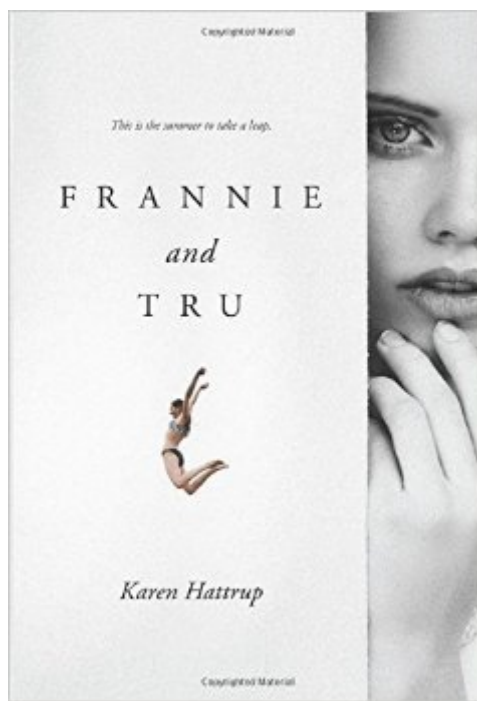


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Frannie And Tru



Synopsis

• Absorbing, electrifying, and achingly relatable. *Frannie and Tru* is a book with a pulse. •

”Becky Albertalli, author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* Perfect for fans of *Prep and The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *Frannie and Tru* is a dazzling YA debut about a transformative summer in the life of a girl whose idol is not what he seems. Frannie has always idolized her cousin Tru. At seventeen, Tru is charismatic, rich, charming—everything fifteen-year-old Frannie wants to be, and everything she’s not. So when Frannie overhears her parents saying that after a bad coming-out experience Tru will be staying with them in Baltimore for the summer, Frannie is excited and desperate to impress him. But as Frannie gets swept up in Tru’s worldly way of life, she starts to worry that it may all be a mask Tru wears to hide a dark secret. And if Tru isn’t the person Frannie thought he was, what does that mean for the new life she has built with him? Confronting issues of race, class, and sexuality, Karen Hatstrup weaves a powerful coming-of-age story that’s at once timeless and immediate, sharply observed, and recognizable to anyone who has ever loved the idea of a person more than the reality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Karen Hatstrup’s Thoughts on the Playlist for *Frannie and Tru* There is a lot of music in *Frannie and Tru*. I could have made a playlist just from the songs that came on over and over in the CD player of the family’s ancient mini-van, or the ones covered by the pop-punk band that *Frannie and Tru* befriend. It would have been a pretty great mix: U2, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, Bruce Springsteen. But the more I thought about it, the more I felt that there were different songs

that better represented the book, music that evoked the feelings, atmosphere, and pacing.

That's the playlist I've created here—not the songs that appear in the story, but the ones that play in my head when I imagine Frannie and Tru as they drive the streets of Baltimore, talk quietly on the edge of a wooded reservoir, or sprint together down a stretch of night-dark beach.

400 Lux by Lorde: Such dreamy melancholy. This song perfectly expresses the languid wonder of killing time with friends, the nothing and everything of it. For me, it's the sound of Frannie and Tru's summer together. Queen of Quiet by Erin McKeown: The title of this could be Frannie's nickname, and it's a sneaky, happy, sweet song about being bad, which Frannie is trying oh-so-hard to do. The Boy with the Thorn in His Side by The Smiths: And if we're giving characters their own theme songs, well. Here's Tru's.

Tightrope by Janelle Monáe: In the beginning of the book, Frannie says that she feels like a tightrope walker who only wants to look straight ahead and keep her balance. Then everything starts to change. This one's for that moment when she decides to go see Devon's band, because it's then that the tempo of her summer really shifts. It's the moment when she realizes she doesn't want to balance, she wants to tip. .. Suburban War by Arcade Fire: This song makes me think of friendship and angst and change, of being out in the world, under the darkness of night, looking for something. It also makes me think of the best part of high school and a big part of Frannie and Tru's summer: car rides with your friends.

Cousins by Vampire Weekend: The happy beat of this would fit in the scene where Frannie and Tru have to drop their beers and sprint through a park together, and she suddenly goes from being afraid to having the time of her life. Plus, hello, it's about cousins. Civilian by Wye Oak: The lyrics and the melody are achingly beautiful, always giving me goosebumps in the saddest and best of ways. It's something I can imagine playing on that all-important trip to a windblown island, when wild horses are hiding in the shadows and the air is electric with people coming together. XO by Beyoncé: Look, I just think this is the best possible track to play in your head during your first kiss. (Don't want to spoil things by saying anything more. ..) I'm Goin' Down by Bruce Springsteen: I had to have one Springsteen song in here, because he's important in the book. This track is one that Frannie and Tru would have listened to in the van, and I like it because it touches on the most ordinary, yet heartbreaking of things: when a relationship starts moving toward its end. This Tornado Loves You by Neko Case: A song about love and fierceness and destruction — for the book's final blow-up. Young Blood by the Naked and the Famous: This one's always been a heartbreaker for me, evoking so well the feeling of being young, of knowing that you've made mistakes. Beautiful but

bittersweet, for Frannie's last night in the park. Pretty Boy by Young Galaxy: If you read the book, you'll understand.

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