



# The Graduation

*Christopher Pike*

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## **The Graduation** Christopher Pike

For Michael Olson, the last day of school is not a time to celebrate--it's a day to finish an investigation that may cost him his life. It's also a final chance for him to let Jessica Hart know his feelings for her. But the last day will not last long enough!

## **The Graduation Details**

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Author : Christopher Pike

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Fantasy

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## From Reader Review The Graduation for online ebook

### Earl says

The third book in the series takes place all in one fateful day- graduation and the senior class party. And what a doozy of a day it is! Secrets are exposed. Feelings are expressed. The truth is finally revealed.

Reaping from all the seeds planted in the previous two books, this offers a satisfying conclusion to the series. It makes me wonder what they are doing now!

Rereading the series, I was impressed by the maturity and the diversity of Pike's characters. This seemed like pretty risqué things back when I was in fourth, fifth and sixth grade!

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### Elusive says

'The Graduation' is the third installment in the 'Final Friends' trilogy. Graduation is coming soon and it'd be time for Michael and his friends to move on to a new phase in their lives. However, Alice lives on in their memories and Michael is getting closer to the truth. Will he be able to figure out the last piece of the puzzle before someone else gets hurt again?

I was quite satisfied that this book provided the answers I'd been seeking ever since the first book. The explanations made sense and the twist was somewhat unexpected. Although I personally didn't really like the twist, I could overlook that because the mystery behind Alice's untimely death was finally resolved. The build-up to the revelation took a little too long for my liking but waiting for it definitely paid off. Besides that, I was glad that Michael wasn't always right after all thus he's not one of those unrealistically flawless characters.

The graduation ceremony was filled with some hilarious moments especially thanks to Sara who's one hell of an audacious, witty girl. In this series, every time she had to give a speech she always gave one that was memorable and unconventional. Jessica was a little less vain this time as she quit worrying so much about her appearance and chose to be practical by wearing her glasses. I did wish there was more of Russ though. He came across as more mature here. Bubba was as cheeky as ever but it's hard to dislike him because he's so upfront and straightforward.

Overall, 'The Graduation' was a mildly suspenseful, fun read which gave Alice's death a proper resolution. I would have preferred the epilogue to feature more of the other characters but it was pretty decent anyhow.

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### Julie says

The saga of our friends comes to an end as their senior year also concludes. A death is still unsolved and mysteries abound; miscommunications threaten romantic relationships and the future of all is uncertain as our friends graduate from high school and board a cruise ship for their all night senior party. One weird thing about this book that has always stuck with me since the first time I read it (10-12 years ago) is that Jessica chose to sing "Let It Be" at the graduation. Almost every time I hear that song I think of this book...strange.

Anyway I was super happy to re-read this trilogy over the weekend and I see many more Christopher Pike

books in my future!

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### **Sydney says**

Finally the end of the Final Friends series. I finished this in one night. It was very intriguing and I loved it just as much as the first two. I did have my suspicions all along on who I thought did it, and I am proud to say that I was correct. This book took place a few months after the dance. Pike really tried to make Jessica likable in this book. After the second she was one of my least favourite characters. Maria was up there with them, after she screamed at Jessica, but once again, he really tried to make her likable. Sara was my favourite character. She was sarcastic, funny and very easy to like. Micheal was very admirable for never stopping to find Alice's killer. Nick was also admirable for never leaving Maria. The one person I couldn't stand was Polly. I hated her ever since she tried to take Russ. Anyways, this book was very good. I wish it didn't end there. This was one of my favourite series for the year. Great job Pike!

Rating: 8.5/10

Parental Rating: 14+

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### **Tara says**

The end is SOOOO cute! I love how Jessie keeps teasing Mike about him trying to bring her to Vegas to get married...And I'm SO glad that Alice wasn't really murdered! And Polly wasn't the murderer! But the hallucinations of Clark? That's kinda weird..poor girl though! She probably freaked with all this death around her! Wow..Maria, she's really smart! Who woulda thought! So Claire really was pregnant and had an abortion! And Bubba WAS the father..AND they're getting married! That's too cute. And even Maria and Nick are getting married! Almost UNBELIEVABLE! I'm so glad that Sara and Russ got over their issues and can finally just LOVE each other! The end was TOO awesome! AND the Rock and Bill got out just fine! haha, poor Bill. When Bill left the room that night, it was probably because Claire tried to seduce him too! But he's gay! I like how Jessica showed true friendship to Polly when she needed it the most even though she wasn't really there the entire year; and saved them both from a terrible mistake (aka the bomb. <---true friendship! But I'm glad that it ended with Jessie and Claire on good terms..'cause well, their significant others ARE friends! This trilogy was simply amazing!

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### **?Jinglemarco? ??????? - ??????? (Nursery rhymes enthusiast)\* says**

A parte il fatto che non sopporto più sentire di lavoratori minorenni e di partite di football/baseball/etc., devo dire che la risoluzione del mistero mi ha deluso, troppo prevedibile. Ho continuato la lettura per sapere dei personaggi, ma mi sarei aspettato altro per quanto riguarda la morte di Alice, o forse sono io che mi creo troppi scenari.

\_o\_°\_

Questa storia mi lascia perplesso in punti come quando si dice che i liceali possono lasciare la scuola a gennaio se sono già in pari con i crediti delle materie. Nella mia carriera di lettore non ho mai sentito una cosa del genere. A parte che dovrebbe essere abbastanza improbabile completare in metà anno il programma di uno intero, ma poi dovrebbe essere illegale. In Italia queste cose non succedono, nemmeno all'università spesso si possono dare tutti gli esami insieme - se si volesse, e sarebbe molto pesante.

Leggendo queste pagine mi pongo domande che non mi pongo mai, e non mi piace porsi domande del genere, come se fosse un altro mondo, come se non avessi mai letto romanzi adolescenziali ambientati negli Stati Uniti. Quindi le possibilità sono due: o negli anni '80 certi aspetti della società erano diversi massicciamente, o Christopher Pike si è preso diverse libertà.

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### **Autumn Cook says**

This book is super good!!! Its a good ending for the series to though.  
I cant believe Polly thought the bad Clark was real and it was really her all along, trying to cover up that she actually did it...

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### **Deanna says**

I read and loved these when I was in middle school. Christopher Pike and R.L. Stein were always featured in the young adult section of the library. I kinda vaguely remember the plot.what sticks out the most for me was Jessica and Mike showering together. 11 year old me was shocked. It was more shocking to me than the actual sex until that time I didn't think grown ups were allowed to shower together. Pretty sophisticated stuff for an 11 year old.

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### **Warren Chan says**

This final book in the trilogy ties everything together nicely. The part where the mystery is explained was not full of revelations, as I'd guessed most of what was revealed. Thankfully, the characters were developed well enough that following them through their respective dramas was the reason for the journey.

I'm glad to have finally taken the journey through some of Christopher Pike's writing. I wish I'd dipped my toes into this earlier in my life, as the writing was substantially better than R. L. Stine. But Fear Street was ubiquitous. Love him though I do for Goosebumps, his greatest asset was marketing, not the writing itself.

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### **Ameena Adel says**

You know how Ke\$ha says your love is my drug?  
well this book was my drug!  
seriously i was addicted

This is the third book form the final friends series:  
#1 The party #2 the dance #3 the graduation

u will get confused but at the end everything will be explained  
i found myself crying at the end of the book i just didnt want it to end, i felt like the characters were a part of me.

The story shows you how life moves on no matter how hard it is. And that true friends are the friends who

stay with you no matters what.

This is a MUST read!

I wish there was a continuation for this series. I just REALLY wanna knw wat happens next. Its exciting, romantic and surprising. ;D You'll love it too =D

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### **Paul Hamilton says**

At last the Final Friends gets a conclusion and finally the work done in seeing the crafting of the many central characters unfold is richly rewarded with this clever and wonderfully paced climax. As I said in my review of Book 1, this is really a single novel split into three parts.

The Graduation begins as Book 2 did, skipping a few months ahead from the end of the previous and finding the entire book's action taking place in a single day, the last day of school. Granted, I don't know of many schools that have a day of school, a graduation ceremony and a grad night party all on the same date, but whatever. It works for the sake of the plot.

Michael Olson stands out here as an 18 year-old investigator, determined to make the puzzle fall into place. You see his potential as a detective even before the characters in the story point out to him how good he is at this, and I would be amused and interested to see a follow-up story written that features Michael as an adult detective (perhaps amateur sleuth). His narrowly-missed relationship with Jessica is in full scream-at-the-book "Just get together!" mode here, triumphantly. Bubba is at his most sleazy, Nick feels justifiably redeemed from his early misfortune, even as he exerts nobility in his struggle with Maria's wheelchair-bound condition. Secondary characters like The Rock, Bill and Clair pass in and out of suspicion as the revelations come quickly throughout the book and the twin enigmas of Clark and Polly are become even more mysterious and, perhaps, sinister.

The final confrontation below decks in the cruise ship is pure whodunnit gold: Accusations, revelations, connect-the-dots reconstruction and the perpetrator lashing out once backed into a corner. It's taut and so well done it makes up for any sluggishness that may have plagued the first two novels. There is one minor nitpick in that the whole graduation party yacht felt a bit forced, as if it existed just to be a more potentially dangerous situation than, say, a cabin party. It felt very much like a writer's construct as opposed to something the characters would have actually done, but that little gripe aside this sequence was a huge highlight and an excellent way to cap off a somewhat surprisingly good tale.

The pat ending may have been a bit schmaltzy (a bit of gravity could easily have been added by having either Bill or The Rock find escape impossible, even a small hook for a later story could have been added if one of the bodies was never found) for my particular taste, but it's hard to complain when you finish a book with a smile on your face.

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### **Ankur says**

A great conclusion. The last third of the book plays like a non-stop action sequence.

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## Stephanie says

Here are some things I noticed/remembered/liked/disliked about Book Three: The Graduation (the link is to Goodreads).

Let's see...

### Noticed

- 1] Pike really does go out of his way to make Jessica likeable in this one.
- 2] Ummm...how could anyone not notice where he was going with Claire's boyfriend...???
- 3] The second I started this book I knew exactly what happened to Alice, I remember every detail from this book especially the ending on the boat.

### Remembered

- 1] Jessica and Michael and the sex in the shower...except for my 13 year old brain, really did think this scene lasted longer than 3 lines...hurrmph
- 2] I guess the Jessica of Book 3 is the Jessica I always remembered.
- 3] I'm still wondering if Polly killed her \*spoiler\* old grandmother, or was it old aunt...hmm...can't remember that part.

### Liked

- 1] Michael, always have always will
- 2] This book is full of surprise and action and murder and lots of mystery.
- 3] That Clark was strange, but innocent.

### Disliked

- 1] That Polly really does get away with a lot.
- 2] The stereotypes about homosexuals, black people, Hispanic people, sports players, cheerleaders, druggies et cetera that are thrown around carelessly.
- 3] That it took me until Book 3 to remember everything.

## Patricia says

The whole "Final Friends" series was great at hooking you into the plot and not letting go. I found myself DREAMING about the book because I had such a desire to know what happened in the end!!! I truly love that at the end (in this book, the third) it was all explained.

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## Jeanne says

So here's the conclusion at last. In that respect, *The Graduation* felt more pulled-together than the second part. Pike explains the leap from the homecoming dance straight to the graduation ceremony by giving most of his characters reasons to have gone away; and isn't it the least he could do after two tragedies hit this group of Tabb High seniors? Following through as if nothing had happened is what would have been suspicious. At any case, the end of the year has finally come. With it the final friends will meet again for one last time, one last occasion to sort out the puzzle of the two "accidents" that happened.

One of the problems with people thinking you're smart is you eventually begin to believe it. I remember all the times in class how restless I would be for the teacher to get on with the lesson. I've grasped the concept, I used to think, why haven't the rest of the kids? What I didn't realize then is that learning something doesn't just mean figuring it out. It's also the pleasure you get from the knowledge. I didn't appreciate that the teacher would sometimes dwell on a particular subject because he or she loved it. I got mostly A's but now I wish I'd had more fun doing it.

Pike's foray into YA proves wrong so many things I keep hearing about writing from people who have never even been published. How you can't make a compelling heroine out of a typical wealthy, pretty girl. How you can't make multidimensional characters based on stereotypes. How you can't save every character's life without going overboard with the HEA, etc. Characterization in *Final Friends* is amazing; the author knows how to play with teenagers' perceptions of each other, reputations, expectations and secret weaknesses. He manages to make us fall for characters we have all reasons to dislike. Jessica, who would be perfect if she was a little less vain and superficial. Sara, who would be nice if she was less hysterical and bossy. Bubba, who would be fun if he was more transparent. Bill, who would be attractive if he was less boring.

Her mouth was a wonder, so soft and warm, tasting like well, she tasted like toothpaste, which was fine with him. From now on, he knew, whenever he brushed his teeth, he would remember this moment.

The end was both surprising enough and fully satisfying. *Final Friends* is very much in line with a book such as *Weekend*, just pure YA. They're great if you like romance; they all get married in the end, or so we're led to believe. Is that realistic? Who cares? I certainly didn't when I closed the book. I just felt fine. Mighty fine. And I wanted to listen to the Beatles.

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