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Pinned



Synopsis

Award-winning author, Sharon G. Flake, presents a powerful novel about a teen boy and girl, each tackling disabilities. Autumn and Adonis have nothing in common and everything in common. Autumn is outgoing and has lots of friends. Adonis is shy and not so eager to connect with people. But even with their differences, the two have one thing in common--they're each dealing with a handicap. For Autumn, who has a learning disability, reading is a painful struggle that makes it hard to focus in class. But as her school's most aggressive team wrestler, Autumn can take down any problem. Adonis is confined to a wheelchair. He has no legs. He can't walk or dance. But he's a strong reader who loves books. Even so, Adonis has a secret he knows someone like Autumn can heal. In time, Autumn and Adonis are forced to see that our greatest weaknesses can turn into the assets that forever change us and those we love. Told in alternating voices, *Pinned* explores issues of self-discovery, friendship, and what it means to be different.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 6-10-Two African American students with disabilities-Autumn, who struggles to learn to read, and Adonis, who was born without legs-learn that they are not so different after all in this unexceptional novel. Autumn is the only girl on the wrestling team, and though she excels at sports and cooking, she can't find success in the classroom. She is in love with Adonis, who finds her annoying and pushes her away at every opportunity. Adonis is an A student, almost too perfect, and rigid when it comes to his views on other people-especially Autumn. Given that he dreams about her and thinks about her constantly, however, readers will suspect that he has some hidden feelings. Told from

alternating points of view, the story mostly dwells on the teens' school problems and spends less time on their potential romance. Parents and teachers all seem too good to be true, and the outcome is entirely predictable. The main characters are unique and interesting, but while the novel has a well-meaning message, it is didactic and lacks real drama. Teens are likely to be more interested in the romance and friendships than in the constant focus on Autumn's poor reading skills and will miss the gritty details and urban settings they may have expected from this author. Those who loved Flake's excellent *The Skin I'm In* (1998) and *Who Am I Without You?* (2004, both Hyperion) will be drawn to this novel but may ultimately find it disappointing. --Miranda Doyle, Lake Oswego School District, OR

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Autumn is a champion wrestler and the only girl on the high-school wrestling team, but she is three grades behind in reading. She has a crush on her brilliant classmate, Adonis, the team manager, who was born without legs. Fierce and independent, he tells her bluntly, "Leave me alone . . . I don't like you." But why then does he dream about her? Told in the teens' alternating first-person, present-tense voices, the story is packed with surprising revelations about family, friends, and enemies, as well as tough questions. Should Autumn cheat? Others do. Her mom cannot read her paycheck, and she is determined that her daughter will do better, even if it means that Autumn must leave the wrestling team. But more than the plot's twists and turns, what will hold readers is the teens' tense shifts between standoffs and romance, told without sentimentality or messages. Autumn tries to forget Adonis ("It's hard . . . I love him"), until finally she asks him to help her learn to read. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I was attracted to this book because I work with students who are categorized as disabled or labeled as having a disability. The story was written well, I have a student who is a challenged reader. I'm hoping she will find the subject intriguing. However, I had hoped the language in reference to "disability" would have been more progressive, "disabled" is so archaic. I'm hoping we will get to the point where we start using the term "different abilities," then there will be hope for the next generation. Words do matter, especially with teens and being learners. We all have "different abilities," none of us are disable.

I've purchased two of these books - one specifically for a student of mine who requested it, and the other ended up being given to a reluctant reader in one of my classes. Because our school is in Pittsburgh, we have had an ongoing relationship with Ms Flake. One of my students had the opportunity to interview Ms Flake a couple of years ago, and she hinted that she was writing about teens who had some sort of special needs. I was looking forward to reading this book, because I teach special needs students. It was good to read a popular book whose main characters each have a disability yet who also have definite strengths, both of which they openly discuss.

This was a replacement book for my son's 7th grade teacher's in class library. The original was borrowed and never returned. It seems to be a popular book.

I chose this book to read for group discussion after summer break. It was intriguing and led to several great discussions among the students. It was also inspiring to me as an educator and coach. Quick read. Entertaining and thought provoking.

I met Ms. Flake and she was telling me about her new book. I went out immediately and purchased it. I love wrestling and this book so I can really appreciate the accuracy, it makes good reading!

Great book for teens! As a young adult, I found myself "stuck" in Autumn's blossoming romance and journey into adulthood and responsibility. Will there be a Pinned II?

I purchased this book for my daughter as a Christmas gift, and she's read it twice already. But she also LOVES everything published by Ms. Flake. I strongly recommend.

Good job I will buy from you again, I am satisfied with the product and the delivery. Thank you very much.

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Rorke's Drift 1879: 'Pinned like rats in a hole' (Campaign) Pinned

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