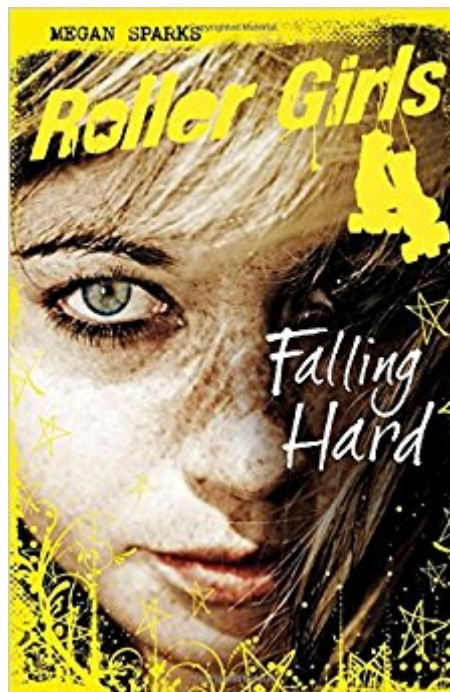


The book was found

Falling Hard (Roller Girls)



Synopsis

When Annie moves from London to a small town in the midwest, she struggles to fit in. She gets off to a bad start when she makes an enemy of her school's queen bee, Kelsey. But she discovers a new passion, the exciting sport of roller derby, and makes friends with the cool and quirky girls on her team, the Liberty Belles. She also meets Jesse, the friendly boy who works at the roller rink, and Tyler, a cute, all-American sports star.

Book Information

Series: Roller Girls (Book 1)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Capstone Young Readers (October 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 162370023X

ISBN-13: 978-1623700232

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.9 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,146,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Teens >

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Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 8 - 10

Customer Reviews

Megan Sparks is the author of the Roller Girls series. The first two books in the series, *Falling Hard* and *Hell's Belles*, were published by Capstone Young Readers in 2013. Kirkus Reviews called *Falling Hard* a "fun romp of a girls' sports story."

Review written by my ten year old daughter. Complimentary copy provided by author/publisher for an honest review. *Roller Girls: Falling Hard* is a story about a girl named Annie Turner who had the difficult choice of staying with her mom in London, or going with her dad, who chose to open up a café in Liberty Heights, Illinois. She chooses to go with her dad and she quickly meets a girl named Lexi who introduces her to roller derby. Annie turns down becoming a cheerleader,

something her dad wants her to participate in to try out roller derby. It is a real-life everyday choice that all kids need to make at some point, doing what we want to do instead of what our parents want us to do. Annie also learns how to adjust to her new school while dealing with the popular girls, and finding her place in the social hierarchy. There was some strong language, but I still really liked this book, I don't think that the language detracted from the message it was trying to send. I loved this book because it showed how empowered a young girl can be, and this is a great message for us. I hope Megan Sparks makes continues this series for quite some time!

Annie moves with her dad to the United States from London so he can start a bakery in his old home town while her mom stays in London, unwilling to leave her career. At 5' 11 1/2", 14-year-old Annie is too tall to continue with gymnastics. Cheerleading sounds like the next best thing. Her new friend Lexie tries to persuade her otherwise. Then Lexie takes her to a roller derby bout, and Annie is hooked. She now has to try out to be a cheerleader as well as a roller girl. This book is great for young teens. Annie is rediscovering herself. She is finding a new passion to replace the old one. She is making new friends, finding cute boys, and dealing with some mean girls. I really enjoyed this book because I know quite a bit about the world of roller derby. It was pretty accurate. I think a lot of young teen girls will find it enjoyable as well. They will relate to many of the struggles Annie is dealing with. Sporty girls will like the competitive sport of roller derby. Skater girls will love it. Even nonathletic girls that just like dressing funky will find fun in this one. I do warn that the cheerleader type will definitely not like how they are portrayed. For that and the fact that the story is very predictable, I think it is a strong 4 stars rather than 5 stars. I definitely recommend it, and I hope some girls become interested in roller derby because of it. Free digital copy provided through NetGalley for an honest review

Rating: Four Stars Acquired: via netgalley Annie has a choice to make: become a fearless roller girl, or join become a British All-American cheerleader with the head cheerleader already marking you on her list. After growing up in London, Annie relocates to the Midwest to live with her American father after her parents separated; leaving her life behind and starting high school as both a freshman and a foreigner. Wanting to please her dad, she tries out for the cheer-leading team, even though the captain, Miss Popular Kelsey, has it out for her. But there is another sport that catches her eye, roller derby. After watching one game, with her new best friend, Annie is hooked. But, what about cheer-leading? And, the hot soccer player Tyler, perfect All-American boy. Can Annie juggle everything? I read this book in a day. I couldn't put it down. I laughed, a lot. It isn't a book that is

going to be a classic, or make it on any prestigious lists; I think that's why I enjoyed it. It is such a light-hearted gem not to be missed. I liked Annie a lot, but it was her best friend I enjoyed maybe a little bit more. She just had such a great sense of humor. Called cheer-leading, cheer-weeding. She was one of those characters that was someone I would like to have in my corner. I could pass on oogling over Tyler, but there was also Jesse, who works at the roller rink and could have potential with Annie if she gets over the All-American Soccer boy crush. I don't think dating an athlete is all that in regards to having a social life, but Annie thinks so. It was kind of annoying. But, really one of the only flaws in the book. The writing was nothing fancy; which worked. The story wasn't convoluted; it was very suitable for the age group the book is geared towards. Although I am no longer in that intended age group, I liked how I didn't have to think while reading it. The flow was good. The dialogue was decent. It all meshed well. There is definitely a positive message in this book. Annie is a good role model; she is strong, speaks up for herself, a good friend, and makes good decisions (on what, you'll have to guess. Is it roller derby or cheer-weeding?) I am looking forward to reading the second book. It was just too fun to not want to continue the series. I am a little biased though, because I do like the roller derby. I loved the movie adaptation of Whip It starring Ellen Page (I haven't read the book yet) that is very similar to this novel. Both girls are discovering themselves and how they fit in where they are living. Many girls in high school can relate to this book. The roller derby choice isn't brought in for the violence factor. It is tied in a great, encouraging way. I would recommend this book if you are looking for some light reading material. It is a great, one to two sitting read. You aren't dedicating too much of your time. It isn't a heavy commitment. And funny. Endearing. Leaves you with a smile. Give this little gem a try. You won't regret it.

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