she needs to learn ASL.

I grew up reading Judy Blume novels and it’s so refreshing and heartening to find an author who understands the everyday trials and tribulations of real teenagers. Wendy wants what every teenage girl--indeed, almost anyone of any age--wants... to be liked for who she is. But who is she? Friend, girlfriend, sister, stepdaughter... every aspect of her life seems to demand something different from her. Can everyone who matters to her accept her in all the roles she has to play in all their lives? With refreshing candidness, the author lets us see through Wendy’s eyes as she navigates her first crush, her first heartbreak, her first dealings with mortality, and the difficulties in blending a family and learning about dark family secrets. I hope the author continues to document Wendy’s growth for us in future books.

Toney had me from page one where her heroine describes her budding relationship as expanding "like a Cajun cornbread hushpuppy in hot oil." Little does Wendy know how a boyfriend will complicate her life, and little does she understand what matters most in a relationship. But she’s about to learn. With fresh descriptions, conversational dialogue, and relatable characters, this book was a delight to read. I especially appreciated how the characters dealt with real-life struggles that face blended families and people with disabilities. Toney showed that these situations provide a unique opportunity for developing meaningful relationships amid the challenges.

I just finished this second book in the series, and I was happy to see the author still tackle difficult topics but in less quantity than attempted in her first novel. Wendy is growing in age and maturity, and in doing so is finding more of herself. Though Wendy’s voice sometimes sounds like an adult and sometimes a young teen, it remains a wholesome, engaging story. Parents looking for a way to talk to their daughters about dating may want to read this as an intro. An interesting twist/family mystery adds to the plot of this lovely YA novel and a heartbreaking goodbye helps Wendy grow as a person. I look forward to seeing what Wendy does next!

Having read 8 Notes to a Nobody, I was eager to continue Wendy's story, and this book does not disappoint. The author has managed to reconnect with her 14 year old emotions. They all ring true! As with the first book, this story goes beyond the problems of being a girlfriend and tackles realistic, serious problems that many young people will face: blended families, effects of divorce, family tragedy, and serious illness. I give this installment 4.5 stars only because there were a few scenes I thought ended too abruptly, but younger readers probably won't mind the shorter scenes and snappy pacing. There are some great discussion questions at the end which keep the reader thinking long after the last satisfying page of the story is read!

This is another winner for Cynthia Toney. I loved Bird Face, the first in the series. However, 10 Steps to Girlfriend Status can be read without reading Bird Face as it is a stand alone novel, but I highly recommend you don't miss out on either one. These are great coming of age stories for young people. So insightful. I wish I had been able to read these books when I was growing up. Do yourself a favor and read these two novels, and then give them as a gift to some young people you know, because they have something to offer everyone.

I've read Book 1 of The Bird Face series, and just now finished Book 2, Ten Steps to Girlfriend Status. Cynthia Toney's attention to detail makes this book outstanding. And Wendy's unique voice is still spot on. Cynthia has a knack for active use of verbs, no passive writing from this author. Cynthia kept my attention through the whole book, especially when Wendy set out to discover what happened to a relative of the past. I found the relationship between Wendy and her boyfriend sweet, and very clean. Nice going! Cynthia touches on a sensitive topic, and does a real fine job. I can't wait to read the next Cynthia Toney book.

Wendy's love for her neighbor Mrs. V is genuine. When Mrs. V is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Wendy tries to help, but Mrs. V's family has their own plans. Although not a relative, Wendy is deeply affected by Mrs. V's dementia. At the same time, she is juggling a new step-family, friendships, and a boyfriend. Wendy grows up a lot in the process. What results is a lovely story about making choices, and learning how to live with them.

If only I had read a book like this when I was in junior high! Wendy is so much like I was, but I didn't figure out the 10th step until way past high school. Cynthia Toney brings back to my mind all those

horrible insecurities of the teen years, and weaves a story of wise advice against the background of our nation's history in race relations.

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