



Chess Club Dropout: A Contemporary High School WhyChoose Series (Dropout Series Book 1)

Lux Carmine

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Everyone deserves a happy ending...At least the “good guys” do. That’s what the fairy tales want you to believe. But not everyone wants to live in a fairy tale. Not everyone believes in a happy ending. I certainly didn’t.

With the tragic loss of my mother and my grandmother I was sent away to live with my evil Aunt Sara. I had a new home, a new school and a huge hole in my heart.

Trying to get back a piece of who I used to be before the tragedy, I decided to join the chess club. In my old school I was the geeky girl, the one who got straight A’s and never dared to break a rule. I was the girl who’d never been kissed and wondered if I ever would be. But when I was kicked out of chess club one fateful afternoon my life changed forever.

That's when I met them...

The Lone Wolves scooped me up and took me under their wings. Jason, Kevin, Mike, Billy and Steven were playing the leads in the school’s production of Grease and that’s where they shared something about themselves that they hadn’t shared with anyone.

I felt I was in a fairy tale with them...but the secret we all shared had the ability to ruin my new life...

Would we be able to live happily ever after or were we the “villains?”

** Chess Club Dropout is a contemporary young adult reverse harem novel that touches on first loves, cyberbullying, and other social issues.**

Chess Club Dropout: A Contemporary High School WhyChoose Series (Dropout Series Book 1) Details

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Sarah Caballero says

Not impressive

I couldn't finish this book. It started with 0 story line background. The character building is weak. Ruby barely spends any time with the boys and all of a sudden they are so happy to have her in their lives and she can't live with Jason not talking to her? At that point I had to stop. Its shallow and cliché.

Christy deSade says

Shallow

There was no substance to this book at all. There was no character development, there was no relationship building whatsoever and rather than story telling the were info dumps. This was a shallow attempt at writing about a complex situation, the author should be banned from attempting it again.

Autumn Miller ~ autumnbookreads says

2.75 Stars

SPOILERS THROUGHOUT:

I liked this book. It was filled with a bunch of high school drama and teenage angst which I am pretty much always here for. A lot of common Young Adult tropes were used and, at times, it was a little much but I still highly enjoyed every moment of it.

My biggest complaint and why this book got such a low rating from me would be the numerous plot holes throughout the book. For example, towards the end of the book, Ruby gets kicked out of her house and goes over to the Lone Wolves' foster dad to ask to stay for a couple days. He tells her no at first, but then tells her she can stay for as long as she needs. I repeat, AS LONG AS SHE NEEDS. The next morning however, Ruby talks about how she needs to find a place soon because she only has a week to stay... What? It makes absolutely no sense and this is only one example of many.

Another problem I had was just the awkwardness of things. Sometimes the characters would be joking around and then someone would bring up something completely non-related and serious in the middle of them laughing. It felt awkward to me and didn't connect with the story. There were also plenty of times when they characters would talk about something and they would have reactions that made no sense at all. It left me going "huh?" constantly and I did not like it.

Overall, I did enjoy this book. Normally, I can look over a few plot holes if I am invested in the characters or the plot is drama filled, but I can only put up with so much before there is just no excuse to overlook it anymore. I will be continuing the series because I enjoy the drama between the characters, but I am not dismissing this series of its problems. I definitely see and agree with why this book has such low ratings because it honestly deserves it.

Lola says

Not bad, not great

This wasn't bad, but it wasn't great. While there's not a lot of typos, the writing felt juvenile. It's reminiscent of the Reasons Series and The Allendale Four series but not quite as good. It could've been much better with some editing and revising, maybe a few added scenes, and a whole lot of character development.

It had an interesting story line and a unique premise but there were quite a few cliches. And I was honestly disappointed that chess was barely a part of the story since it's in the title, and with the way Ruby acts I honestly wonder if she'd really be smart enough to play chess. Ruby started out sassy and all certain that she didn't have any interest in romance which I loved but then barely a paragraph later it seemed like she already had a crush. The book does have a lot of great humor in it, but that's probably the best part.

There wasn't a lot of character development or plot build-up. Her relationship with her cousin felt superficial and other than chess and then acting I never really got a feel for what Ruby was interested in. Her personality seemed too bland and I feel like her grief wasn't adequately portrayed. Something like she went through would've been traumatic but literally in just a few chapters she's opening up and branching out. The bullying is never fully addressed and she doesn't seem to suffer too much from it.

The ending also felt rushed in how it all resolved and I was a little shocked at how easily it all worked out in the end. Also there were some loose ends that weren't tied up.

All in all it's a quick and humorous read, definitely not the best, but with potential. If you're looking for something light then give it a try, but I wouldn't read it for anything deeper.

Jennifer G says

Ruby lost her mother and grandmother in a tragic accident and since her bio dad didn't want her to interfere with his new family, she went to live with her aunt and cousin. She's the straight A's, chess club president type; the girl who's never been kissed. But when she's kicked out of her new school's chess club, an offer is extended to join the drama club and try out for their production of Grease. The Lone Wolves, Jason, Kevin, Mike, Billy, and Steven are playing the leads in the school's production and they want Ruby as their very own Sandy. It's a fairy tale but in a second could become a nightmare. Someone is already targeting Ruby and if they discover their secret it could ruin everything.

I love contemporary RH's. I was so hopeful for this one but it didn't live up to my expectations. There is no character development and the relationships are instant. Plot points are created and never furthered. Someone is stalking, taking pictures, and cyberbullying Ruby but this is never explored. There is bullying at school, intimidation, and attempted rape but this is not addressed. Her aunt is made out to be crazy but seems to be more lacking in patience and intolerant. Her father is neglectful, again not addressed properly. This is all so frustrating. The book also needs more detailing, instead of glossing over events (afternoons spent together, school, drama club), make it descriptive. That way we can relate to the characters and believe their relationships. As it is, there is no emotional connection to Ruby or to Ruby and the Lone Wolves. The characters and their bonds are just too shallow. And the story itself while good, has been done better in other books. It has potential. It needs depth, details, and development. A girl doesn't go from never being kissed to 3 orgasms (2 at school, NO!) in one afternoon. This is more a detailed outline than a story. Flush it out, then you might have something.

CK says

Good start to a new contemporary rh ya/na book. Can't wait for more.

Maeschelle says

A bit lacking

I liked the idea behind Ruby's story and circumstances of the Lone Wolves but this book lacked description. There was very little description regarding the characters. Only some of the storylines behind the guys were given. The way the book was written different situations were ran together. The ending was also left open without any real closure. I think if the author reworked this story it would be excellent.

Margaux Espinosa says

Good YA with happy ending

This was a good read, I enjoyed it, it was well written and I really love the characters. It has the whole bullying and cyber bullying issue brought up but never really addressed as well as having an attempted rape that doesn't really get sorted. To be honest the whole thing was very similar to a series written by Angel Lawson called The Allendale Four. There are five guys in this verses the four in the other and this wasn't based on the mystery of whom was bullying the female MC like Lawson's book. This was more about the people involved in the RH and their relationship. It's a good YA and I do recommend it if you like YA RH.

Marisa Valle says

I found the MC extremely indecisive & prone to changing her mind easily. I just didn't see how the guys ended up falling for her. It seemed like insta-love and I would have preferred to see more development of their relationships. She was a bit of a pushover. Every time she got hurt she forgave way too easily. It just didn't seem realistic that a girl with her background would be so open to relationships and especially an RH. There was not a lot of convincing required. She was just a little too good to be true.

Jess says

So bad horribly written stay away

There is no character development. Plot points are created and abandoned. There is no resolution with two of the three villains, it's like they don't exist. All of the relationship building between the characters takes place of the pages with Carmine just saying things like "we hung out for the next couple weeks" or "we fell into a routine hanging out after school doing homework" or "they took me on dates and we did things". An author needs to actually paint those scenes for readers to build the relationship of the characters and the readers connection to the story. We don't need every day after school but you have to actually walk through one.

You can't just say things happened and the guys and I are close now. You also have to build the individual characters. We don't know anything about Ruby and she is the main character. I lied. We know her mom and grandma are dead, she's never kissed a boy, and she whines Mon stop about how the guys are too good for her. We know even less about the five guys other than very generically why they are together and that they all had tough lives. No details. Horribly written. Seriously I have wrinkles from how often I grimaced at this. Bad.

Tanya says

After her mother died she was sent to live with her evil aunt. She is so unhappy and she joins the chess club. One day there is a problem and she is kicked out. She then meets them. Her life is then upside down. What will happen? Where will it take her? See where this will lead

I received a free copy of this book via Booksprout and am voluntarily leaving a review.

Glittah4every1 says

Wtf happened at the end

I was into it then it just ended and its like when you fast forward a movie to the end and have to watch it speed through she shouldve wrote it longer very disappointed I invested time and emotions into this book how could she ughhh and we didnt even hear how the play went or cali decisions maybe shell write what happened in another book but i wont read it she lost my trust

Brittany says

Umm...

Ok this is a no for me. It had potential, thus the 2 stars. There was little to no character development at all (which would have dropped it to a 1star). Yes we got a little of Ruby's mainly through dialog but the rest was missing. I need to understand and see the characters personalities. There was nothing but insta love. I could not connect with any of the guys and their relationships with Ruby.

The development time was rushed by saying "over the next few weeks". The relationships came off as shallow and lacking any relatable feelings since that development time was skipped. You even have one of the guys basically treat her coldly then in like 2 paragraphs do a complete 180 and says he's all in. Ok what was his issue? We also get some of the main guys as just fillers/supporting characters. Ugh I really wanted to like this book, but it's a definite no.

Amanda Lee says

I read a lot of reverse harem books but this was actually my first YA RH and I quite enjoyed it. I liked the characters, the guys were sweet. This touched on cyber bullying but I wish we got more of the resolution of that, it really showed how much it affected Ruby though. I also would have liked to get more into Jason's

issues and his discussion about the other guys that made him stop pulling himself away. It was very much mainly about their relationship rather than the outside situations.

Liyanna says

This was kind of painful to read. I'm pretty tolerant when it comes to YA RH. But this is too much for me. We follow Ruby and I can't even tell you what color her eyes are and the five drama club kid. We don't know what they look like either except their hair. She is a nerdy girl who just lost her family. And comes to live with her aunt and cousin.

In the blurb aunt Sara is described as evil. Well, before the 80% mark she is just an absentee parent. I mean she's not mean to her at the beginning and she's not treated as Cinderella. After she is kind of a jerk but mostly because she refuses to hear Ruby out. That seems to be a recurrent adult problem in this book. The relationship between Ruby and the boys is pretty nonexistent. Not in a slow burn kind of way but more in nothing happens and the author just tells you "well we hang out" or "we had a date". I'm reading this book to read about the hanging out and the dates not to tell me it happened off pages. It makes the relationships unbelievable and we don't care about the characters. And all the PDA. urgh. I'm French. I'm pretty cool with PDA but dry humping on school ground? with other people present nearby? nope. no way.

The plot lines. There are three things kinda happening during this book. And nothing is resolved. It's like the author is saying "I need to add drama with that now" and never deals with the consequences or find a way to solve the problem. (view spoiler)

If you want to discover contemporary RH just don't start with this one. But if you're like me waiting for other releases and have a few hours to spend knowing you won't be reading something really great. Then go ahead and give it a try. I don't know if I will risk to read Damaged Dropout: A Reverse Harem Contemporary Romance when it comes out. But maybe this series will get better
