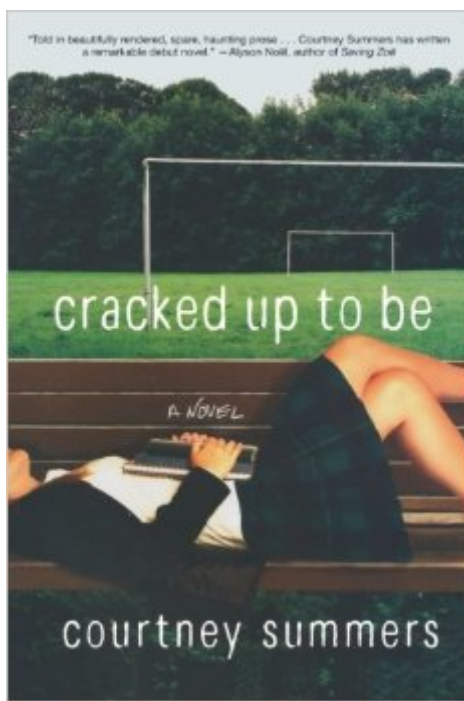


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Cracked Up To Be



Synopsis

Perfect Parker Fadley isn't so perfect anymore. She's quit the cheerleading squad, she's dumped her perfect boyfriend, and she's failing school. Her parents are on a constant suicide watch and her counselors think she's playing games—but what they don't know, the real reason for this whole mess, isn't something she can say out loud. It isn't even something she can say to herself. A horrible thing has happened and it just might be her fault. If she can just remove herself from everybody - be totally alone - then everything will be okay...The problem is, nobody will let her.

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; 1 edition (July 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031238369X

ISBN-13: 978-0312383695

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (130 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Also appears on The Screaming Nitpicker. A few weeks ago, I promptly swooned over Courtney Summers's novel *This Is Not a Test* and took it upon myself to acquire her three previous novels, and it just so happens I went from her fourth and most recent novel to her first. I can clearly see how much the author's writing ability has grown between *Cracked Up to Be* and *This Is Not a Test*, but the author's work was strong even at the beginning. Parker cannot and should not be mistaken for a good person. She manipulates people, pushes them away whenever possible, lashes out at them to hide what she's really thinking and feeling, and she has done some terrible things. There are a lot of things Parker isn't, there's one thing she is that matters more than anything: human. Beneath all the sarcasm and sadness is a girl just like anyone else, and I connect with her on a certain level. Admittedly, the supporting and minor characters suffer and readers hardly know anything about them by the end of the novel. Parker's story is such a focus of the novel that everyone else loses

out. The length of the novel and what kind of novel it is come together to make *Cracked Up to Be* a quick read. It's short at 214 pages, but it's also character-driven and a little bit suspenseful as little pieces of what happened to Parker to make her go into such a steep downward spiral come to light over the course of those 214 pages. If it had been another forty or fifty pages longer, Parker's story would have suffered. The author's succinct prose keeps things short and maximizes the novel's subtle power. For the last few weeks, I've been feeling self-destructive myself.

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