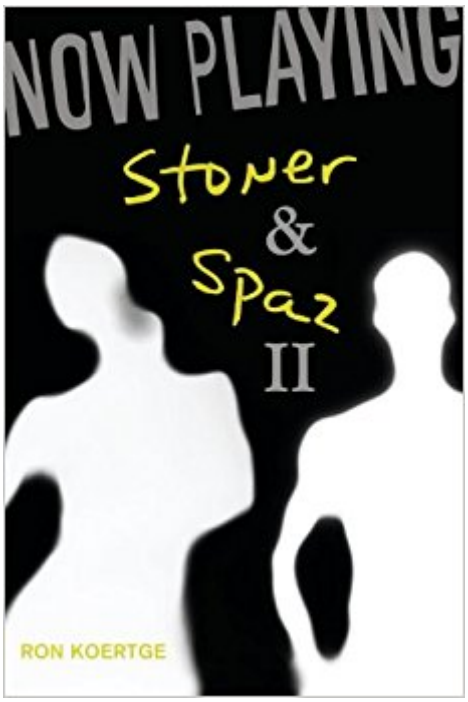
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Now Playing: Stoner & Spaz II



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Synopsis

Quick repartee. Unsparing wit. Insight, poignancy, and spot-on characters. Welcome the much-awaited sequel to the acclaimed Stoner & Spaz.Beautiful but troubled Colleen Minou is the only girl who ever looked at Ben Bancroft as more than a spazÃ¢â ¬â • more than just that kid with cerebral palsy. Yet the more time Ben spends with her, the more glaring their differences appear. Is what Ben feels for Colleen actual affection, or more like gratitude? Then thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Amy (aka A.J.), who is everything Colleen isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t, and everything BenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grandma wants for him: clean-cut and upper-class, academically driven, just as obsessed with filmmaking as Ben is. But what does A.J. see when she looks at Ben? CP? Or the person behind the twisted body? In Ron KoertgeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sharp, darkly humorous follow-up to the award-winning Stoner & Spaz, Ben tries to come to terms with his confused feelings toward A.J. and his inimitable connection to Colleen, who is sometimes out of it, sometimes into him, and always exhilarating.

Book Information

Series: Stoner & Spaz

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; First Edition edition (August 9, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763650811

ISBN-13: 978-0763650810

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,298,041 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Film #122 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Loners & Outcasts #209 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs

Customer Reviews

The repartee between Ben and Colleen -- funny, suggestive, and intense -- is spot-on, and readers will easily sympathize with both teens and their frustrating choices, while the adult characters and their problems are equally unique and well-developed. A rollercoaster of authentic emotions, Koertge’s novel offers readers a fast, furious, and satisfyingly upbeat view of the world.Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist (starred review)Koertge writes crisp dialogue and ably captures both Ben’s

bewilderment as he moves from loser recluse to Mr. Popularity and his complex feelings toward A.J. and Colleen....Movie buffs will appreciate the references to films, a hallmark of Ben's first outing. Readers familiar with the first book will be glad to see Ben's return; newcomers will be glad they finally met him.Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Ron Koertge is the author of many celebrated novels, including STONER & SPAZ, STRAYS, and THE BRIMSTONE JOURNALS, all American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults; Shakespeare Bats Cleanup, an American Library Association Top Ten Sports Books for Youth Selection; and The Arizona Kid, an American Library Association pick for "one of the ten funniest books of the year." A two-time winner of the PEN Literary Award for ChildrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Literature, Ron Koertge lives in South Pasadena, California.

Somehow I could relate to every character in this book and I feel like everyone can. This book flats by, it's a very good read.

also I really don't believe that a grandma that protective would just suddenly start to accept all of his new adventures. It seems that the author hints at this conflict as well as elements of the relationship with Colleen that might not be healthy, but glides away in favor of more Saturday-night fun(Which does actually seem fun, at least)

I teetered between three and four stars because while I enjoyed the story, it seemed to run out of gas toward the end. The relationship between Colleen and Ben continues to have ups and downs, with Colleen trying to stay away from drugs and Ben steadfastly believing in her despite many disappointments. Koertge has the chemistry between the two protangonists down perfectly, in my opinion. I'd have liked to have sees something come of Ben's movie-making with the new camera but perhaps there will be another book? Overall, a very satisfying read.

The original "Stoner and Spaz" is one of my favorite pieces of young adult literature, and it ends with a slightly ambiguous, yet wholly hopeful conclusion that allows you to draw your own conclusion. Perhaps unfortunately, Stoner and Spaz II comes along and picks up right off to the end of that novel, bringing Colleen (the stoner) back for more, even though she seems to have run her course with Ben in the last novel.Alas, Ben is just as addicted to her as she is to drugs. Just as in the last novel, the characters are decidedly non-stereotypical and intelligent, they're written with the perfect

amount of wit and sarcasm. That continues here. In volume two, the primary story revolves around Ben getting an internet connection, and therefore getting in contact with Amy (a.k.a. AJ, the girl from the film festival), and a fairly predictable love triangle ensues.Ben, Colleen and AJ have a few other adventures as well, including a search for Ben’s mother, a movie-trivia gambling scene, and Colleen having to deal with being kicked out of her home. Some of these have the same natural flow as the last novel, but others are strangely written. The scenes with Ben’s mother are particularly unusual, in that they simply appear and resolve themselves so quickly, and that the characters instantly recognize each other despite not having seen each other in 12 or so years.All in all, Stoner and Spaz II is fairly worthy successor, but is it really all that necessary? Personally, I would have been happier had the series ended with the previous novel.For parents: the sex in this novel is slightly more played up, and the minor glorification of drugs that was somewhat present in the last one is still present here, though there are more consequences here. I would still recommend this to anyone over the age of 15, and even to some more mature younger teens.

Koertge does a stunning job of portraying Ben and Colleen and their unlikely, but somehow believable relationship. The reader has no choice but to simultaneously love Colleen & want to thump her. I enjoyed this one, but as is usual with sequels, I must admit that I found the original Stoner & Spaz more compelling.

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