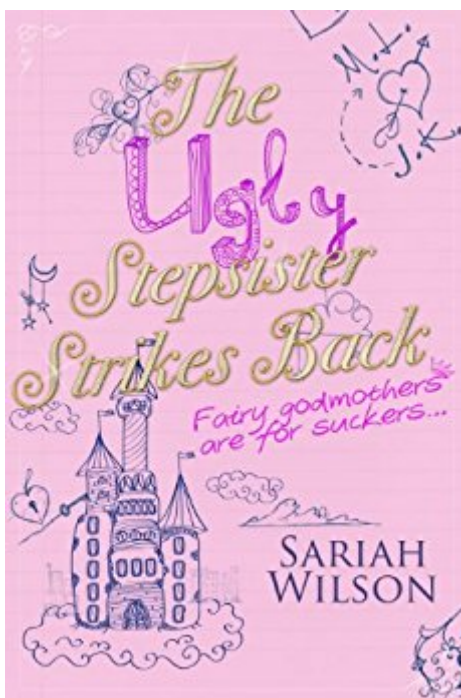


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The Ugly Stepsister Strikes Back



Synopsis

Everyone knows how all those fairy tales go. The princess gets beautiful, nabs her prince, falls instantly in love, lives happily ever after and leaves her evil stepsisters in the dust. But what happens when you're the ugly stepsister and your obnoxiously perfect "read pretty, smart, and, worst of all, sickeningly nice" stepsister is dating the charming, tall, devastatingly handsome guy you've had a thing for since you were nine years old? Quirky, artistic and snarky Mattie Lowe does not lead a charmed life. Her mother is constantly belittling her on Skype. Mercedes, the school mean girl, has made it her personal mission to torment Mattie. But worst of all? Her stepsister Ella is the most beautiful, popular girl in school and is dating Mattie's secret longtime crush, Jake Kingston. Tired of being left out and done with waiting for her own stupid fairy godmother to show up, Mattie decides to change her life. She'll start by running for senior class president against wildly popular Jake. Ella can keep her Prince Annoying. Mattie's going to rule the school. And no one, not even a cute and suddenly flirty Jake, is going to stop her. "The Ugly Stepsister Strikes Back" is a sweet, clean, contemporary young adult romance.

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Customer Reviews

Mattie Lowe's father is a famous, wealthy artist who has been divorced six times. He's a sweet guy, but utterly obsessed with his art, and even when he marries other artists, they feel neglected and leave him. Mattie is the daughter of his first wife. Ella Christensen is the daughter of Wife Number Two, who married Mattie's dad when the girls were two and divorced him a few years later. Mattie is the only biological child of her father, but he always considered Ella his daughter, and when Ella's mother died of breast cancer at the end of the girls' sophomore year, Ella came to live with them because she didn't know who or where her biological father was. Mattie likes Ella, but she's very conflicted about her. She's jealous of Ella because she's a beautiful, blond cheerleader who is popular with everyone at their elite, private school, teachers and students alike. Yet Ella is anything but conceited. In fact, she's practically a saint, constantly involved in good causes, and kind and supportive of everyone, especially Mattie. Ella's major flaw as far as Mattie is concerned is that, ever since the end of their junior year, Ella has been dating Jake Kingston, a boy that Mattie considers Ella's male counterpart. He's equally gorgeous, popular and kind to everyone he meets, and Mattie intellectually realizes that Jake and Ella are made for each other. But what her mind knows, her heart refuses to accept, because Mattie has been hopelessly in love with Jake since she was nine years old. I am a huge fan of romantic comedy, and this is an utterly outstanding example of that genre. The humor comes from the wit of the heroine, and the hilarious repartee between her and Jake. I love them both. The subcharacters are also vividly drawn, including Ella, Mattie's father, her callously critical mother, the school principal, Mattie's art teacher whom her father is dating, the Mean Girl amusingly named Mercedes Bentley, and Mercedes's equally malicious boyfriend Scott. The book is set in California, near the beach, and it is accurately portrayed. The author uses a lot of cultural references, but they are never irritating because they are always funny, and they range across a broad period of time, from the 80's forward, so they won't become dated if this little gem of a book becomes a classic. There is a really fun subtext of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* within the story itself simultaneously to Jake and Mattie overtly working as a team on an assignment for their English class, putting P&P into a modern context. Mattie creates anime drawings of P&P characters, and Jake writes an accompanying script. Meanwhile, the entire book echoes P&P in that Jake's personality contains features of both Fitzwilliam Darcy and Charles Bingley, Mattie has many similarities to Elizabeth Bennet, and Ella is very much like Jane Bennet. The HEA ending is utterly delightful, and the author promises a sequel which occurs four years after this story, in which we will have a chance to experience these wonderful characters again. I can't wait. For those interested in parental guidance information: This is a G-rated, "clean" read. Mattie is a virginal girl who has never

been kissed. There are no wild parties and no underage sex, drugs or alcohol. I rate this book as follows: Heroine: 5 stars Hero: 5 stars Subcharacters: 5 stars Romance Plot: 5 stars Writing: 5 stars Overall: 5 stars

18-year-old Maltilda Lowe's life was being ruined by her pretty, talented, petite, blonde stepsister, Ella. Making Mattie feel worse about her List of Grievances against Ella was that she was actually a truly nice person, but that niceness got cancelled out after she started dating the only boy Mattie had ever loved since she was nine years old. Sariah Wilson captured the back-biting, insecure, hormone-driven, clique-riddled high school atmosphere so perfectly you'd think she never grew up. I dare you not to laugh as you read this witty and oh, so, romantic story.

This book was great. I loved the depth the characters had and how they didn't find the typical stereotypes once you got to find out more about them. I think this is a great book that would teach teens that you need to find out who a person really is before you judge them or assume anything. I felt like I was reliving certain high school moments of my life while reading this. I kept thinking things would happen a certain way and then they what would actually happen was so different from what I was thinking. I loved that about this book it had twists and turns you didn't expect from the characters. As you read and got to know the character you got to grow with them. I'm not sure I'm an exact fan of how the book ended (sorta fairy tale like) but I think it was a good strong ending to tie everything up nicely. I would recommend this book to young adults and any adult who has a sense of humor and can tolerate immature moments in the book. I think the cover of the book should reflect more of the manga style drawing on it to become full circle with the book. I don't think the cover really fits all the well but that is besides the point.

I absolutely LOVED this book! Oh it was SO good! It started out with a girl who was swooning over the main guy and made me roll my eyes a bit but it is spot on when you think about it. So very good! GREAT lessons to learn, deep, thoughtful, hilarious, fun, and romantic-and I don't normally like romantic (I usually skip it) but not in this book! SO very well done that the characters seem almost tangible. You are in the very same room they are watching it all go down. Incredible! I 150% recommend! Another unsuspecting book going in the 'favorites' library!

I ended up really enjoying this one. I got it when it was a kindle freebie and I'm not sure why I waited so long to read it. I liked Mattie. She starts with a low self-esteem, but I like how she sticks up for

herself and stands up for what she believes in. She just doesn't see herself the way other people do. To say she was obsessed with Jake would be a bit of an understatement, but I liked how even though she was all swoony about him, she still didn't let him push her around. I just thought this was a fun Cinderella type story. It had fun characters, a good plot and was well written. I thought it had a good message about believing in yourself, taking risks and standing up for what you believe in. I liked the relationship between Ella and Mattie, and how supportive Ella was of Mattie. She was just a cool chick. I liked Jake, he was a fun character. Overall, this was a fun, heartwarming type book. One I would easily recommend to anyone, especially teens. It's really hard to find good clean teen-lit now days and I was glad to have found this one. Content: Clean*needs a better cover

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