

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period

Gennifer Choldenko

Reviewed by: Megan Yang, 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of *Be the Star You Are!* Charity

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This book, by Gennifer Choldenko, was an unusually quick read for me. The story could be summed up like this (inspired by the [Book-A-Minute](#) Website):

Kirsten

I don't want friends.

(various EVENTS occur between main characters and co-characters)

Kirsten

I discovered a long lost secret related to the two of us.

Walk

Really? I don't believe you.

(KIRSTEN patches things up)

Kirsten/Walk + Their Families

We are in peace now.

THE END

My favorite part of the story was when Kirsten's dad, Mac McKenna, told her that she could fix things up. She didn't believe in herself throughout the book, but with the trust of her dad, Kirsten really thought she could do it. And she did.

The main characters, Kirsten McKenna, and Walker Jones, are friends at Mountain School. Kirsten is angry at her long-time best friend, Rory, for being friends with the private school's queen bee Brianna. She must choose between the populars, and, according to Rory, "the poor kids". On the other hand, Walk's mother Sylvia expects much of son, especially since now he's in a mostly white school. She doesn't want Walk to be a bad boy like his cousin Jamal.

Through a series of misunderstandings and plots to harm others, Kirsten and Walk discover something that shocks both of them hardy. Things then get more complicated, so Kirsten has to heal the on-off relationships between characters.

This book was told from two perspectives: each chapter alternated between Kirsten or Walk's point-of-view. It gives readers the chance to know what each person is feeling.

I enjoyed the book, but didn't love it. Its ongoing and suspenseful plot kept to turning the pages. The main characters' feelings were enhanced by their realization of who they are, and the striking differences between them and other people. A lot of the concepts mentioned in this book

are related to family problems. The parents fight, the kids worry, then everybody lives happily ever after.

I recommend this book to readers who love a good story about family history secrets. Also, if you enjoy reading the kinds of things popular girls in schools do their classmates, then this book is for you too.

Recommended Titles:

Al Capone Does My Shirts, by Gennifer Choldenko

Al Capone Shines My Shoes, by Gennifer Choldenko

No Passengers Beyond This Point, by Gennifer Choldenko

Notes From a Liar and Her Dog, by Gennifer Choldenko