



## Stealing Bradford

*Melody Carlson*

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The Carter House girls are just getting to know one another when the subject of boys comes up. Rhiannon's dating Bradford, the most popular jock in school, Eliza's seeing Harry, and even DJ has dated Conner, although now he acts as if he doesn't like her. Boys aren't always easy to understand, but every girl in the house wants a boyfriend—and will do just about anything to get one. So when Taylor decides to put the moves on Bradford, Rhiannon is shocked and hurt. Mistakes are made and feelings battered ... there is forgiveness for some and bitterness for others ... but at the end of the day, the girls learn a valuable lesson about what it means to be a family.

## Stealing Bradford Details

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Author : Melody Carlson

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## From Reader Review Stealing Bradford for online ebook

### Brenda says

I was really liking this YA christian stuff, but this one might have been too much for me. It felt very young adult. To the point where I feel like only a teenager might be able to relate to it. The writing felt amateur, the storyline was kind of silly. I just couldn't really get into it. Also, there was too much talk of people being gay. Not that any of the characters actually were gay, that we know of, anyway. But too much of the girls speculating about teachers being gay or other girls being gay, and it felt over the top.

Maybe kids these days really do think about this all the time. I don't remember thinking along these lines when I was in high school. It didn't matter to me, and it was none of my business, but I feel like it's half the focus for this novel. Granted, it's been over ten years since I was in high school, and I know things have changed, but that doesn't mean it's not annoying. I don't really think I'd recommend this series. The first one was okay, but this second novel wasn't great. I'll try one more, and if it doesn't get better, that's it for this series for me. Too many other excellent books out there.

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### Jessica (BookRockGoddess) Bolton says

This second book was good but a little religious heavy for some people. I don't think that this will be to everyone's tastes but I thought it was good enough for me to continue on with the series.

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### Heather says

#### Rating D

**First Line** "I'm sorry, but my car's just not big enough for all the girls," announced Eliza as they were finishing breakfast."

**Review** ...And cue the drama. Who will ride in what car? (Because we all know from **Carter House Girls Book #1** that we are all supposed to hate Casey, the "troubled" "Goth chick" with safety pin piercings).

Believe it or not, I hated this book actually worse than I hated book number one, *Mixed Bags*. I didn't think it could get worse, but it did. DJ (the "athletic" "girl-next-door" protagonist), who I kind of liked in *Mixed Bags*, was schizophrenic in this book--first she can't stand this person, then she can't stand that person; first she's embarrassed by this boy, then she's mad at him, then she's "confused," but happy that he's her boyfriend. How about this gem of introspection:

"DJ smiled to herself as she went into the auditorium. Having a boyfriend, although it took some getting used to, was kind of fun," (p. 133).

Kind of fun? Takes getting used to? What is this girl, Amish? Give me a break. She's got a cute guy that she's been friends with for as long as she's lived in town (and they had a serious make-out session in Book #1), but she's not used to him? What? I'd be all up on that (as would most any other 16-year-old girl, right?).

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### **Peri says**

Stealing Bradford is a typical teenage book about drama. I know a lot of girls have to deal with boyfriends and their friends' jealousy. If you like to read about teenage drama and get a glimpse of what it is like, you would like this book.

I really liked how the author did not repeat everything that had happened in the previous book. A lot of authors feel the need to re-inform the reader on the important information from the last book. This can be helpful, but sometimes I feel like I'm re-reading the book. I also liked how real this book felt. You feel as though you are really watching all these girls in the middle of their drama. I also liked how this story did not end so suddenly. The author wrapped up the whole book very nicely. I disliked the stereo typical "girl steals friend's boyfriend" aspect of the story. Too many novels result in this. The author did change the story line up so it was not too cliche.

Stealing Bradford is all about girl drama. If you enjoy boyfriend snatching girls and drama, this book would be a great read for you. Even though the story is a lot like most girl drama novels, you might like the twist.

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### **Michelle says**

Stealing Bradford was an easy read like the first book in the series. I'm not sure I enjoyed it as much, though. I appreciated how the issues with Connor and DJ were worked through, but since this is part of a series it's still unresolved at the end, which is okay, but I don't like too many loose ends. There was a big loose end that is sort of dealt with because you see the first chapter for the next book at the end of this one, but that's the only reason. Without that you'd be left hanging.

It seems like the characters are becoming more three dimensional as the series progresses, which is good. I like how gradually the deepening issues with Taylor are emerging and being peeled away like layers from an onion. It's great how the author shows that when you attempt to get to know people who you don't like, you will often see that their pain drives them to act the way they do. That's definitely the best part of this story. The scenario with Taylor at the school reminded me of *A Walk to Remember*'s issue, almost as if it had been taken from that story. And last, I don't know why I kept seeing Taylor as a blonde in my mind's eye, then to find out she has a totally different parentage kind of threw me. Maybe I just missed that in the first book.

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### **Sandra says**

This book follows right behind *Mixed Bags*. It starts right where the first one left off. Although this is only the second in the Carter House Girls Series, I think they are all going to be great. I think they are just write for an older teen or YA. There are several life lessons that keep popping up. It seems very true to life, the struggles a young lady would have with not only peer pressure but finding her way into the adult world and living her new found Christian faith. Loved the book. I think any teen could find one of six main characters they could relate to.

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## Pamela Hubbard says

While these books are still on the cheesy side, with dialogue that seems stilted and unrealistic for teens, the message of the books is strong and they provide a clean read for teens. The girls living in the Carter House are still struggling to get along as the school year starts. The girls undergo some great growth and character development. Tensions are high as Taylor, the girl no one can get along with, sets out to aggravate the other girls, purposely stirring up trouble. This escalates to the point where she reveals some ugly truths about her life to DJ and then runs away. DJ continues to grow in her faith, start over in her relationship with Connor and reach out to the other girls. Casey also undergoes a change as she realizes that her rebellious ways are not really her and end up hurting her.

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## Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

*"The Carter House girls are just getting to know one another when the subject of boys comes up. Rhiannon's dating Bradford, the most popular jock in school, Eliza's seeing Harry, and even DJ has dated Conner, although now he acts as if he doesn't like her. Boys aren't always easy to understand, but every girl in the house wants a boyfriend and will do just about anything to get one. So when Taylor decides to put the moves on Bradford, Rhiannon is shocked and hurt. Mistakes are made and feelings battered there is forgiveness for some and bitterness for others but at the end of the day, the girls learn a valuable lesson about what it means to be a family."*

Series: Book #2 (of eight) in the "Carter House Girls" series. (Review of Book #1 [Here!](#)) {Another series by this author, "*On the Runway*" mentions these characters after the final book. {Read #1 of that series [review Here!](#)} I personally would read the CHG series then the OTR series. :) }

Spiritual Content- Prayers; Talks about God, how it works & praying; 'H's are not capital when referring to God; Bible reading; Scriptures are read, mentioned, quoted & thought over; Youth group, Church & talks about sermons; DJ is a new Christian; A mention of a Catholic crucifix;

\*Note: DJ calls Taylor evil, a spawn of the devil & "*the devil girl*"; A mention that Kriti is probably Hindu; A mention of a "*little hellhole*"; A mention of a goddess.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a 'bull', a 'freaking', an 'idiot', a 'moron', a 'oh my gosh', a 'sheesh', a form of 'wimp', two 'duh's, two 'give a rip's, two 'sucker's, three 'crap's, three 'dumb's, five forms of 'witch', ten 'shut up's, fifteen forms of 'stupid'; A possible curse is cut off; Sarcasm, sass & eye rolling; Mean girls & bullies; Thinking of suicide; Taylor & Casey smoke; Mentions of martinis & wine; A mention of tobacco; A mention of cannibalism; A mention of Taylor's father who's in rehab & abuse when drunk;

\*Note: Many mention of designers & celebrities; Mentions of Starbucks.

Sexual Content- a cheek kiss and two not-detailed kisses; A mention of Book #1's passionate kissing &

touching scene; Talks about kisses & first kisses; Taylor is a flirt & flirts with taken guys; a ‘babe’, a ‘baby’ and two ‘hot’s; When Casey & DJ hug, mean girls call them lesbians and to get a room; Five mentions of the rumor that the girl’s PE teacher is gay, and because of that rumor DJ feels uncomfortable when Ms. Jones gives her extra attention (it’s revealed in book #3 she has a boyfriend); Taylor asks if a teacher is gay (no, he’s not); A mention of a girl being bi & coming on to another girl (she isn’t & didn’t); Mentions of skanky-looking photos, photos of girls kissing girls, hoots from boys & someone asks if she’s *“Training to be a porn queen?”* (no, she’s not, the photos are edited); Mentions of guys noticing girls; A mention of the episode on the beach (Book #1) when Taylor embarrassed DJ; A mention of accusing someone of cheating; A mention of a pastor who had an affair; Two mentions of a pervert & one that might have kidnapped a girl as his sex-slave (did not happen); A mention of doing *it* in a back store room (but really just a *“heavy make-out session”* that could have gone to doing it but *“it would be rather tacky to have sex in the backroom.”* Then later a mention of going to a cheap hotel to do it.) Taylor says she doesn’t *“want a guy who’s only interested in having sex.”*; Lots of boys, boyfriends & girlfriends, dating & all that drama;

-Desiree Jeanette "DJ" Lane, age 16  
P.O.V. of DJ (Epilogue in Taylor's POV)  
209 pages

## Pre Teens- One Star

### New Teens- One Star

## Early High School Teens- One Star (and a half)

### Older High School Teens- Two Stars

### My personal Rating- Two Stars

{Add 1-2 stars for girls in Public & Private School}

If I remember right, when I first read this series, this one was my least favorite in the series due to all the Sexual Content. But, the ending makes getting through all the icky stuff worth it! ;)

Link to review:

<http://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot.com>

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

**Jessica says**

"This book follows directly behind the first (Mized Bags) book. It is literally like you hit pause from the first one and pick up in this one which is really nice. DJ is still trying to adjust to her new life and new ""friends"". She has many battles and struggles she faces and to top it all off things are about to get a whole lot worse. It can be difficult in school and even in life to know who to trust and who not to. It can also be difficult when people you want to be friends with are divided and pulling you in opposite directions. How do you know what to do? Well in this book DJ doesn't exactly handle things perfectly which makes her

character that much more relatable. What is nice is that she is trying and is weighing her options. Her thinking about it and what to do doesn't help to stop some events in time but she ends up doing some good.

This one is better than the first one because it seems to flow a lot more nicely. DJ isn't as flaky and the characters are really starting to define themselves. This series seems to be an awesome one that can teach young teenagers and young women alike about how to better handle situations. The fact that it is christian based is more of a side note in this one which also made me like it more."

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### **Jerry says**

Melody Carlson is easily one of the most prolific Christian writers of our time. Between kiddie/tweenie fiction series, Yuletide novels, and woman-centric dramas, she has written over two hundred books. You may think that producing literature at such a rapid pace would make Ms. Carlson's works low in quality, but, in my experiences with them, I've found them to be the exact opposite; *Stealing Bradford* is a perfect example. Like a well-produced Disney Channel Original Movie--although slightly harder-edged, especially at the end--this novel deals honorably and tastefully with serious issues that teens are quite liable to face in the real world. This is a sequel, so I would recommend reading *Mixed Bags* the series' debut, first. Older readers may not be too enthused about this, but those who are still young and/or young at heart will probably find this enjoyable. Just make sure you have the sequel on hand; the final few chapters' events will leave you hanging until the next installment.

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### **VLynch says**

This book was just as charming as the first book in this series, *Mixed Bags*. However, the one draw back in this series is these books do not stand alone at all. There is no mini recap of the previous book to help catch the reader up or any history throughout the book to help explain why the characters are the way they are. I think the series is adorable and sweet. And real look into the young teens mind, this book deals with a real current issue. However, without the recap information I feel like the books need to read one after each other to understand them. And that many books in a row (I believe there are 7) may be too much young adult content for me. I would prefer to read one a week or so, but that means for me there 3 or 4 other books in between. I would need a brief recap.

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### **Natalie says**

A little too angsty for me, but it was pretty good. I remembered very little about book 1 so I kind of went into this one blind. I don't like Bradford at all and I was very unhappy that Rhiannon got back together with him at the end. I felt bad for Taylor and everything she went through. Everyone hates her, and yes, she can be a little snotty at times, but I think she's overall a good person. I'd like to see more development of her character in future books.

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### **Rachel says**

This was the second book in the Carter House Girls, an entertaining series of Christian YA novels, which I actually bought for 2 dollars on Kindle because I enjoyed reading the first book so much. Like the first novel, this one was also well written, and I enjoyed seeing how the characters were developing. I got a good laugh in this one as well because a major plot element involved a MySpace page, and MySpace is very dead now. Anyway, I am so glad I started this cute series.

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### **Ky says**

I thought I would try reading the second book just to give this series another shot. I love Melody Carlson's books so much that it pains me to think that she could have churned out a crappy series. Maybe it's supposed to be targeted more towards middle schoolers or something. The teens in this series just seem so underdeveloped. They said "right" and "whatever" more times than I could count - which some teens probably do, but for the sake of the dialogue, I think that should have been limited. In the "True Colors" series, Carlson makes the teen characters seem so relatable and authentic; in this series, they just seem to fall flat. Also, the characters are so limited and one-dimensional, except for Taylor towards the very end. I felt like all the characters were portrayed very stereotypically and that they were either fully good or fully bad, with no in between. I would have given this book just one star except that the last 2 chapters and the epilogue were finally starting to get a little interesting.

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### **Lizzie says**

OK I think I officially love Carter house girls more than Diary of a Teenage girl, granted this is only the second book, and I tend to get fed up by the third book so I guess I really cant say anything yet. I definitely loved this book more than the first one, the characters are becoming more developed and seem to have an actual personality. Sure I feel that Kriti doesn't get as much airtime as the other girls (theres seriously 6 of them) but I feel she will get a bigger role in the story. now Melody Carlson apparently has a tendency to take the Christianity thing over the top but although there was more in this book than the first one I still feel she wasn't shoving it down our throats, really good book cannot wait for #3 and I hope it doesn't disappoint, also Taylor please come home Casey is sorry and DJ loves you

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