



## Just Pretending

*Leah Rooper , Kate Rooper*

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It's not easy being royal. Sixteen-year-old Evangeline wears her crown proudly, but between her duties and her overprotective big brother, the idea of romance is just a dream. But a chance encounter in Chicago changes all that....

Sure, seventeen-year-old Tyler Evans loves playing hockey, but he's more concerned about providing for his dad and little sister. Then he meets Eva--and falls head-over-heels in love—and he has two more problems. One, she's his best friend's little sister. Two, she wears a crown.

But then Eva accidentally mistakes Tyler for a visiting prince, and for the first time, Tyler doesn't feel like a nobody. He knows he has to tell her the truth...but not yet.

His plan? To keep up the royal charade as long as it takes to convince Eva he's the guy for her. Even if he's lying to everyone...including himself.

Disclaimer: May cause disillusionment. Those girls looking to find their Prince Charming might consider scouting out hockey rinks.

### Just Pretending Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Leah Rooper , Kate Rooper

Format :

Genre : Contemporary, Romance, Young Adult, Family

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## From Reader Review Just Pretending for online ebook

### Jena says

I will start off by saying this is the first book in The Chicago Flacons series I have read. If you're looking for a super cute fairy tale story, then this is for you!

With the plot, I did like the fact that we got to see Chicago but also another country all together. I wish the author would have explored these a bit more or focused more on one location. With the art aspect, I really enjoyed that as art is something I also love. Speaking of parts of the story line, I really enjoy that the authors chose to speak about a disability. Disabilities are extremely common in our society and I feel a lot of time in books they are pushed under the rugs. So, I really commend Leah and Kate for willing speaking about a topic in their story.

As far as characters go, my favorite character was Madison. I love how helpful and upbeat she is. She always seems to see the good in every situation. Also, the real Tiberius was hysterical and he was a perfect comic relief. Unfortunately, I was disappointed with our main characters. With Tyler, I thought he was too hard on himself and a bit of a cry-baby. The one thing I really enjoyed about him was how he was with his sister Millie. With Eva she was a bit too "royal" for me and didn't really break down even around Tyler whom she supposedly loves. Then, there's Daniel who I love the over-protected older brother thing, but he took it a bit far for me most times.

Overall, Just Pretending was a super cute read with an ending you know and want coming. I think Kate and Leah Rooper on are their way to creating swoon-worthy contemporaries!

Thank you to Entangled and Netgalley for the copy.

Find this review at Shortie Says

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### Dee/ bookworm says

#JustPretending #NetGalley

*publisher synopsis:* It's not easy being royal. Sixteen-year-old Evangeline wears her crown proudly, but between her duties and her overprotective big brother, the idea of romance is just a dream. But a chance encounter in Chicago changes all that....

Sure, seventeen-year-old Tyler Evans loves playing hockey, but he's more concerned about providing for his dad and little sister. Then he meets Eva--and falls head-over-heels in love—and he has two more problems. One, she's his best friend's little sister. Two, she wears a crown.

But then Eva accidentally mistakes Tyler for a visiting prince, and for the first time, Tyler doesn't feel like a nobody. He knows he has to tell her the truth...but not yet.

His plan? To keep up the royal charade as long as it takes to convince Eva he's the guy for her. Even if he's lying to everyone...including himself.

This is a cute, clean romance. It has some great lessons throughout it as well. Both Evangeline and Tyler "hide" who they really are, but in up finding their true selves, and each other. Tyler works on his own paralyzing truths and finally comes clean and asks for help, which doesn't make him weaker, it makes him stronger.

Wonderfully written and executed.

I received an advance reader copy in exchange for a fair review.

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### **Jamie Lee Zonneveld says**

I voluntarily reviewed an Reader Copy of this book which I received through Netgalley.

This book is amazing. I loved Eva and Tyler so so much. They're so real and sweet and ugh just loved it!!

I also very much love the writing style. I flew through the book.

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### **Colleen's Conclusions says**

This book series has been really great reads so far and Just Pretending did not disappoint! It was fast paced, and it had the same reading vibes as the other books had for me.

Just Pretending reminded me of Aladdin so it almost could be an Aladdin retelling. It's not intentionally supposed to be one, but it had all of the elements there. For example, there was a queen and then a commoner who ends up pretending he's a prince. I liked that aspect very much.

I liked Tyler in this book and was glad we got to see both Eva and Tyler. I liked all of the characters here and the reunion.

The end made me sad though since this was the last of the series, but overall this was a five star read because it continued the series that I loved, the plot, and characters. Plus I also like the hockey parts in this story. I like a good hockey story. I'd definitely recommend this if you are looking for a series with friendships, romance and hockey.

Overall, this entire series is a five out of five star read.

I received this book from Netgalley. It has no impact on my thoughts and opinions. They are my own.

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### **Lisa Schneider says**

Sorry, I DNF'd this book (Did not finish....) I got 1/4 of the way in and I just couldn't do anymore. It seemed to fake, and too forced. It just wasn't for me.

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## &#x1f970;devyn\_solo\_kenobi&#x1f970; says

I was provided an ebook copy of this novel from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rating: 1 star

First of all, this book took me extremely long to read. Two weeks, when usually a book of this size will only take 3-5 days, tops. There's one reason for this: I was bored. The plot was boring, the characters were boring, and since I didn't read the first book in the series, I didn't get a good grasp of the relationships that had clearly been established already. I didn't care about Tyler or Eldonia or Daniel or anyone else. This book definitely feels more 13 to 16-year-old age group.

Okay, so, I have many things to say, and none of them are good. I only give 1-star ratings to books that are either TERRIBLY written or that piss me off.

The entire premise was bullshit. Obviously, this plot isn't an original one. We've all read at least one variation of the she/he-pretends-to-be-someone-they're-not story. But usually, the person pretending has a very good reason. They're being blackmailed, or if they tell, their loved ones will be harmed. Something along those lines. But not in this case. Tyler had plenty of opportunity to tell Eva the truth, but he never did. So many instances he could've opened his mouth and blurted it out, but he "just wanted to live in a fantasy" for a little while longer, which is cowardly. I can't get over the fact that he lied SO elaborately and for SO long, way past the point of no return, and then he's easily forgiven. Bull. Shit.

Tyler was a total douchebag. I hated him by the end of this novel. I could tolerate him and his blatant lying for about sixty percent of the book, but then it went MAJORLY downhill. He BLAMED EVA for HIS lies: "Is that why you ignored me every single time I tried to talk to you as just me, Tyler?" Here he is actually saying that part of the reason he couldn't tell her the truth was because SHE IGNORED HIM. What the ACTUAL fuck.

Plus, when Eva defied her bitch of a mother and flew back to Chicago after Tyler was found out as a fraud, when she brought presents for his family, when she told him she FORGAVE him even though she had absolutely ZERO reason to do so.... he literally kicks her out of his house, insulting his sister and father as he does. He yells at her, sneers at her, is basically an ugly, manipulating son-of-a-bitch.

Not to mention he "pushes Eva away" because of some stupid "oh-woe-is-me" victim bullshit. He thinks, "Oh, I have no future, I'm so poor, I live in a garbage place and my father doesn't make any money and I can't read and oh, everything's so awful!!!!!!!!!" even though a fucking QUEEN of a European country, a queen who has SO MANY OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO BE DOING, has chased after him - HIM, a commoner, a very poor commoner - and proclaimed her forgiveness and love. And what can he do? Say "You cAn'T IOvE sOmEOnE LiKe mE!!!!!" Being poor = being undesirable, apparently. Never mind that he has lots of friends, is a great artist, has a fantastic, badass younger sister, and plays on a famous hockey team. Nope, he's poor and sad and can't read or write, so fuck everything else.

Eva is Queen of Eldonia and yet lets her mother and brother push her around and tell her what to do. Lame. I hate pushovers.

Daniel's "big brother" overprotectiveness was NOT cute. Aside from it being totally overused in stories featuring a girl who's trying to be independent, it was disgusting at times and fucking irritating. Eva's not ten years old. She's queen of a goddamned country and can do as she pleases.

Tyler's self-hating behavior was not cute, either. To me it speaks of that good ole toxic masculinity, not to



## **D.M. says**

I've really enjoyed the Chicago Falcons series and I'm sad Just pretending is the last book. Each story can be read as a standalone but the characters feature in the books. This is queen Eva's and Tyler's story.

Eva wants a taste of a normal life. She is visiting her brother in Chicago and wants to see more than the tourist's attractions. She visits the ice rink to watch her brother practice hockey. Tyler meets Eva in the last book while her brother needed help. When she bumps into Tyler at hockey practice they get off on the wrong foot. After a mix-up, Eva believes Ty is a prince and feels they are on even ground. They have lots in common and Ty is very sweet but what's going to happen when Eva realises he didn't tell the whole truth.

Tyler has had a thing for Eva since he met her. His own life is complicated and he's trying to find his way. When Eva comes to visit her brother, Tyler wants his chance with her. He gets roped into meeting a prince at the airport but finds Eva instead. When he's pretending to be someone else he gets the chance to show her the real him.

Just pretending is a sweet story with a mix up in identity. 4 stars out of 5.

\*I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review. The first book was my favourite but the others are worth the read. I can't wait to see what these ladies come up with next.

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## **Alaina says**

*I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Honestly, once I got this ARC.. I never really read the previous books. Thankfully, I got them for free on Kindle Unlimited and dove right into them. Each were entertaining to say the least. Plus, I do love my hockey romance books. After reading this though, I'm sad to see this series end. I really enjoyed getting to meet each character and falling in love with their stories.

In this book, you will meet Eva and Tyler. Eva is royalty and Tyler plays on the same hockey team as her brother Daniel. Now if you've read the previous two books, you learned that Daniel was a prince in the second book - so yeah, spoiler alert!

Now I loved the romance between these two! They were completely adorable and it made my heart pitter patter. This book also had it's fair share of secrets in it - which kind of kept me on my toes for a bit. Other than that, the drama was a tad bit ridiculous at times. Even with knowing that this is a Young Adult, I just couldn't help rolling my eyes a few times.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. I was happy to see everyone from the previous books and it brought joy to my eyes seeing them all happy. Everyone was very cute throughout this series and again, I was so happy to dive into it. I will definitely look out for another series or book by this author. Hoping it will bring joy to my life once again.

## **Samantha (WLABB) says**

Tyler was the poor kid with the dead mom. Eva was the teen queen. Both felt the pressure of all their responsibilities, but maybe together, they could have everything they wanted and needed.

- Pro: Tyler and Eva came from such different backgrounds, but surprisingly shared a lot of common ground. The Roopers did a great job drawing those parallels between the two, which I thought lent some credibility to the friendship and the romance that developed between them.
- Pro: These two tugged on my heartstrings. They just wanted to be seen beyond the labels they had been "assigned", because there was a lot more to both of them than met the eye. I was so happy they found each other, and could share all of themselves, not just the parts people wanted to see.
- Pro: There was this wonderful message of trusting in others and sharing one's burdens, which I liked a lot.
- Pro: Ty and Eva were super cute and swoony together. They could really talk to each other, and share their hopes and fears. They could also have fun with one another, and the happiness they enjoyed together was wonderful.
- Pro: As in the previous book, the Falcon family came through to support their own. I never tire of stories that feature family-we-picked-ourselves. These characters were sort of doubly lucky too, because they were blessed with great families and great found-families.
- Pro: This was the final book in the series, and I really grew to love the Falcon family. I was so pleased with the epilogue, because the Roopers gave all our Falcons great starts to their futures.

Overall: A wonderful ending for a series that was filled with friends, family, swoony romance, fun antics, and lots of love.

\*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Tahlia says**

Blog Post: <https://museofnyxmares.wordpress.com/...>

\*I was provided with an ARC of this book through Netgalley, in exchange for my honest opinion.

Let me first state that this is the final book in a series, however I haven't read the other books and you don't need to in order to enjoy this. Because I really did enjoy this, it was everything that I like in a contemporary, it was a quick read, it had likeable characters and an adorable romance. I really liked the romance, but ultimately it was the characters, two characters in particular and one of the minor storylines that made this book for me.

Firstly, the main characters were Eva and Tyler. Eva has not long been crowned Queen of her small country

and Tyler is still in high school and plays for the hockey team with Eva's brother Daniel. Both Eva and Tyler feel somewhat trapped in their lives, as they both feel bound by their duties to others. Eva's in a constant tug of war with her mother about whether she can have a normal teenage life, whilst running her country. Tyler on the other hand, feels like he has to be there for his family because they don't have much money and he constantly has to look after his sister so his dad can work. Through their experiences with each other, they both learn a lot about who and what they want to be and ultimately make each other better people, which was really lovely to read about. I think that this betterment of someone because of a romance isn't always displayed enough.

The romance between these two was very sweet, it was shrouded in secrets and had its ups and downs, but it was a joy to read about. You could tell that their connection wasn't at a superficial level, they both felt truly seen by someone in a way that they never had before and they both deserved it. It was a bit of a whirlwind romance though, things happened quite fast and very important words were said very quickly, there were also some very surreal events that happened, like Eva purchasing a horse and carriage for £5,000. And at times I didn't get why Tyler didn't try harder to tell Eva the truth, like keeping his helmet on, also how people didn't recognise Tyler and generally how he kept the charade up that he was Prince Tiberius. But a lot of those aspects are very common in romances and things are meant to feel like a dream and so it didn't make me not enjoy the book, but it did prevent it from getting a full five star rating. Some of the dates that they went on were honestly just so cute and often were hilarious, I was laughing at so many parts, because these two managed to get themselves in all kinds of pickles.

The other characters in the book, Daniel and Madison, and Alice and Hayden were who the other books in the series were based on. From what I saw of them I probably would of liked their stories just as much as this one. Madison was super kind to Tyler and was determined to help him get his happy ending. Daniel and I had a very love hate relationship, sometimes he irked me, but then he'd show what a great friend and brother that he can be and made me forgive him. Alice and Hayden weren't as present, but they both seemed nice enough and their story sounded very interesting indeed. I can imagine how bittersweet it was for those who have been following this series, seeing all of the characters come together in the way that they did, as they learn to grow up and decide their futures and how they can be a part of each others.

Now I get to talk apart my favourite aspect of Just Pretending, which was basically Tyler and his family. Tyler's family doesn't have a lot of money, especially in comparison to his friends. It was so sad to witness him feeling ashamed and embarrassed by himself and his situation, he loved his family more than anything but he still felt some resentment towards his dad for their situation. He also felt tremendous guilt that he isn't able to give his sister all the things he wants to, it was honestly so heartbreaking. He truly believes that he has no future, because of his lack of money, he needs to look after his sister and because he has dyslexia and his little sister is the only person who knows. Tyler even gets so enraged by a teacher, who talks to him about future prospects because he feels like she's mocking him.

Tyler's journey to accept himself and what he did and didn't have was what will stay with me the most. It isn't easy for him to ask for help because he feels like his dad has enough on his plate, but he eventually learns in more ways than one, that sometimes being honest is the best thing you can do. His relationship with his family and his little sister Millie in particular meant so much to me and ultimately outshined the romance. Millie was such a precious little thing, she was pure sunshine, even when she was being cheeky. She was only 9 years old but she was very wise and was the best sister to Tyler that anyone could hope for, helping him with his reading and writing in secret. She was also hilarious and I truly don't know what Tyler would of done without her.

Overall this was a cute and quick read, that had some more important messages threaded through it, which was wonderful. I loved the inclusion of Tyler's financial situation and his dyslexia, which is something that one of the authors personally has experience with, it gave the book an appreciated depth. More than anything I had fun with this, and I couldn't write this review without briefly mentioning the real Prince Tiberius who

was a real scream, he was honestly so ridiculous that I couldn't help but laugh every time he appeared, he was completely in his own world. I would be lying if I said I wasn't desperate for him to get his own book. Please pick this up, it was delightful in every sense.

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### **Gata Leitora / Cat reader says**

Tyler is a shy hockey player, a close friend of Daniel, who has a crush on Eva, Daniel's sister and queen of Perienza. Because of his low self-esteem and dyslexia, he believes that will never have a chance with the girl, but he takes full advantage of a chance that comes up and ends up finding himself refreshed next to Eva. Eva in turn is feeling the pressure of governing and the eternal dissatisfaction of her mother. She ends up approaching the supposed prince Tiberius and being enchanted with the sweetness of the boy.

I loved the light and dynamic writing of the book and was impressed to discover that one of the writers has this problem. I really enjoyed the participation of the characters of the other books, only Daniel seems to have not learned to trust his friends yet.

I loved the pretty cover and the sweet ending. I will miss these characters.

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### **Lenore Kosinski says**

<https://celebrityreaders.com/2018/11/...>

I received a free copy through NetGalley in exchange for an honest and unbiased review/opinion.

4 stars — After my mixed feelings on Daniel and Madison's book, I was wary of what this book was going to be like for my adorable Tyler and Eva...but I need not have worried, I was sucked right in and feeling all the feels! I will admit, there were still times I \*really\* had to suspend my disbelief (mostly when Tyler was playing Tiberius), but as long as I did that I was fine.

I was half in love with Tyler in the previous 2 books, but he just confirmed my love in this story. Which is not to say he didn't behave like an idiot...he did. And more than I was expecting. But my heart just ACHED for him. Reading his POV parts just always got to me. He really honestly felt like a nobody, like nothing. And even though he was wholeheartedly wrong, I got why he fell into that trap. It's funny, b/c I was empathizing with him so hard (even though I don't specifically have anything in common with him), that when Daniel starts giving him some hard truths, my back got up automatically. But Daniel was right. And I so appreciated that Tyler had someone in his life that wasn't afraid to call him on his bullshit. Tyler really went through a journey in this story, but the core of who he was was totally swoonworthy: a genuinely sweet and good guy. And I loved all the little aspects of his character that we learned, from his artistic talent to his struggles with dyslexia.

I will admit that I found I didn't \*quite\* connect with Eva as closely. Like, I did, but her story seemed overshadowed by Tyler's in this one. Which was okay, because I think much more and it would have been too much in one book, but I do feel sad that I never really got down and dirty in what it was like for Eva as a newly appointed Queen. I wonder if part of the reason I felt like her story got lost is that I just finished reading another story about a young Queen, and so I could see the difference between what we learned about that other Queen's struggles vs Eva's. But I did appreciate her struggle with being liked and \*seen\* for who she was.

As for the romance — it was both sweet and hot at the same time. The sweetness I expected. But damn, some of those kisses got steamy! Not graphic, this is still YA...but definitely steamy. The whole paint scene was...wow. I really felt their connection, and it made my heart hurt when Tyler kept mucking things up. I got it to a degree, but there did come a point when I was ready to smack him. Luckily Daniel was there.

All in all, this was a solid conclusion to the series. And while they can be read as standalones, I think if you enjoy any one of them, it's worth seeing what the other Falcons are up to. I also really appreciated that we got an epilogue that nicely wrapped things up and gave closure. Otherwise I was worried I was going to have to beg for a bonus novella... ?

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### **Inga Lady Of Bookland says**

Just Pretending was so cute, sweet and fun story. I very much enjoyed this last book in Chicago Falcons' series. I guess this was my favourite of them all.

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### **Shannon says**

3.5\*

Just Pretending was a cute story with a lot of heart. Eva and Tyler both want to be “seen” for who they really are, not just as a queen and a poor jock. Eva, as the young Queen of a small country, wants nothing more than to have friends and belong to the Falcon family her brother Daniel has created for himself and his friends. Tyler just wants a shot at being something more than who he thinks he is.

Although for all Eva's posturing about how she wanted to fit in and not have people judge her for being queen, there were a couple of times that she sure was quick to judge Tyler, without knowing him or even giving him a chance.

When the opportunity presents itself to Tyler to become someone he's not, he jumps at the chance, just to spend time with Eva. Before long he's in deeper than he expected and unfortunately things implode on him. I'm kind of embarrassed to admit to the tears I shed for Tyler towards the end of the book, but he pulled at every single one of my heartstrings! Yes, he made some questionable decisions and dumb choices, but I honestly can't fault him for it, even with the fallout from his behavior.

Overall I thought this story was very sweet. Eva and Tyler both came to some realizations about themselves, and I liked that there was an underlying message of accepting yourself woven in.

This was the first book I read in the Chicago Falcons series- I hadn't realized it was part of a series when I requested to read and review it. Although it can be read as a standalone I do think it would have been better if I had started at the beginning, especially with Eva and her ascension to the throne.

\*\*\*Copy received courtesy of the publisher.

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