



## The Boyfriend App

*Katie Sise*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Boyfriend App

*Katie Sise*

## **The Boyfriend App** Katie Sise

*Get the app. Get the guy.*

Computer-whiz Audrey McCarthy feels most at home in a tech lab, surrounded by her fellow geeks. Once popular and fearless, she hasn't been the same since her dad died. And her ex-best friend, gorgeous queen bee Blake Dawkins, has turned into her worst nightmare. Audrey is counting the minutes until high school is over and she can get the hell out of Dodge and go to college-that is, if she can find a scholarship.

So when Public Corporation, a giant tech company, announces a contest for the best app developed by a high schooler-with \$200,000 in prize money-Audrey is spurred to action. She comes up with an idea so simple, yet so brilliant, she can't believe it hasn't been done: the Boyfriend App. With a simple touch of the screen, romance blooms among the unlikeliest couples in high school, and people start to take notice. But it's not quite enough.

To beat out the competition, Audrey will have to dig deeper. And she does-right into a scandal that would rock Public to its core. Suddenly the Boyfriend App lands Audrey where she never expected to be: in the middle of the limelight, passionately kissed by the hottest guys in school, causing complete and utter mayhem. But can it bring her true love?

## **The Boyfriend App Details**

Date : Published April 30th 2013 by Balzer & Bray

ISBN : 9780062195265

Author : Katie Sise

Format : Hardcover 312 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

 [Download The Boyfriend App ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Boyfriend App ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Boyfriend App Katie Sise**

---

## From Reader Review The Boyfriend App for online ebook

### Larry Lennhoff says

Trigger warning: multiple sexual assaults This is my first attempt at a spoiler free review. If anyone who read the book wants to discuss why I gave a trigger warning, please feel free to reply to the review.

This book is internally divided into a part 1 and a part 2. I wish I could divide my review the same way, as I would give 4 stars to part 1 and 1 star to part 2. Part 1 was very nice - we met the characters, we get an outline of the problem to be solved, we see a first attempt at a solution, On a more meta level, we learn about twitter and to a lesser extent marketing. There is also a good deal of humor in the book. I'm a very long way from being a teenager, and the first half of the book gave me an interesting view into how contemporary teens have built things like texting and twitter into their lives. A first date gets livetweeted, to excellent comic effect. The book also talks a lot about principles of ethical hacking, which is a welcome relief from the evil hacker stereotype. The discussion was somewhat superficial but provides a basis for someone who wants to learn more. It also teaches a lot about fashion, but as an older guy I have no idea whether this was intentionally humorous or not. (But really - who recommends Michael Jackson as a style icon?) The first half also provides a variety of strong female role models (and I was particularly pleased that they were different from one another.) The casual acceptance of gay teens (who are just other characters in the novel, and who exists for reasons other than to be gay) was also very pleasing.

Part two could have been a completely different book. It fails on all levels - the ethics are terrible, the plot twists and turns at the author's convenience as characters fail to foresee the obvious and immediate consequences of their own actions, and those actions then have no consequences, The protagonist builds a machine that facilitates sexual assault and distributes it for free on the internet. Oddly, no one in the entire novel ever directly addresses this, which is why I filed the book under rape culture. She is praised for her computer design skills, but never taken to task for facilitating thousands of sexual assaults world wide.

I'm not sure if I will ever read another book by the author or not. Who will write her next book - the author of part 1 or of part 2?

---

### careen says

I LOVED THIS BOOK.

No seriously, I loved it.

A lot. A whole lot.

It was smart, fun and full of everything a not so young adult could ask for in a young adult novel. A pretty kickass girl (who wears skull and cross bone Vans and can program and knows what Linux and an SSH session are), a swoony boy (who can also program) and a great story to back it all up!

Audrey McCarthy is a senior in high school, and since the death of her father, things haven't been so great for her. Following his death, she lost her best friend and fell from popularity into obscurity. Now, her main mission is to push through and get high school over with so she can just move on from all of it. The only

problem is, she's not quite sure where she'll move on *to* considering there's no way she could ever afford to pay for the college education she so badly wants.

So, when a contest is announced offering a two-hundred thousand dollar college tuition prize for the designer of the most popular or most innovative smart phone app, Audrey decides to throw her hat in the ring. She just needs to come up with something that will knock everybody else's app out of the competition... And she does.

### *The Boyfriend App*

Find the perfect guy, right from the palm of your hand! Once he's within a hundred yards, your phone will alert you and *bing!* love connections can be made! Audrey's app sees almost instant popularity after a few test subjects (her cousin Lindsay, and her friend Nijit) are the first to pair up... but popularity sometimes comes at a price, as Audrey soon learns.

I *will* admit that for some, this might not be your cup of tea. But for me? This was right up my alley. What do I mean by that? Well, you may or may not know that I met my husband on the Internet. And what you *also* probably don't know is that when we met, we were both members of a group that—in our time, anyway—was known for hacking. No, I'm not kidding. One of our friends actually went to jail for hacking NASA. In fact, hubs is still a hacker. Except now he gets paid to do it. And this book totally brought me back to those days and made me all nostalgic with its dead on descriptions and computer jargon. (bravo, Katie!) It was fantastic.

And I promise I'll shutup now because I don't want to spoil all the things, but trust me when I say this is one book you want to add to your to-be-read-list pronto! Even if you're not a computer nerd like me, you definitely don't want to miss out on the adventures of Audrey, or on the swoon that Aidan brings to the table (along with his V). ;)

---

### **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

The Boyfriend APP is such a cute and fun read. I am so thankful to Around The World ARC Tours for allowing me to read this book. When I first read the blurb I thought okay this sounds like a light fun read and I can't wait till August till it comes out and I can read it. Katie tells a fun story about what people will do to get to college. How innovative people can be to get a scholarship.

Audrey McCarthy can't wait to get out of high school and move on to bigger and better things like college. But to get to college she needs financial help. She has her goals and dreams but she needs some type of financial help. That is when she sees the a scholarship for 200,00.00 for anyone who can come up with the best App. At first Audrey is not sure what she will do because losing her father has taken it's toll on her but then she decides she will do the boyfriend app. So Audrey comes up with the boyfriend app and her life as she knew it changes and it changes for the better.

Now all of a sudden she is popular and all the kids like her. She has kissed a popular boy and things are starting to look up. Will she win the scholarship? Will she remain popular for the rest of her senior year? This book is a must read! It is so funny and it has it's life lessons in it. Audry has to come to terms with her fathers death as well.

Come April 30th give this book a go! You will laugh out loud so hard your ribs will hurt!

## **Rashika (is tired) says**

### **Actual Rating 3.5**

After reading a whole bunch of fantasy and paranormal I decided I needed a chic lit and so I requested this.

One of my reasons for requesting this book in particular was that it was a book about geeks. I happen to be one myself; not a computer geek but you know a geek never the less. I've heard quite a few people complain about the technical language in the book and how they didn't understand it. I am hopeless with computers but I think I could mostly understand because it was very easy for me to relate to the character, plus her descriptions about the programming stuff were always fun to read for me. She was so passionate about computer programming that I was able to enjoy it despite the fact that I suck with computers.

She uses this as a way to connect to her father who died when she was a freshman because of an incident at work. The little bit of insight we are given into their relationship does make me incredibly sad because they shared such a wonderful father/daughter relationship.

Another reason I requested this book was that in one of the reviews I had read it mentioned that this was what I call a best friend romance; where two people who are good friends get together. I happen to love those.

Aidan was the said "best friend". He took Audrey under his wing when she had no one left; her best friend had become a bitch to her because she thought Audrey had betrayed her. Aidan is the super cute, shy geek.

I happen to have a soft spot for those. There are so many brooding/jerk/badass heroes out there, what happened to the cute shy guys?

It's always fun to see him clam up because someone who is as cute as him could easily attract girls and should be confident about himself. Although he did attract girls when he first moved to the school but when they realized how shy he was they backed off. I believe this probably has something to do with the fact that his father left them. Things like that are bound to leave some sort of mark on you.

What we are shown of her past relationship with Blake is also interesting. Blake has always been popular and back when they were best friends, so was Audrey. But Blake wasn't particularly cruel until they became freshmen. Then Blake had so much more competition that she became a bitch to keep up. This was also around the time Audrey's father had died and after seeing Blake hurt so many people she finally snapped, she had her own grief to deal with, she didn't want to see anyone else's. After that their relationship dwindled until well they became nemesis of sorts and Blake did everything in her power to make Audrey's life miserable.

I also like how Audrey's crush on the jock, Xander, is justified. She used to be nice to him when everyone else bullied him. I usually don't understand what girls see in jocks in books, they are usually portrayed as womanizing douche bags, but Xander had a depth to him and I appreciated that the author tried to separate him from the usual clichés.

Lindsay is also a great cousin, she is somewhat of an airhead but she is always there for Audrey and extremely loyal.

Of course this book happens to be a chic lit so it isn't the best thing ever but some of the things that really stand out in it are the relationships and the characters; the author does a good job with developing the relationships between the characters and the characters happen to be interesting.

I recommend this book for anyone looking for a good chic lit to chill out with.

This review has also been posted on my blog

---

### **Kaylee Magic says**

The Boyfriend App? OMG. Can I get me a BOOK Boyfriend App??? (x <3

---

### **Katy says**

This was a cute read, although I did have a few issues with it - primarily that it was a bit too geeky and over-the-top. And there were a few things that were confusing that kind of threw me off course (not on the predictability, but I had to figure out the timeline or consistency).

I wanted to read a fun book that would lighten my mood, and the first few chapters hit me like a ton of bricks. It was way too technical with all the computer/phone language that a lot of it went over my head. I know Sise had to put some of that in there or she would probably get a few criticism about it being unrealistic, but geez, it was so overloaded that I was not only lost but also bored. And then, it got better.

I was a little confused from the summary because I thought the Boyfriend App was going to make Audrey the talk of the school and make hot boys kiss her, and when I found out what the app was, it didn't really happen like that. But then I realized there was an update, and a lot more made sense.

Well, I can't really say this book was realistic because it was far from it. And when I say it was over-the-top, I didn't exactly mean this part. Well, yeah, the whole mean girls picking on the geeks is pretty routine, and the typical triangle between the hot guy and shy friend is overdone. Not to mention a soundwave technology that makes you want something (seriously?), and a button that will make you fall in love (get real!) or the crazy chaotic riots at the school campus and on the Public corporate grounds. But those made the book kind of fun.

What i really meant about the over-the-top (and also the holes) was really the relationship between Audrey and Blake. I really had to stop and think about the timeline on this... (view spoiler)

I guess it was just a little too much for me. I guess pushing the mean girl bullying the geek concept on stupid stuff.

But I guess Audrey's quirks are what made the book fun, and I liked how adorable Aiden was (I tend to have a soft spot for the dorky best friend). I think Lindsay is a badass cousin, and Nigit and Mindy were okay friends. It's not unpredictable, but it is an entertaining read if you can get past the geek-talk.

---

## Bipasha{is eviscerated by fiction} says

*Get the app: get the guy.*

I wish man. I wish.

So this was a DNF, and I can't really explain why but here's my reading stances and my capricious reading interests which flicker more frequently than an A/C motor's emf. (Wow, I actually remember thermodynamics. That's new.) (P.s. that's 50 Hz fyi.)

At various stages of reading over a time period of two months or so:

0%- When I heard of the book-

If this shit were real, I'd be hogging the PlayStore like a madwoman trust me but it isn't real and so I'm just gonna rot here playing the occasional otome game(LOL, jk, I don't touch that shit with a pole.) and drool over Kpop idols which are my newfound, not-YET-jaded interest.

How i wish this were filed under "Non-fiction" but no:

"Realistic fiction", my foot. T\_T

During Chapter 1-10:

- Wow, much trope.

- Getting a boyfriend is of prime importance, apparently. This is what happens kids, when you read too much twilight and get yo priorities messed up, (WAit, who am I even calling a kid? I AM A KID )

- "I got lost in those almond-colored eyes. Shades of green came to life now that the sun was streaming into the cafeteria. A little like almonds covered in mold, but not in a bad way."*

Senseless analogies. You tried, author, you tried.

- Nope.

- I learnt that programming shit in eighth grade girl, why am I not making apps and getting boys? That's right because eighth if/else java programs are for class 1 arithmetic, not applications. And I'm not boasting or anything, It's the truth. There's more to it than some few hundred lines of programming, and it's frustrating when the programming examples are the ones for the n00bs. No, really. There's a reason people organize teams and associates for developing apps. But noooo, her dad was good at opening a fricking Microsoft Word file probably, and so our MC is so darn prodigious and adept. She's a senior; not even an undergrad for crying out loud. You don't go around doing that stuff unless you're the Colin Singleton of all things computer. It's not realistic.

I'm being mean as hell but the whole idea and presentation just doesn't appeal to me. It's almost as if she's trying to go around and about the making of the BFA, than directly attacking what actually the process involves. The queries she noted were something I'd upload to quora or quizilla at 12. It'd be so much better if a BIT of research could have been done but who cares because YA readers are just gullible grandmas, who will eat up anything fed to them and all you've gotta do is spout some techy lines and voilà! you have a cool nerd at your literary disposal. #smh man, #smh.

- Love interests fail. Geek is NOT a geek. Not even trying at the cutesy geek. Nope. There are better geeks you can grin at even if they LARP instead of going *public static void main[]*.

Crush is a massive fail with as much expressiveness and depth as a wooden plank.

Girl doesn't have a clue who or what she likes about them. Confused AF. Indecisive AF.

- Never have had friends like -that- (Maybe because I'm a derp but still.)
- Predictable AF. Everything from her father, to the bff-turned-vamp, to the "Lulz let's make apps because we've got nothing better to do" contest- so frickin predictable.
- THE RABBIT'S FOOT GODDAMMIT THAT'S GROSS AND CREEPY THEY'RE RIGHT >.<

And as I begin Chapter 10 after a fortnight, I have no idea where I left, nor do I care what happens to Audrey and her Apple-riporff company competition or all her 136 cliched days to go

•#Unimpressed.

And disillusioned.

And I'm not even sure if that's the correct word but I literally, am in no mood to correct typos or think before typing today. Deal with it.

(Although, that's not totally fair because I'm judging this on the first 10 chapters but then again, I just don't have the tiniest inclination to find out whatever the heck happens to Audrey's high school story or her #daddyissues, because I tried, but I just. don't. care. Dunno why. I'm erratic and weird I guess but then which teen isn't? :/ Also, it is kinda hard to impress someone after that they've just binged on a dozen KPop vids because my suppy of awe and amazement had dwindled. So yeah, blame Korean idols and their fighting and aegyo idkasdfghjkil :3 Not me.)

•And yeahhh- bottom line is that I'm bored and uninterested and maybe I just ignored the next-big-YA-thing and this review is not to be trusted but meh. Just the fact that despite the shit with her BFF and daddy and basically her uncertain and turbulent life, she's more concerned with nagging a BF for herself and playing matchmaker for others just annoys me a lot. Moreover the sequel is called the Pretty App AND JESUS CHRIST GIVE ME A BREAK IT'S NOT WORTH IT

So yeah. That's how I ended flicking this off my virtual book-rack.

Kbye.

I say yeah too many times.

But I'm not sorry.

---

## Ruth Silver says

I found The Boyfriend App to be a constant page-turner. It was probably the romance up and downs that I found myself needing to read more. Some scenes felt outrageous, but it's fiction. It doesn't have to be real.

Audrey was an interesting character. I liked her. Even though we're not alike, I could still relate to her. I loved Aidan's character and I was rooting for Audrey and Aidan to figure out their feelings for one another. The secondary characters also held dimension.

Some scenes were predictable, but there was a twist at about 70 percent of the book that held a hint of a paranormal aspect. I didn't exactly love the twist, but I appreciate how the author took the idea and ran with it. The Boyfriend App 2.0 made sense in how it worked.

Most of the techy geek speak made sense to me. I'm not a programmer, but I took programming in high school. I know enough about technology that I could follow the story and understand what was being said and explained.

---

### **Brandi Kosiner (Brandi Breathes Books) says**

The Boyfriend App was mostly what I expected it to be--cute and quick. I wasn't expecting the almost sci-fi element to it though, nor the twist with Public, a manufacturer of phones and ipod type things as well as social networking for teens leader in this book.

I really enjoyed Audrey and she is the reason I suspended belief a bit with some of the capabilities of technology. She is nerdy and smart, she is the middle of the road almost invisible girl in school, and although I wasn't quite the computer genius like she is, I related with her a lot. She is really into coding and some of that went over my head, but it never made me disconnect from the story. It was very believable in that she learned the script and such from her dad, and that is her hobby.

I also really enjoyed her group of "trog" friends in this book--Nigit, Mindy and especially Aiden. I liked their connection but I was right there wondering when and if there was something romantic there. Audrey's friendship with her cousin Lindsay also added a lot to this story. They seem like unlikely allies and close friends because Lindsay is hardcore into fashion, but still they are there for each other, and support each other no matter what.

The first usage of the app was more what I was expecting. Especially its first happy couple. But the second version is what had me questioning the story. I mean, it is an interesting twist, but I just wasn't expecting the story to go in the direction it did. And I think, no I know that Audrey really didn't think about what she was setting in motion.

Okay, so the rivalry between Blake her ex bff and Audrey... Blake seemed to be the definition of a mean girl, but I could always tell she was just a hurt and jealous girl. But that can make some people act out and try to bully.

Bottom Line: Quick read! Some of the story just didn't click with me, but I liked the main character and the spark between her and Aiden.

---

### **Alaina says**

Cute yet predictable.

*The Boyfriend App* was a likable book. Okay, it was downright enjoyable. Audrey was an interesting character and I loved how clueless she was when it comes to flirting. The app seemed like a pretty interesting idea and I probably would have had it in High School if it existed. However, it wasn't what I thought it would be at all.

However, the app didn't seem realistic at all. Pressing a button that will make you fall in love sounds ridiculous and so untrue! I wish that would happen but it wont. I still enjoyed the crap out of this book though. Probably because it wasn't realistic at all and I just kind of went along for the ride.

I wish I could say that I liked Audrey and Blake's "relationship" throughout the book but I can't. I honestly couldn't keep track of what was being said and what had actually happened. Then the random "I hate you now" was totally throwing me off for a bit but in the end I didn't like Blake. She was a bitch.

Then there was Aidan and Xander. I loved them so much. Aidan was Audrey's best friend when no one else was. He was super cute too. Xander was Audrey's crush. I liked him too but Aidan was my man, if I'm being completely honest here!

Overall, it was cute. Will I read the second book in this series? You bet your ass I will!

---

### **Wendy Darling says**

Smart, geeky Audrey McCarthy needs money for college, so she decides to enter a competition to design a phone app that lets users find their perfect romantic match. I loved the idea of a girl who's a tech nerd, so I was very entertained by the first half of this book. Audrey's a fun character, and the explanations of technical terms and use of social media is well-integrated into the story; I also enjoyed the breezy writing and quick pace. But halfway through, the plot took a turn that was insanely farfetched to me, and sadly never really regained its footing. I'm a pretty go-with-the-flow kind of reader, but sometimes if you can't buy into a certain point, it affects the way you feel about the book overall.

While I had more mixed feelings about this one, I liked the author's fresh and funny narrative voice quite a lot and I'd definitely check out future books by her. If you're interested in checking out this book, by the way, we'll be giving away a copy next month!

*This review also appears in The Midnight Garden. An advance copy was provided by the publisher.*

---

### **Laura Helmers says**

I'm not sure what I was expecting when reading the description of this book, but it certainly wasn't what I got.

The book overall was pretty good if you don't mind fluff pierced with descriptions of coding and hacking (which I usually don't). There are a few instances where timing and descriptions don't really make sense which makes me think that this book could use another run through with an editor.

My biggest problem, however, is that this book is...rapey.

The main character makes an app which makes the person you point your phone at fall deeply and quickly in love with you. Any boy who gets "apped" immediately begins kissing intensely the girl who he was making eye contact with. Consent, anyone? This isn't even presented as a problem in the book. None of the boys mind being forced to feel deep emotions for a girl, in fact some of the couples end up dating post-app! How romantic!

I found the second half of this book disturbing and uncomfortable. If it had been reversed, gender-wise I cannot even fathom this being published. Why is it ok for men to be emotionally raped? Answer, it isn't. One star.

---

### **Michael Jones says**

When Audrey McCarthy sees an opportunity to change her family's fortunes and win a college scholarship for herself by developing the next great mobile app, she accidentally sets off a firestorm of confusion and not-so-wacky hijinks.

Her idea is simple: create an app which will find each user the perfect partner based on complicated algorithms and detailed profiles. She enlists the aid of her fashion-obsessed cousin and her fellow tech geeks (collectively nicknamed the "troglodytes" by the popular clique) to put things into motion. And for a while, things look promising. A few early love matches, a celebrity tweet or two, and she's on the fast track to winning the contest.

And then things go...wrong. Because love isn't something you can guarantee just because a computer or smartphone or mobile app tells you so. Frustrated and desperate, Audrey takes advantage of a chance discovery to retool her app. The Boyfriend App 2.0, now with guaranteed love. That's when it all blows up in her face. Can she find a way to get out of this situation?

The Boyfriend App is a strange story, and one might well accuse it of multiple personalities. It starts off as a fairly innocent romantic comedy, one of those slice-of-life teenage tales, where the plucky geek heroine uses her technological expertise to create the award-winning app which will win her the scholarship, the fame and fortune, and the boyfriend. At last, she'll show her ex-best friend and queen bee of the mean girls, her true worth. Cue slow clap and maybe an speech at graduation.

Sise, however, puts some subtle clues into play along the way, and halfway through she yanks the rug out from under the readers with some strange and interesting twists. The story goes from "romantic comedy for the technophile" to "evil corporation using technology just shy of science fiction to do nefarious things, and only our heroine is aware." It goes from awkward tale of redemption to something reminiscent of Cory Doctorow's YA work, with the clever hacker teens fighting the system. Cue dirty secrets, blackmail, industrial espionage, revenge.

Things I like about this story: The cast is diverse and multi-dimensional. One of Audrey's friends is Indian, and pretty cool in his own geeky way. (Kind of like a much more confident Raj from the Big Bang Theory, without the racial stereotyping.) Another is Hispanic with a speech disorder, and she's played straight, not for laughs or as an object of pity or derision (save by the mean girls, who hate everyone.) When Audrey creates her app, she acknowledges that it can be for "girls wanting girlfriends, girls wanting boyfriends, boys wanting boyfriends, and boys wanting girlfriends." In short, everyone. And later, we see the app bringing same-sex couples together. It's not even something to remark upon in the story, it's accepted and they all move on.

I also like the oddly parallel nature of the setting to our own world. Google and YouTube and Twitter all exist, but instead of Apple, we get the ubiquitous Public Corporation, with its social networking site (Public Party), music download platform (buyJams) media device (buyPlayer) and smartphone (buyPhone). With the reach, versatility, and power of a vastly less ethical Apple, they pretty much rule the roost, with an especially strong presence in South Bend, Indiana, where the story is set (in the shadow of Notre Dame). It grants the book an extra step of remove from our own world, which comes in handy when trying to swallow some of what goes down.

I like that Sise doesn't shy away from the nuts and bolts of the technological side of things. Her protagonist and mainly of the secondary characters are computer experts, programmers, hackers, and geeks, and it shows. The story as a whole treats them with a fair amount of respect and honesty, and it's easy to root for the good guys. This really is a book for the hackers and programmers and gadget lovers, the ones who're comfortable with HTTP and backdoors and coding. Sise either knows her stuff, or has at least done her research. (A quick glance at her bio informs me that she's a jewelry designer and television host, and a fashion consultant. So she at least made a stab at making her techno babble sound realistic.)

So far, I've said some very nice things about a book I rather enjoyed. Now, however, I have to address the things I found problematic. Beyond this point, there be spoilers, because one cannot speak of them otherwise.

Audrey's first app is designed so that everyone fills out a profile, and then the app uses GPS and other features to seek out all compatible profiles within five miles. If a compatible profile is within a certain range, say one hundred yards, the app will play a sound and give the female user an arrow and GSP directions to their love match. (No explanation on how it works if same sex couples are involved, or who gets designated the girl for the purposes at hand.) So theoretically, the power is in the hands of the girl to seek out their love match... the unsuspecting guy who may or may not want anything to do with the girl with whom he's been matched.

I'm pretty sure there have been apps along those lines in the past. Maybe not specifically dating apps, more like data aggregation programs for smartphones, but they all led to the exact same issue I have here, one that's never addressed: the potential for stalking and abuse. After all, these profiles rely on honest answers, and they allow you to surrender a lot of privacy without fully realizing the consequences. It's almost a relief when this app goes down in flames. For every genuine match, there had to have been dozens of misfires. As Audrey herself realizes, you can't necessarily trust technology where matters of the heart are concerned. But the Stalker App is right out....

The Boyfriend App 2.0 is downright terrifying. Audrey develops it after learning that Public is using an inaudible sound frequency through their products to essentially control teenagers and get them to buy more stuff. She reworks the technology to hijack the frequency and create an app that literally makes the target fall in love with the user.

I'll pause. I'll let that sink in.

Audrey creates an app that makes the target fall in love with the user. And keys it to only work for female profiles.

And then she not only uses it, she releases it into the wild.

Do I really need to explain why this is a spectacularly bad idea? The only reason the idea isn't both terrifying and repugnant is because it's being fielded by a teenage girl in what's supposed to be a semi-comic manner. Because she wants to win a contest and save her family and get back at the big evil exploitive corporation which smeared her dead father's reputation, it's all hand waved as good fun. I still think of this as the Rape App, and I started twitching the moment Audrey honestly thought it was a good idea.

Now, perhaps I'm overdrinking things a little. Who wouldn't love an app that tells you when a potential love match is close by? Imagine how easy it would be to meet people if your phone could tell you when they're in the vicinity? (And how awkward it would be to find them in the restroom, or with their current girlfriend, or doing any one of a thousand private or embarrassing things...) Who wouldn't love an app that lets you control the emotions and desires of anyone you desire (provided they fulfill certain criteria as set out in the story). Because teenagers can be trusted with that sort of power, right? (I was a teenager. The answer is Oh HELL No.)

So there's the problem. Here we have a lively, entertaining, thoughtful comedy for the techies and geeks and trogs, and it's wrapped around some profoundly disturbing issues that undermine a lot of the goodwill otherwise inspired by the colorful cast of characters and worthwhile plot. I mean, I like Audrey and her friends. I love how they interact with one another. I like some of the couples that come together as a result of the story. I wanted to root for Audrey and company to find happiness and success...and yet I was expecting the NSA to "vanish" her at the end of the book.

Clearly, Sise has a lot of potential as a YA author. There's a measure of depth and complexity to what could have been a total fluff piece, and there was plenty to love here. I just hope that the themes and decisions made as part of the story spark some genuine discussion as well.

---

## Chelsea says

This book almost started to save itself til the end, when the MC let out a breathe she didn't know she was holding. Most of the chapters ended in cliffhangers in the middle of a scene so I didn't feel that we got the full force of the story. Not a bad idea, but could have developed a whole lot more than it did. Plus some things that happened just didn't make enough sense with what we had known from previous information. Glad I stuck it through though to know the ending.

---

## Briana says

When I first heard of *The Boyfriend App*, I thought "techy chick lit," and I was interested in seeing how that played out, to see if someone could write a YA book that was smart but also modern and sassy. In short, the concept has a world of potential.

The product did not live up to it. I actually have a few complaints about *The Boyfriend App*. First, the writing is choppy and sporadic. Sise will often be describing a scene, only to take a break to make a random observation, usually about a character's appearance. Nothing is more anticlimactic than reading about an interesting conversation or exploit, only for it be interrupted for a completely irrelevant notice that some character is wearing glasses or has a tattoo.

Second, the technological aspects are not handled well. Audrey is apparently a computer science genius and hacker extraordinaire, but I got that sense mostly from the narrative voice hammering it into my brain, not from the story itself. Sure, Audrey does some pretty techy stuff (like designing an app!), but the actual actions come so easily and quickly to her that they seem more like magic than real accomplishments. On the other end of the spectrum, Sise throws in some technological explanations for the enlightenment of her readers, but they are incredibly basic. I do not code at all. I cannot make a computer program or an app, and I could not hack into a completely unprotected program—yet almost nothing that was explained to me in this book was new to me. Sise's intended audience, teenagers, has grown up on technology unlike any other generation. I imagine many of them will find Sise's explanations rather basic, as well, and I wish she would have delved a little deeper.

Third, I was disoriented by *The Boyfriend App* because, going into it, I assumed it was supposed to be a realistic contemporary novel. Reading it, I found it to be closer to some type of contemporary daydream. This is fine, except I have no idea whether Sise intended it to smack a bit of fantasy, or if she is just very disconnected from how high schools work. For instance, once the Boyfriend App starts gaining national popularity, Audrey becomes an instant celebrity. When she goes to school the next morning, dozens of students are waiting outside for her arrival, chanting her name, maybe even waving signs (I don't remember). The point is...the other students are acting as if Audrey is Jennifer Lawrence or something, which would never happen in a real high school. Halfway through the book, I sincerely suspected that Audrey was going to wake up at the end and realize she had dreamed the entire thing.

However, all these faults pale in comparison with the fact that book shines a positive light on rape. I can only assume it does so unintentionally, but this book got through a lot of people—the author, test readers, an

agent, editors and a publisher—and no one found it problematic. *That* in itself is problematic to me.

Audrey creates two versions of the Boyfriend App in the book. The first bears similarities to a mobile dating site. Users fill out a personality questionnaire, and then the app finds potential romantic matches. When a girl is within 100 yards of a match, she gets a notification from her phone telling her the name and location of her match. She can then decide to approach him, or pass. (The app is also supposed to work for girls seeking girls and guys seeking guys, and who gets the notification in these cases is never explained.) This is slightly stalkerish, in my opinion, but both parties signed up for the app knowing how it works, so power to them.

The real problem is the Boyfriend App 2.0. Audrey hacks into the app contest's host company's system and discovers they are using inaudible sound waves to persuade their products' users to buy even more of their products. Audrey modifies this technology and creates an app with which girls can point their phones at an intended target and force them to lust after them—then act on their lust. That's right; girls can use their phones to force guys to hug them, kiss them, grope them, and presumably go farther (though the book is kept PG-13 and no intercourse is mentioned).

No one in the book has a problem with this. Not Audrey, or her friends, or the male victims, or any news sources or government agencies who release articles about Audrey and her app. In fact, the moral issue of the story is framed to be Audrey's hacking and theft of the sound wave technology. People are more concerned that Audrey stole the technology that enables rape, than they are that she is *enabling rape*. (Incidentally, no one seems overly concerned that the same technology is being used by a large corporation to force people to buy their products either.)

I do not dismiss many books on moral grounds. I enjoy a number of stories that include or even encourage actions I object to, and I like a lot of books that go so far as to directly attack my personal beliefs. However, I found the attitude towards rape in *The Boyfriend App* absolutely appalling, and I am frankly surprised that so few other readers/reviewers have objected to it. I am disgusted and offended, and I am sure public reaction to this story would be entirely different if it included a "Girlfriend App" that allowed guys to force girls to hook up with them. I would not in good conscience recommend this book to anyone.

---