



Carter Finally Gets It

Brent Crawford

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Meet Will Carter, but feel free to call him Carter. (Yes, he knows it's a lazy nickname, but he didn't have much say in the matter.)

Here are five things you should know about him:

1. He has a stuttering problem, particularly around boobs and belly buttons.
2. He battles Attention Deficit Disorder every minute of every day unless he gets distracted.
3. He's a virgin, mostly because he's no good at talking to girls (see number 1).
4. He's about to start high school.
5. He's totally not ready.

Join Carter for his freshman year, where he'll search for sex, love, and acceptance anywhere he can find it. In the process, he'll almost kill a trombone player, face off with his greatest nemesis, suffer a lot of blood loss, narrowly escape death, run from the cops (not once, but twice), get caught up in a messy love triangle, meet his match in the form of a curvy drill teamer, and surprise the hell out of everyone, including himself.

Carter Finally Gets It Details

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Author : Brent Crawford

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From Reader Review Carter Finally Gets It for online ebook

Rachael says

A very funny book that I'm sure the majority of boys would enjoy reading, plus girls too. While the book is great and I would love to recommend it to teens at my library I doubt that I will. Mostly because of parents, I think most in my area would freak out at the idea of this book in their kids' hands. Because as we all know, boys don't think about boobs, porn, asses, sex, and all that other stuff. :/

Also, it made me want to watch Guys and Dolls. :)

Terry says

Yes, yes he finally does...at around page 290 out of 300. Up until that point you have to put up with a lot of alternately tedious and offensive scenes. After reading this book, I realize, though, how difficult it is to create this type of teenage boy narrator (think Holden Caulfield, only less interesting). The narrator in this book is such a tool, it's really hard to get through it in one sitting--I had to put the book down several times, and even once walked out of a coffee shop I was so irritated.

So, what's wrong with the book? First, the tedious--there's really nothing new, unique, or specific in its portrayal of freshman year of high school. There's scenes with the football team, parties, a fight...I get that the author is trying to relate some sort of universal male high school experience, but both the humor and conflict feel recycled. There are not 1 but two parties in which the cops show up to chase the narrator, 2 instances of the narrator deeply cutting himself with a razor while trying to shave. Sound exciting yet?

Secondly, the narrator. It's really hard to like this guy...or really easy if one isn't aware of what the author is up to. Yup, this novel's just as deliberate as Twilight--that one's wish fulfillment for girls, this is the same for boys. Carter, the protagonist, is attractive, a star athlete (football and swimming!), and scores the lead in the school play. In other words, he's Mr. Popular, the kind of person everyone hates/hopes to be. But wait, you say--is he perfect? Well, no, he's not great at academics and has ADD--both of which the author exploits to make his protagonist cooler, and neither of which are actually dealt with seriously by the novel. Well, maybe he has a great personality, like the narrator in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, you might wonder? Nope. He's a complete tool (until he matures slightly in the last chapter). He's the type of guy that does mean, manipulative things, but then feels guilty and cries victim. The, 'yeah-I-just-screwed-up, but-now-I-realize-it-and-am-crying-so-it's-okay-that-I-was-a-total-jerk' attitude. The, 'in-fact-you-should-like-me-and-give-me-your-pity' attitude. Mind you, he's also attractive and an extracurricular and athletic star--a real outsider. It's so much easier to like the (minor) villains of the book because at least they don't cry victim. Crying does not equal sensitivity, especially when the same mistakes keep happening--it just means you're a jerk who feels guilty about being one. Maybe those mistakes could be explained as part of learning and growing up, however, if there wasn't...

Finally, the offensive. No, I'm not talking about the sex, drinking, etc. I actually think that those are appropriate topics for a high school novel. No, I'm talking about the frequent use of 'bitch,' 'gay,' and 'retard.' No, not 'bitch' used to refer to women--although that does happen--'bitch' used in the context, of 'I'm crying like a little bitch...' (see previous paragraph). Or, how about when the narrator looks forward to having a 'bros before hos' night. Yup, we're in whiteboylandia, and it's painful. Or, how about this exchange...in the last chapter, no less!:

'He's also gay.' She laughs.

'Oh...What? You mean, he's gay, like, he's a dumbass?' I reply.

'No, I mean he's homosexual, like, he's attracted to boys,' she clarifies. 'You're gay, like, a dumbass.'

Yeah, that's progressive--let's distinguish the different meanings of the word 'gay,' thus validating the meaning of it as 'dumb.' I'm all for realism when it comes to language, but a) You have to go all the way, or not at all. This novel pulls up short--for example, the f-bomb rarely, if at all, shows up, while 'gay' and 'retard' happen over and over; and b) It's always nice to have someone, anyone, but preferably the narrator, questioning those stereotypes at some point in the book. Maybe, for example, at the end when he's supposedly matured, he would question the use of 'gay,' etc. But this protagonist never really does (perhaps that's what makes it more realistic, and sad).

But this novel isn't about questioning stereotypes or presenting high school from the point of view of a true outsider--there are plenty of good books that do that (*Speak*, the previously mentioned Sherman Alexie novel, *Will Grayson*, *Will Grayson*, to name a few). Nope, this book's about giving a white, middle class, heterosexual point of view of high school--and it's a pretty bland journey. If that's what you want, though, here you have it. You might even be waiting with baited breath for 'Carter Pledges a Fraternity' and 'Carter Goes to Law School.'

Purelyamuse says

This book is freaking funny. Carter is freaking funny. You will laugh out loud about the shenanigans this kid gets into and the bad decisions he makes and how clueless he really is.

I loved this coming of age story, if you can call it that, because he's still coming of age and figuring things out.

Carter is a freshman, fourteen, and obsessed with girls (boobs and sex), fitting in, and being good at something. His family is so real and hysterically funny. Some of my favorite scenes involved the dinner table they sat around. Carter does his best to muddle through school and around girls, and after some tips from his sister regarding females, he starts to do okay. But then he veers off course and shoots himself in the foot (and hurts poor Abby's feelings). But I don't care. I love Carter.

I love that he beats his friends up. I love that he says retard. I love that he bought a porno for 35 bucks and it's a copy of a copy on VHS in fast forward. I love that he tries things even though he fails. I love that he can't speak when there's a belly button in sight. And I love that he's honest (sometimes), and that he doesn't think about what he's saying. He is an honest to goodness boy.

If I had to give a one word review of this book it would be AUTHENTIC. This is high school. This is what happens. It is awkward and scary and annoying and hard and no one has a clue what's going on. It's awesome.

This book is not my usual schtick. I love romance and swoon, but the fact that Carter is so real and hilarious, it gets five freaking stars from me. I look forward to more Carter books and anything else Brent Crawford writes. He knows teenagers! Thank you!

Disclaimer: Not sure the romance and swoon labels count here, but I love Carter, so I'm going to give him points for trying.

Page says

This book read like a 90s teen movie, so I was immediately hooked. It was loaded with laughs and I cracked up all the way through. I haven't read much contemporary YA from a male's perspective, so I found it really refreshing. While this book was with talk of boobs, butts and sluts, it also managed to be poignant and insightful. At first, I didn't get what the book was supposed to be about until I realized it was just a capture of a year; everything it took for Carter to "finally getting it".

Carter himself was a great character. Deep down, he was a decent guy but still managed to act like a clueless jerk most of the time. But changing from a preteen to a teen sucks, and I love how the author captured the good with the bad. He sinks to peer pressure just as much as he sometimes rises about it. I liked learning about ADD and thought it was really interesting to learn a bit about its affects.

The most disturbing part... Carter is only 14/15 when all of these things happen. It seems so young, almost too young. I'm not going to say it's unrealistic just because it wasn't my experience, but shit. It gives some insight into how some people evolved over 8th grade break, for sure! Even though there was a lot of teen drinking, I like that pretty much every drinker made a spectacular ass of themselves. Didn't glorify it in the least.

Heather says

Rating A+

Review Have you ever read a book that, as soon as you were done with it, you wanted to start right over and read it again? That's what reading *Carter Finally Gets It* was like for me. I laughed so hard. It was so funny, so real. The characters so perfect that I didn't want it to end. The author's website is <http://www.carterbooks.com> and I hope (hope, hope, hope) that the "S" on the end of that website address means there are more books to come. I want to read about Carter's sophomore year, his junior year, his senior year, and college. I'd probably read about Carter in his golden years if Brent Crawford would write it.

But take heed: the back of the book warns readers that, "This book contains lewd humor, underage drinking, illicit fantasizing, and very bad decision-making." that it does. And then some. But the hilarity is worth it.

Recommendation Fans of YA fiction with fun and charismatic guys as the protagonist, such as David Yoo's books, will enjoy this.

Agn? says

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Brent Crawford's hilarious young adult novel "Carter Finally Gets It," the first book in the Carter Finally Gets It series, welcomes the reader inside the head of Will Carter, a fourteen-year-old boy with attention deficit disorder (ADD). Carter is about to start his freshman year at high school and he is totally not ready. But who can blame him? Life is not easy when you are constantly distracted by hot chicks who make you

stutter, bullies, peer pressure, expectations, alcohol, your hormones and ADD. "Carter Finally Gets It" is a highly entertaining high school comedy full of "lewd humor, underage drinking, illicit fantasizing, and very bad decision-making."

THUMBS UP:

1) *Laugh-out-loud hilarious.*

This book is truly funny. Yes, some of the humor is inappropriate, some of it might even be offensive, and almost all of it is quite silly; nevertheless, "Carter Finally Gets It" will get out of you at least a chuckle (but most likely a non-stop guffaw).

2) *Convincing portrayal of a mind with ADD.*

I don't have any experience with the disorder myself, but if I imagined what happens in the head of a teenage boy with ADD, it would be something similar to Carter's train of thought: impulsive, random and crowded with distractions and day dreaming.

3) *Fast and light read.*

"Carter Finally Gets It" has a nice flow, short chapters and tons of action thus it is a very quick read with a single purpose: to entertain.

COULD BE BETTER:

1) *Not very realistic (I hope).*

Since this book is a comedy, some of it seems quite exaggerated. Though I do understand that teenagers are at times impulsive, reckless, irresponsible, aggressive, indecisive, mean, adventurous and, above all, horny, not ALL are like that and not ALL the time. I also believe that if they are like that, most of the parents would not be totally OK with it and would do something about it. And finally, I simply refuse to believe that quite a few girls in the same high school by the age of 14 can already have a reputation as "village bicycles" and are eager to "seal the deal" with random guys in the backyard bushes during a high school party.

2) *Not much more than a funny brainless read.*

This book is a great entertainment but not much else. The characters are rather one-dimensional (except for Carter, maybe) and thus are not very relatable. The plot is action-packed but not very thought-provoking. There is not much to take away from this book either; there is some kind of message at the end, but it is not very unique and rather underdeveloped.

VERDICT: 3 out of 5

"Carter Finally Gets It" is a guffaw-inspiring and action-packed high school comedy, which is entertaining, fast and light but not much else.

Taylor says

Alright. There are a ton of problems I have with this book... but I have to admit I did think this book was hilarious.

Okay I'm a girl. I get that this book isn't exactly for me, but it was the first book I saw in the library on the shelf of summer reading so I just picked it up. When I got home I read the back and was MORTIFIED. How can the teachers let such a messed up book like this onto the reading list? What creepers will read this and

get ideas? These thoughts and many more accompanied me throughout the perverted mind of Carter. I don't think that starting the book off at the pool with the lifeguard's boobs about to burst through her bathingsuit and all the guys at the pool thanking God for their existence is the way I like to kick off my journey with Carter and his first year of high school. And believe me, that wasn't the only thing he had to say. He judges people by their butts and how big their chest is... which is pretty gross. Also, when he goes on that date with Abby, I'm not a specialist or anything, but I severely doubt that could happen in a crowded movie. Another thing, all high school parties don't end in 14-year-olds driving trucks, your unconscious sister rolling around in the back of that truck, running over your mailbox and bushes, demolishing your neighbor's fence, being chased by the cops, the cop car swerving off the road and falling into a ditch, the back of your friend's pants ripping off and his butt cheeks hanging out, being arrested and running away handcuffed, your friend whose butt is hanging out of his pants and you being handcuffed then getting into a fight on the sidewalk, being chased by a rabid Pitbull, driving on the wrong side of the road, and all your friends ending up drunk. Guess what?! Your dad is okay with it!

Although this book featured many perverted guys and many slutty girls, it was wicked funny. The comedy that is used isn't "clean", I have to admit that it was, as I would say, a knee slapper. The thought process of Carter is just so comical that I have no choice but to laugh out loud. My favorite laugh was the part before Scarry Terry Moss and Carter get into the fight.

"I'm looking at my left arm to see what's written on my wrist about science class- I took a shower this morning and I can't tell if it says 'quiz' or 'pizza'- when who should pop out of the Behavioral Disorders classroom like a crazy rabbit out of its cage? None other than Scarry Terry Moss. And guess who runs right into him?

BAM! I drop my health book and slowly look up into his crazy eyes. 'What the hell muthaf*cka?' he screeches.

This is not good.

'S-S-Sor-Sar . . .' I stammer. The word 'sorry' will just not come out. But guess what does fly out of my death-wish mouth?

'You stole my bike, you A-HOLE!'"

Sara says

Hilarious coming-of-age-during-freshman-year-of-high-school story. This was so funny that I giggled most of the way through, and broke out in actual guffaws at some points. I must have the sense of humor of a 14-year-old boy, because the chapter where the narrator eats Taco Bell before a date and then has to figure out how to deal with the resulting flatulence made me laugh so hard that I had to stop and catch my breath before continuing. The plot moves fast, never dwelling on anything long enough to get dull (but it works, because the narrator has ADD, too). And then the ending! It's pitch-perfect, because it provides satisfying closure with a tone that stays true to the rest of the story and the main character.

Be warned, though - this story is not for the sensitive reader. As the back cover says: "This book contains lewd humor, underage drinking, illicit fantasizing, and very bad decision-making." That's putting it mildly. While the main character is good in his heart of hearts, a lot of people will probably still find him highly offensive.

Lacy says

4.5 stars. Awesome, hilarious, insightful, poignant, and entertaining exploration of the mind of a teenage boy with ADD who is trying to survive his freshman year of high school.

Sara says

Carter is a typical high school freshman who wants to be considered cool, fit in with the popular crowd, and hook up with girls. He hangs out with friends with nicknames like Bag and Hormone, plays football because it's apparently the thing to do, and is trying to score a cool nickname like "Race Car." He follows his older sister's advice for how to get a girl interested in him, then doesn't know what to do when things get complicated due to his own stupidity.

Covering the entire span of Carter's freshman year, this book honestly feels like it's narrated by a kid his age, and it is laugh-out-loud hilarious! Probably one of the funniest teen books I've read in a long time - similar to Antony John's *Busted: Confessions of an Accidental Player*, but with a younger narrator in even crazier situations.

The narration flows easily, making it seem like you're actually reading Carter's thoughts as they happen. An example: "(The football coach) draws Xs and Os on the chalkboard and blathers about 'plays' and 'holes,' and I have no idea what he's talking about. I space off and think about that movie *Holes* and how it would suck to dig holes all day in the desert." He calls mono - the kissing disease - "a pimp-ass problem I wish I had." How can you not root for a guy so earnest yet so incredibly dorky?

On top of the great (though sometimes lewd) humor in this book, it is also sweet. Carter becomes a better person, works hard to succeed when he really wants to, and eventually follows his own interests despite knowing his friends will be less than impressed (of course, he doesn't tell them what he's doing to ward off teasing). Definitely a book that all teens could - and should - enjoy. I am looking forward to reading this author's next book whenever it comes out!

Kress says

OH MY GOD I ADORED THIS BOOK!!! First off, thank you Sally, for knowing this was what I needed. It's just what the doctor ordered. I vow to read anything Crawford writes. Even if he starts writing instruction manuals for bike repair, I'm so there.

I laughed until I was wheezing and crying. And I love Carter. He's my new hero. All boys should read this because they'll see themselves in Carter. And all girls should read this so they get that boys aren't trying to do bad things they're just stupid now and then. Crawford may just be solving the whole battle of the sexes thing with one super funny book.

Everyone should immediately go read this book. Seriously.

carissa says

Recommended Ages: grades 8 - 10

"Meet Will Carter, but feel free to call him Carter. (Yes, he knows it's a lazy nickname, but he didn't have much say in the matter.)

Here are five things you should know about him:

1. He has a stuttering problem, particularly around boobs and belly buttons.
2. He battles Attention Deficit Disorder every minute of every day...unless he gets distracted.
3. He's a virgin, mostly because he's no good at talking to girls (see number 1).
4. He's about to start high school.
5. He's totally not ready.

Join Carter for his freshman year, where he'll search for sex, love, and acceptance anywhere he can find it. In the process, he'll almost kill a trombone player, face off with his greatest nemesis, suffer a lot of blood loss, narrowly escape death, run from the cops (not once, but twice), get caught up in a messy love triangle, meet his match in the form of a curvy drill teamer, and surprise the hell out of everyone, including himself." - product description

This book was hilarious! I couldn't put it down and couldn't stop laughing. It was a bit of a culture shock to realize that yes, this is how 14 year-old boys think.

Terry says

What grabs me most about this book is Crawford's rendering of Carter's adolescent, ADD voice. From the first page, I knew this character. In this way, it surpasses Don Calame's *Swim the Fly*, although there are striking similarities in tone and plot between the two. And unlike several other teen comedies, Carter isn't a loser; he's actually fairly popular. Some of the convenient tropes are a little predictable (the sassy older sister, the befuddled parents, the thuggish bully, the out-of-control parties) but they never feel stale. Several other reviewers have faulted Carter for being such an unrelenting horn-dog, but I believe many readers will recognize this facet of teenage boyhood.

Is there some underage drinking? Yep. Some obsession with 'woman boobs'? Yes. Some - OK, lots - of absurdly flawed decision making? Yes. But I think readers, especially boys, will laugh a lot at this story that has its heart in the right place.

Marie says

End the R Word Day 2012

Being inside the head of a fourteen-year-old boy is scary! This book was incredibly real, very entertaining, and laugh-out-loud funny. It is a book with five star potential, but alas, I could only give it two.

I'm about to get preachy...

Carter Finally Gets It was a good book for so many reasons and I did truly enjoy reading. But, the author chose to use the word "retard" excessively. The author even goes so far as to talk about students in special education as if they are a stupid sub sect of people that are the lowest of the low. I know that the author probably chose this voice for his character in order to reflect how a fourteen year old boy would view students with special needs. Unfortunately, I found it appalling and sickening every time Carter said that word or referred to students with special needs in a derogatory nature.

I am the mother of a child with special needs and I fight everyday for my daughter's acceptance in this world. It's books like this that make light of "R Word", when in reality, it is hurtful and just plain mean and doesn't need to be said. I am also a teacher. I teach thirteen and fourteen-year-olds (just like Carter). As a role model and someone who is trying desperately to educate the next generation of leaders; I want to instill a better sense of values into their lives. I do not allow my students to use that word in reference to anything, because it will 99% of the time have some sort of negative or derogatory comment following it. People use it only to be hurtful and to make fun of those with special needs, like it's a joke to be different. Well, news flash... WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT!!!!

As a society, we should be trying to better ourselves. I'm against the use of any words that negatively portray any group of people. So, the book, Carter Finally Gets It gets two stars. I kept waiting for Carter to get it, but he never did! Hopefully, those of you that read this review will "get it" and choose your words more carefully!

J says

Carter is a funny, endearing, likeable guy -- think of Joey Pigza (ADD big-time) as a 9th grader whose hormones have gone wild! We get to live in the head of a freshman boy whose main goal is to have sex, but he has to survive football practice, razzing by his friends, belly-flopping at the community pool, lots of parties, being caught by the police, and the intricacies of not making all girls hate him. Very humorous and self-deprecating, you'll love Carter. Big disclaimer, though -- the reason this didn't score a 4 or even a 5 was the offensive language. I don't mean swearing, I mean the prolific use of "gay", "faggot", and "retard" as the banter between Carter and his friends. I know that some teens talk to each other this way, but we work extremely hard to de-normalize this kind of hateful language, and author Crawford could have done without it. As a result, I'll have to be careful when I recommend this book to students. One of the saving graces is that Carter learns to get in touch with his creative side and auditions for the school play, even though he knows he will be ridiculed by his friends and teammates. I'm looking forward to the sequel, "Carter's Big Break", because in spite of the language and his relentless thoughts of girls, he's a really fun character.
