



The Queen of Cool

Cecil Castellucci

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On the outside, Libby Brin is the most popular girl in school. But on the inside, Libby is dying — of boredom. In a moment of desperation, Libby signs up for an internship at the Los Angeles Zoo, much to the dismay of her friends, who'd prefer she spend her time with them, shopping, partying, and making fun of everyone else. Oddly, Libby realizes that she actually enjoys her new job and that she may even like the two "nerds" she works with. Will the Queen of Cool be forced to give up her crown?

The Queen of Cool Details

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Author : Cecil Castellucci

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From Reader Review The Queen of Cool for online ebook

Rio says

While a quick read, a day tops, "The Queen of Cool" characters have little redeeming qualities or personalities. Libby Brin, the hippest in her school and looked up to by many, soon becomes bored with the label and self-destructive. Inappropriate sexual acts, excessive drinking, and a lack of concern for anybody's feelings make her quite unlikeable. Castelluci tries to make this self-absorbed teen a bit more rounded by tossing in a zoo internship, entirely out of character, but the main character is little changed by this experience and the book ends with the promise of her embarking on a big change in her outlook and attitude. Perhaps a sequel is in store? Were "popular" people in high school this insecure and uninteresting behind the 'cool' facade?

Brooklyn says

I got this book thinking 'hey this'll be a good book to read in my spare time" but I was soooooo wrong. This book was so gross and inappropriate for my taste. Some people may like this book but I kind of hated most of it. I liked certain tiny parts but other than that it was down the drain.

Laura says

I bumped this book up to the top of my to-read list because of a recent complaint from a library patron. She confiscated it from her 13-year-old because it has a hand job and the word f--k 3 times in the first few chapters. But other than that, I found this book pretty tame compared to what else is out there for the YA set. There's no explicit descriptions of sexual acts, just references to them, and the f-word doesn't show up again until almost the end of the book. The book's plot centers around a teenage "cool" girl who starts to realize that it's much more cool to be passionate about something, rather than be blasé about everything. She ends up seeking out her interests (even though they might be "uncool") and ditching her boring, predictable friends.

So even though there is some controversial material here, I think the book's message of following your passion trumps the light sprinkling of curse words and hand jobs. I would still recommend it for 9th grade and up.

Still, it led me to create a "cursing" shelf, on which I will place books with anything above the ass/bitch/damn/piss level.

Sarah says

I felt like this book was made for 13 year olds who have sticks up their butts. In this book, the main girl was very snobby. And not very smart. She becomes friends with new people, but that's it. Not that great of a

moral. Or a storyline. She goes to work at a zoo. Whoop de doop. Not very good. I suggest this book for pre-teens. I mean, it could seem really bad to me because i'm 17, and i'm not young enough to think this is a really cool book, but whatever. I didn't like it.

TJL says

This was not a long book, and I still couldn't finish it.

Just... Not compelling at all. No depth, characterizations were one-dimensional.

Adele says

Cecil Castellucci is an author that had only recently bleeped on the Persnickety Snark radar via the fantastic Beige. Queen of Cool falls into a trio of novels that Castellucci fondly calls her LA Trilogy though the books are independent of one another bar setting and girls realising they aren't who they thought they were.

Castellucci is an author that is easy to gravitate and attach yourself to. She's brilliant at telling contemporary fish-out-of-water teen tales. Considerably shorter than Beige, Queen of Cool tells Libby's story. She's one of those popular girls who is bored out of her vacant little brain. It's not surprising that she's bored when she's apparently using 0.01% of her brain capacity to get her fellow students to follow stupid crazes (e.g. pencil day, pyjamas day) just to inspire some spark in her life. So with little enthusiasm, Libby joins the Zoo's intern program and is forced to spend time with Tina (a dwarf), Shelton (acne sufferer) and a myriad of exotic animals.

Unfortunately this small tome is a little forced. The "new" friends are at the extremes of teen society and Libby's evolution comes across a little forced and simple. The conclusion of the book sees Libby about to make the jump to actually trying in her life. In a way this book is all about those signposts we have in life that change is necessary. Unfortunately there were a few too many signposts and not enough self-awareness in the character for me. Had this book been longer and contained more development with the secondary characters floating around it would have been more than a surface read.

Daysia says

In the book Queen Of Cool by Cecile Castellucci. Libby Brin is the queen of the school, her life isnt very interesting until and she decides to change that by doing the unexpected.

The book shows how many high schools deal with drugs, sex and drama. Libby's life begins to change when she signs up for an internship. Her partners are not what she expected but she soon realizes there not as bad as she thought. Her friends don't approve of her new vision in life. They use the queen bee of the school and made her into someone that she never expected to be. This book is full of real life situations, there is romance in the story but not enough to make the book categorized romance. The book was okay, honestly at first I thought the beginning of the book was stupid but after a couple of pages I realized that the book was nothing compared to the others I've read.

The book is honestly boring at some parts because there's not enough drama or actions happening, her decisions are really retarded and it pisses me off! I just want to scream at her for being so stupid. Maybe if this book had a big romance scenes then it would be more interesting but the book is short and just gets straight to the point. The writer starts off with giving a small demonstration of her everyday life then throughout the book the author starts to write about how this cool girl becomes a loser. I'm like what ?! But it portrays a change in society of how your social status does not make you, you.

I like having mysteries in my mind but this book doesn't make you have that. This book could have had more description in the setting, the plot could have also been better because it wasn't interesting. The plot rarely had mysteries and when it did I already knew how the answer it was too predictable!!!!

If your into a cliché or that sorta thing, then this is a book for you. But if you're not I would not recommend this book for you it was too predictable by the first page I already knew the ending because of the blurb. You shouldn't waste your time reading this book I would give it 3 stars because of how the characters are different and have personalities you can relate to but other than that this book was not that good.

Audryaunna says

Awesome. This book is about Libby Brin who is the all around cool girl. She has the top line friends, fashion, boyfriend, but something more is missing. Libby group of friends is the wrong crowd. They make fun of a girl named Tina. Libby is a B student she gets whatever she wants from her father even when her mother disapproves. She she thinks she has everything until she signs up for an internship for the local zoo. She ends up working with Tina and Sheldon who, by her standards are losers. (view spoiler)

Celeste says

I actually did not like this book as much as I wanted to like it. I didn't like the writing style or the main character. I know she's supposed to be this stuck up popular girl but I never really felt like she really changed or learned much. I guess she learned something but I'm sure she's still the judgmental popular girl that will always judge people even if it's not to their face. Even the other characters such as Tina were not likeable and judgmental themselves even if not outright. I just didn't care for the book.

Jocelyn says

This book is horrible. It is all about getting drunk underage and cursing and boyfriends cheating on girlfriends and that sort of stuff. In one part of the book the parents buy beer for Libby and her friends, even though they're all under 21. seriously, don't waste your time trying to read this. It took me a few hours when I could have been doing something productive. To the author: why even bother to write a book like this?

Sara Grochowski says

This book has been sitting on my shelf since 2006 - and I'm not even sure where I got it from. It is slim book and I totally forgot about it even being on the bookshelf until I was going through books to take with me when I move downstate. I found this one right next to Boy Proof, Castellucci's first novel, and was intrigued by the summary on the book. It helped that this book is pretty short, but I completely devoured this book. I had forgotten how much I loved Castellucci's writing and story telling!

Libby, as expected, was a snobby rich girl at the beginning of the novel. Despite that, I found that there was something I liked about her. I think everyone can relate in a least a small part to the feelings Libby has about the monotony of the same friends and meaningless activities day after day. It really is Libby's transformations and the lessons she learns that make the book though.

I really enjoyed many of the minor characters in the book, including Tina, Sheldon, and Sid. I wish that there was continuation of this book just so that I wouldn't have to give these amazing characters up! Tina was one of the most inspiring characters I've ever had the pleasure of reading - she was so strong and confident in herself despite overwhelming adversity and judgement!

I thought the zoo internship was an interesting idea. Having Libby become a better observer and a hard worker played a big role in her changes throughout the book. Plus, zoos are awesome! :)

Ratings (out of 10):

Plot: 10

Characters: 10

Writing style: 10

Romance: 10

Originality: 10

Total: 50/50 (A!)

The Queen of Cool was a 2006 release, but if you missed it you should definitely check it out! I really shouldn't have waited until now to read it. Cecil Castellucci is a wonderfully talented writer...

Ringo The Cat says

The Queen of Cool is one of Cecil Castellucci's three LA-novels. Just like Boy Proof and Beige, it is set in Los Angeles, and follows a particular 'scene' in the city of Angels. This time, the angle is more science-related as the main character decided to do an internship at the Los Angeles Zoo, in an attempt to change her life(style) and find what's lacking in her life.

Libby Brin is an IT-girl. She has the coolest friends, she throws the greatest parties, she is a natural born leader at her local high school. She leads, and others follow... And yet, she is bored beyond belief – an all too often symptom of contemporary teenhood. The fact that this happens to the queen of cool, the girl who has it all, is of course ironic, but not that strange if you consider the two other volumes of this LA-trilogy.

Also in *Boy Proof* and in *Beige*, Castellucci related how a teenager – whatever their background – can suddenly find out that they just aren't who they are supposed to be, and she sets them on course to become who they really are.

With minimal, sparse prose, this book yet again comes over as an 'easy read', and yet again, there are some great life lessons, that any teenager can identify with: how to withstand peer pressure, how to be different despite the fact you may become estranged from your previous friends. After all, adolescence is probably the most defining time in a person's emotional and psychological development. And Cecil Castellucci has a keen insight in the teen mind, but the three novels actually have a 'universal' message: do not be afraid to be who you are. Kudos to Cecil Castellucci!

PS. The cat can't but think that the name Libby Brin might have been inspired by a certain NY author whose husband is mentioned in the acknowledgment as Castellucci's agent... I'm just guessing here, but is the life lesson that Libby experienced one that is applicable to writers and the writing community?

<http://ringothecat.wordpress.com/>

Tracy says

I HEART CECIL CASTELLUCCI! I love this book. Libby's cool clique rules the school, but Libby is bored out of her mind. She signs up for a zoo internship to stop her mind from unraveling, meets different people, and finds a way to get away from the zombies.

"There are these crabs in the ocean," I begin. "They get into a fisherman's net, and they're too stupid to get out. They just can't figure it out. But every once in a while, one crab figures out how to escape, and the other crabs go crazy and pull it back into the net; they pull its arms and legs off because they just don't want it to leave."

This particular novel plays up to Castellucci's strength of describing thoughts and attitude, then showing how it motivates action. Sex is mentioned without that "after-school special" aura, and the details are fairly oblique (definitely not a how-to manual). This is good for parents who aren't in denial about their teens' sex drive, but hopefully have discussed it frankly. It's unclear if Libby goes all the way as no mention of birth control or contraceptives are mentioned, so don't hand this over to a virgin just let loose from the convent or military school.

One criticism I have about it is the lack of depth in the adult characters. Castellucci's writing is not flowery or terribly descriptive about settings, so it's good that she keeps the narrative trucking along at steady pace. Definitely the best out of the novels I've read so far ("*Boy Proof*" & "*Beige*"), but "*Plain Janes*" still rules my heart.

Emma (eem3) says

The Queen of Cool is a realistic fiction novel. Libby Brin. She is the most popular girl, the best clothes, the hottest boyfriend, and the hippest friends. Even though Libby has the most easygoing parents. She is dying of boredom. Then, one day she surprises everyone, including herself. She signs up for an internship at the Los

Angles Zoo. Her friends start to think she is becoming a loser because Libby becomes friends with Tina (aka "Tiny"), and Sheldon. Libby realizes that the Zoo is more fun than her real friends. How will she stay queen of cool and be friends with the most popular friends she had?

The book's strengths are how the characters react to how the story is placed out like when Kenji and Perla jumps over the fence of an exhibit that is not in use. They say "Come on, Libby." I know the feeling of should I go or should I stay. I know the feeling of I did the wrong idea or I did the right thing. I know the feeling of the wondering, thinking, and the butterflies in your stomach.

I like the author's writing style because it keeps me on my edge of my seat the whole time. Overall I like this book and I would recommend this book to a lot of people!

Judy says

THE CHRISTMAS WEEK FAMILY READ

Continuing my completist reading of Cecil Castellucci's novels. The *Queen of Cool* is her second after *Boy Proof*.

I didn't love this one as much but it has highlights. Libby Brin is #1 popular girl at school. She is spoiled at home: even when she rarely gets grounded, she gets out of it. She has her own car, a huge wardrobe, and all the requisite toys. Her boyfriend's mind resides in a lower body organ than his brain or heart.

She lives in Los Angeles and (highlight) stumbles into an internship at the LA Zoo. I admit, I always enjoy books set in LA since I live here. At the zoo she has to work with Tiny, a "Little Person" and Sheldon, a science geek, two people at the extreme bottom of the coolness rating.

Naturally her eyes are opened to the shallowness of her existence. I have nothing against midgets or geeks but the message that they are people too was a bit off-putting in its preachiness.

I did enjoy watching a female teen realize that life includes more than clothes, parties, cars, and gossip. The biggest highlight was a novel for teens that admits to the amount of drinking, drug use, and sex going on in high school.
