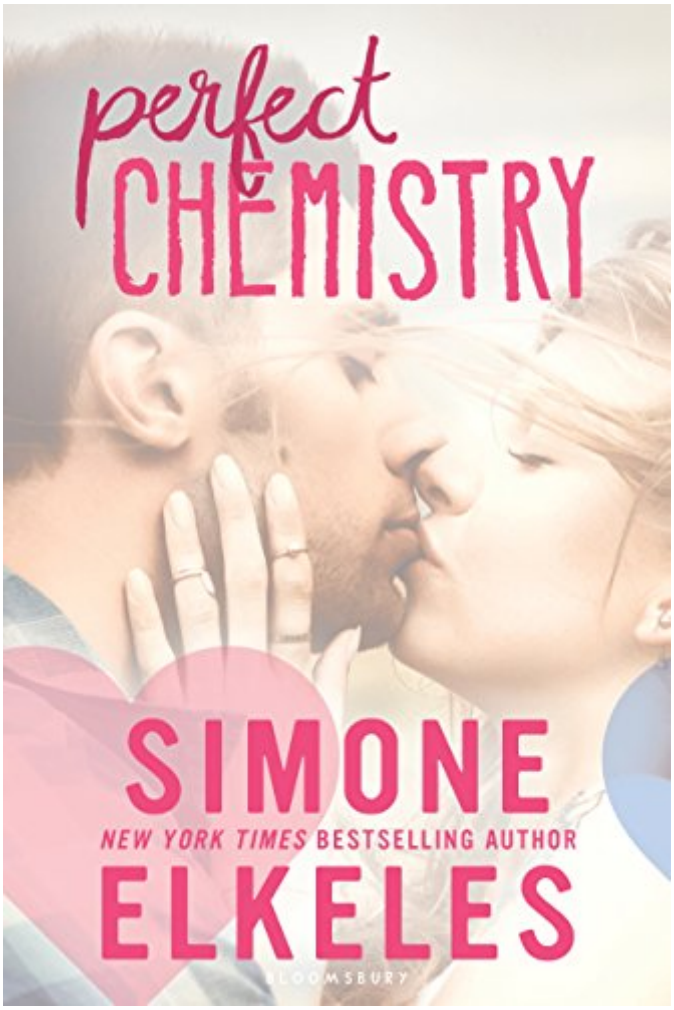
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Perfect Chemistry (A Perfect Chemistry Novel Book 1)



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Synopsis

A fresh, urban twist on the classic tale of star-crossed lovers. When Brittany Ellis walks into chemistry class on the first day of senior year, she has no clue that her carefully created "perfect" life is about to unravel before her eyes. She's forced to be lab partners with Alex Fuentes, a gang member from the other side of town, and he is about to threaten everything she's worked so hard for-her flawless reputation, her relationship with her boyfriend, and the secret that her home life is anything but perfect. Alex is a bad boy and he knows it. So when he makes a bet with his friends to lure Brittany into his life, he thinks nothing of it. But soon Alex realizes Brittany is a real person with real problems, and suddenly the bet he made in arrogance turns into something much more. In a passionate story about looking beneath the surface, Simone Elkeles breaks through the stereotypes and barriers that threaten to keep Brittany and Alex apart.

Book Information

File Size: 1625 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; 1 edition (April 19, 2010)

Publication Date: April 21, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B003I55BIA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #46,879 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #58 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #82 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Customer Reviews

This book was on my wish list for quite some time. I trusted the five star reviews as opposed to the one star reviews, and found it was entertaining enough to read straight through, which is saying a

lot, as I'm an avid reader, and try to give any book I start at least 30-40 pages to decide whether to finish or not finish.The Spanish words laced with English words got a bit annoying, as it was repetitive, OMG repetitive throughout the book. Did I say repetitive? Author also repeated, again and again, the fact the main character Brittany is white, and Alex, is Latino. Throughout the novel, I found myself saying, like Joe Pesci, in My Cousin Vinny, addressing the judge, "I think I get the point."What I did like is how the two met up in chemistry class, and found this to be believable.The cystic fibrosis sister that Brittany cares for and wants to see living with them, not put into a care facility was also believable and heartfelt. Brittany's devotion and understanding of her sister's needs and their friendship was touching. I liked that the author took on a real issue and incorporated it into the story, with a happy ending regarding this issue.What was a stretch for me to believe was Alex's gang membership, in that he is supposed to be this 'bad' boy, but he doesn't do drugs, he only sells them, or transports them? I don't really know, other than I think he was supposed to beat people up, or threaten them to make them pay up for drugs? The author really wants to get the point across that Alex does not do drugs, which makes me think the author added this to ensure her readers could trust that Brittany would wind up with someone who walks like a duck, looks like a duck, acts like a duck, but isn't a duck. He's a nice boy with morals, because he is smart, very smart. And his teacher knows this and wants to see him succeed. He has tats and he carries a gun, but no drugs makes him stand out from the gang. I don't know much about gang life, so I may be wrong in my assessment.The reason Alex is in the gang in the first place, is because of his father, and he needs to follow in his father's footsteps to preserve the family, and his acceptance into the gang to secure his place is what the novel focuses on until the end. He's expected to take his father's place by doing a major drug deal that he supposedly can't refuse or bad things will happen to him and his family, his mother and brothers. Brittany catches wind of this and knows that she has to figure out a way to stop him from doing this deal. She gets the idea to seduce him, and she succeeds, and his best friend knowingly goes in his place, and gets shot and well....things don't end well, but we as the reader can be assured that Alex is safe and sound.The parents were convenient players in the novel when needed here and there. As secondary characters, I treated them as such in my mind, and did not get very connected to them.Brit is a virgin with a less than stellar boyfriend who presses her for sex. Alex assumes that she's been around. It's okay that he has been around, which the author reveals, as well as the repeated interest from the girl that keeps hanging all over him, trying to keep up their friends with benefits relationship.There was a bet involved with Alex and his friends that he could get Brit to sleep with him before a certain time frame, and ultimately, he wins the bet. But this part of the novel seemed like the author liked this idea in the beginning of the novel, then

the story went a different direction, and she had to keep remembering to add this bet into the storyline. It seemed out of place, and kind of an unnecessary part of the plot.The divide of cliques on both sides was believable in some parts, but not consistent. Like one girl who knew Alex as a child, who was also a cheerleader with Brit, was in both worlds and accepted, and it seemed Brit was trying to earn her approval, which didn't make sense to me.I am thankful to have added this book to my reading list as one I completed, but more than likely, I will not read the sequels.The 23 year epilogue made me cringe to read because it was Alex and Brit's son, Paco, attending chemistry with the same teacher, being paired with a white girl, starting the process all over again.This was supposed to be a novel about a cheerleader and a gang member, where she turns out to be a virgin, with a sister in need of round the clock care, and he was a non-wannabe gang member, who was forced into the life not by his choice, to make you know people aren't always what they seem at first glance, and I do believe the author did a good job of portraying a fictional story line, that was entertaining, and not too real, as tobe a downer, but one you did not have to look too hard to find was based on fiction, rather than real life.

I really like this book actually. The relationships were very real despite the clichÃƒÂ© ideas of what high school is.I love the two main characters. And I liked how these characters had their own stuff going on. This wasn't a sappy romance (at times) and that's something to commend the author on because I thought this was going to be a full on sappy teenage romance.Overall I really enjoyed reading this book.The only problem I had was some of the time cues were lacking. The story was great, but I kinda need a clear distinction of how much time passed.4.3 star rating

Eighteen-year-old Brittany leads a perfect life with her perfect hair and figure, perfect boyfriend, and perfect family...or so she wants everyone to think. Her dad is barely at home, her mom is obsessed with keeping up appearances, her sister is mentally disabled, and her boyfriend only wants sex. No matter what, Brit has to maintain the perfect image, but her world is turned upside down when she meets her chem partner. Everyone fears Alex Fuentes. He's dark, dangerous, and part of the gang Latino Blood. Maintaining this dangerous image it's important to keep his family safe, to keep his brother's away from gang life. But meeting Brit has made him to wish for more, a better life, even though when he knows it's hopeless. Class, race, reputation are all put on the line when these two get together, but they survive the oncoming tide of gossip?Simone Elkeles Perfect Chemistry sizzles with romance, and breaks the stereotypes that rule high schools everywhere by teaching us that sometimes people are not what they seem.Brittany strives to maintain the typical ice-princess

facade, first because it’s what her mom wants, and second because she doesn’t want anyone to know and make fun of the situation of her family. I really wanted her to grow a backbone in those first chapters. She’s so fearful of her mom, and she’s eighteen for shits sake! But that’s alright, because it’s thanks to Alex that she relizes life’s too short to be living it like another person wants you to, instead of how you want to."If there’s one thing I learned, it’s that nobody is here forever. You have to live for the moment, each and every day...the here, the now." - AlexAlex’s situation broke my heart. All he does is to protect those he loves, his mom, his brothers, and eventually Brittany. He doesn’t believe he can better the conditions of his life, and every time he said so, I just wanted to give him a hug.You know you can do more, but everyone expects you to quit.~What is the use in fighting for a lost cause?It’s Brittany’s perseverance in believing in him, in showing him things didn’t need to be that way, that makes Alex work to get out of the messy life he leads.The moments between these two were very exciting and sizzling. I love how they kept assuming things about each other and then discovered things weren’t what they seemed. The moments they got to know each other were sweet, and hot, and all kinds of right. But I would definitely label this a new adult, due to content both sexy times and alcohol and substance abuse.Now, though I loved how these two found each other, I didn’t like the comment Brit made about changing Alex so one day they’d be the perfect couple. Changing another person so he fits with you, it’s so not the right way to be in a relationship, though Alex did in fact need a little adjustment in his life. I also found Brit to be very naÃƒÆ’Ã Â ve in thinking Alex would change the minute she gave herself to him. Le sigh.A little pet peeve of mine, and the reason why I stay away from stories with Latino characters, is that I hate it when they use the wrong Spanish word or phrase. Authors, if you’re going to use lingo at least use it well. Get real Latino’s to check the phrases and that way you avoid the rest of us cringing in horror when we read them. Otherwise, great job on portraying that macho attitude. It was spot on. Seriously.Overall, I love these types of YA Contemporary novels. They have no reservations, they don’t pull any punches, they show things how they are and tell things how they are. There’s no `perfect’ ending without a lot of struggle before, and that’s exactly how life is. The themes of race and class are very real anywhere you go, and Perfect Chemistry does an excellent job or building bridges between them.

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