



Charlotte Cuts it Out

K.A. Barson

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Lydia and I were in eighth grade when we came up with our Grand Plan to go to cosmetology school and get jobs to build our clientele while we earned business degrees. Then we'd open our own salon . . .

Now Charlotte and Lydia are juniors, in a Cosmetology Arts program where they'll get on-the-job training and college credits at the same time. The Grand Plan is right on schedule.

Which means it's time for Step Two: Win the Winter Style Showcase, where Cos Arts and Fashion Design teams team up to dazzle the judges with their skills.

Charlotte is sure that she and Lydia have it locked up—so sure, in fact, that she makes a life-changing bet with her mother, who wants her to give up cos for college.

And that's when things start going off the rails.

As the clock ticks down to the night of the Showcase, Charlotte has her hands full. Design divas. Models who refuse to be styled. Unexpectedly stiff competition. And then, worst of all, Lydia—her BFF and Partner in Cos—turns out to have a slightly different Grand Plan.

Like *45 Pounds (More or Less)*, K.A. Barson's *Charlotte Cuts it Out* is a funny, relatable story set in the heart of the Midwest, just right for girls who have big dreams of their own.

Charlotte Cuts it Out Details

Date :

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Author : K.A. Barson

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From Reader Review Charlotte Cuts it Out for online ebook

Elaine Tucker says

Charlotte is taking Cosmetology Arts with the hopes of getting a good paying job when she completes the course.

Katie says

This book is definitely not for my age-range, I think it's more of a middle grade; but in the end I was invested enough to enjoy the ending. It became more enjoyable as the story went on, though the protagonist was very annoying and rather one-dimensional the whole time.

Tracie says

Charlotte and her best friend Lydia have always dreamed of winning the high school Cosmetology Showcase which will set them up for acceptance into a post-grad associates of business degree. After that they can own their own salon and live happily ever after. But as the countdown to the showcase begins, everything goes wrong including two best friends who aren't even speaking to one another. Charlotte's going to win this thing no matter what it takes though because the stakes are high; her mom doesn't think Charlotte's dream is realistic and she needs the win to prove herself.

Cheryl says

This 'feel good' read lets us watch Charlotte, a teen focused on her long term career goals to the exclusion of everything else, grow up a bit and learn to acknowledge the feelings of others. At the beginning of the book, the character is not likable and you wonder why you should care about her but as the story progresses, the character develops a little more awareness of not only herself, but of others around her. By the end of the book, you're rooting for her to get what she wants.

Shauna Yusko says

I liked the story, but not the main character. And I think that was the point. Solid 3 1/2.

Cosmé says

This main character was a little too sassy and uncaring for me to relate to her. You know how you become "friends" with the main characters you like? I couldn't even get to thinking of her as acceptable. She had moments where she was really caring and kind, but then she couldn't get off of her friends' backs. Also, this all would have possibly been alright - if she had changed in the end. Frankly, she didn't really. She just

managed to avoid a few crises from her micromanaging and then she moved on.

Wisty says

This was a total random read for me, and I LOVED it!

Charlotte was so realistically flawed; I basically felt like I was reading about myself, at certain points.

There were just a lot of cool aspects:

- The whole vocational school/cosmetology thing
- Charlotte's family owning a supermarket
- Full of employees who place bets up the wazoo on anything and everything
- Charlotte getting involved with pediatric cancer patients, which was incredible
- Progression of relationship between Charlotte/Lydia, Charlotte/Shelby, Charlotte/Trent (Yum), and basically Charlotte/Everyone
- I really enjoyed the whole "Charlotte's sister-in-law is pregnant" storyline
- Synergy, sub-contracting, and all the fun details of the Winter Showcase

Just a really unexpectedly fabulous read. Funny, but also very poignant at points, and very real. Kind of made me more self-aware!

Tiff at Mostly YA Lit says

Review originally posted on Mostly YA Lit:

Cosmetology student Charlotte has always had everything figured out, from her and her best friend Lydia's future plans to win their winter showcase and start a salon together, to being the best employee at her dad's store. But when Lydia suddenly decides to leave the cosmetology program, Charlotte's plans start to go awry. If you are not into unlikeable characters, this probably isn't your book. If, however, you're willing to give a book with a very controlling, prickly MC a try, Charlotte might be for you. I alternately wanted to throw this book (and Charlotte) across the room and had the experience of seeing myself in a lot of the protagonist. Although the general concept of the story is predictable, author K.A. Barson creates realistic, flawed secondary characters that gave this book a bit more dimension than just a cute contemporary. In particular, the family moments and dramatic friendships reminded me very much of my own high school life. I also deeply appreciated seeing the skilled trades represented and shown as a viable alternative to university. That said, I felt that a lot of the scenes ran long and I would have appreciated a little montaging here and there. There were also a few moments when I got my back up a bit, because it's difficult for me to see an assertive, strong (dare I say "bitchy") female character feel that she needs to soften herself for anyone. It's a hard thing to balance and I'm not sure it was entirely successful. Overall, an enjoyable read.

Ann says

Fun. Fun. Fun. Read this book for a great example of character arc.

Sally Kruger says

ARC graciously provided by Viking Publishers.

BFF's Charlotte and Lydia have always had a grand plan for their futures. As students in the cosmetology program at ATC, the Arts and Trades Center, they are partners intent on winning this year's Winter Style Showcase. That win is the first step in their Grand Plan to graduate, go on to earn business degrees from Jackson College, and then open their own salon.

Winning the Style Showcase is more important than ever for Charlotte. Her mother simply won't acknowledge that cosmetology is an acceptable career. She believes that earning a four year college degree is the only future for her daughter. After a family argument, Charlotte makes a bet with her mother that means her entire future plan requires winning the Showcase at all costs.

Things begin to fall apart almost immediately. The first devastating blow comes when her best friend ever decides to totally switch directions by dropping cos arts to join the culinary arts program. Are you kidding? Problems at the family grocery store arise that eat away at the time Charlotte has to spend prepping for the big show. Things really heat up when a potential romance is sabotaged as Charlotte discovers that the "QT" (cutie) of her dreams is really interested in Lydia instead.

One complication leads to another, but through these challenges Charlotte, who is usually a very "me" focused person, learns that working together and thinking of others can make all the difference.

Author K. A. Barson takes readers on a wild ride that involves the stress of competition, the frustration of a family business, and the rollercoaster of romance. Using the backdrop of an alternative high school focused on skills and arts training adds a unique element. The showcase competition provides an interesting educational opportunity requiring cooperation and a variety of real world skills that current educators might be wise to investigate.

CHARLOTTE CUTS IT OUT is perfect for readers looking for a story that combines hair styles, makeup, and fashion with the daily struggles teens face with school, friends, and family.

Elizabeth K. says

This was really winsome in a way I wasn't expecting. I love the setting -- teens in a vocational high school, which seems like something I don't see a lot. The main story, how Charlotte gains some self-awareness and consideration for others while going through a challenging school project, is pretty solid if not especially novel. And I appreciated that even when Charlotte was acting the most self-involved, it was still clear that she also has some nice qualities -- sometimes this arc in books leaves me wondering how such a horrible person could have any friends to begin with, but in this case, it felt believable.

My biggest issue with the book is that the plot keeps throwing obstacles in Charlotte's path that don't seem organic, but rather completely designed to make life more difficult for her. They are all presented as these things that just happen in life where the only solution is to pile more stuff on her, but they felt really fake to me (family obligations that were unrealistic, school stuff that was completely unfair and the "solution" presented by the school made the problem worse, not better).

The other thing, which is certainly not specific to this book, is that once again I am bewildered by how

childbirth classes are portrayed in fiction -- it's like everyone watched the same childbirth class scene in a 1970s sitcom and that is still what people write about.

Kayla (Kayla's Book Nook) says

3.5 Stars

Like many books I take out of the library, **I went into *Charlotte Cuts it Out* almost completely blinded.** I'd heard a couple bloggers talking about it, but I couldn't recall the quality of their feedback. Knowing that I can usually trust contemporary novels for a good time, I was still curious and decided to give it a read.

This turned out to be a just above average read for me- I didn't dislike it nor love it. It wasn't the most unique of stories, but **the protagonist really resonated with me and it was quite fast-paced.**

Charlotte Cuts it Out is basically about a high schooler named Charlotte who is registered in a special program for cosmetology. She and her best friend Lydia have had a plan that would lead them to win a fashion design contest, but Lydia decides to drop out of cosmetology and pursue a different path. This means that Charlotte must participate in the contest all on her own. Will she be able to succeed by herself?

I found that **Charlotte was a very wise character**, and I adored her. She did make a few impulsive mistakes during the novel, but she had no problem accepting them, learning from them, and growing from them. I also really appreciated her desire to work with cancer patients in the hospital, which goes to show others **how huge her warm heart really is.**

Although Charlotte was fantastic, **I didn't like her selfish friend Lydia.** She at first appeared to be loyal to her plan with Charlotte, so I was surprised and angered that she'd dropped out of the program without having a heart-to-heart with her first. Hence this, **there was a lot of drama between the girls throughout the course of the novel**, and this was one of the aspects of the story that I just did not enjoy at all.

I noticed how similar the plot was to Susan Juby's *The Fashion Committee*, minus the fact that TFC is more of a romance novel and this one only had **a tiny splat of unnecessary romance.** This is not a bad thing at all, but it just tells me that **this book is not as unique as some others are and that it blends within the crowd.** Despite saying that, though, I will say that it was for sure interesting enough to fully captivate me for 350 pages, but I wouldn't really accept any higher number.

There were some things about this story that were awesome plus some that bothered me, but at the end of the day, I still really enjoyed it. **If you are into fashion, friendship, and teen angst in your books, then *Charlotte Cuts it Out* deserves to be read!**

Jeff Raymond says

Slapstick teen fashion comedy! A very frustratingly annoying girl is entered into a contest at her design school, and this story leads us to that point with a lot of hijinks along the way that never seem to work. Just not great at all.

Vicki Leanne says

• 4 stars •

I need more Charlotte and Trent!

Mikayah Parsons says

While initially surface-level and about as deep as a kiddie-pool, *Charlotte Cuts It Out* is hilarious and insightful. Charlotte is a rich, shallow girl who can't stand being wrong and must learn that not everything in life goes as planned as well as how to cope with such a realization. The big lesson here is most evidently a message on the ability to change by first acknowledging the existence of a problem. As a YA reader, the boy drama is just enough to add sweet romance without reaching full Hallmark status--and I love Hallmark! Readers will fall in love with Trent, Shelby, Sarah, and Lydia while rolling eyes at protagonist Charlotte and two-timing Carson Reed, this all occurring as the audience picks out little things intentionally layered in Barson's writing. With no plot holes and a necessary dotting of cliches, the book only raises its own rating as readers all grow with Charlotte, eventually learning to see the wins in epic and outright disasters of losses. Corny? Perhaps. Full House in a text? Maybe. Unique, well-written, and witty? Absolutely.
