



The Dirt Diary

By Anna Staniszewski

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Eighth grade never smelled so bad.

Rachel Lee didn't think anything could be worse than her parents splitting up. She was wrong. Working for her mom's new house-cleaning business puts Rachel in the dirty bathrooms of the most popular kids in the eighth grade. Which does not help her already loser-ish reputation. But her new job has surprising perks: enough dirt on the in-crowd to fill up her (until recently) boring diary. She never intended to reveal her secrets, but when the hottest guy in school pays her to spy on his girlfriend Rachel decides to get her hands dirty.

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The Dirt Diary By Anna Staniszewski Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-Fourteen-year-old Rachel's parents separated, her father moved to Florida, and she stole from her college fund to pay for a plane ticket to visit him. She hopes to win the hundred dollar award at the Spring Dance bake sale, but as another way to earn back the money she volunteers to help her mother with her new business, cleaning houses. When Rachel realizes that their first client is Briana, the most popular girl in her class and Rachel's enemy, things feel as if they can't get much worse. Writing notes in her diary about "the dirt" she learns about her classmates while cleaning their homes makes her feel better, as do baking and creating new recipes. Despite Briana's weekly creative cleaning tortures, Rachel finds herself developing a relationship with the girl's twin brother, Evan. Her friend Marisol, a fashion whiz, provides much-needed emotional support, but when they have a fight and rumors start flying that could only have come from the diary, she has to figure out how to stand up to Briana and come to terms with some unhappy truths about her family. Although Rachel's situation and feelings ring true, she often comes across as selfish and whiny. Her character is redeemed when she finally faces the truth about her parents, makes amends with Marisol, and finds a way to face Briana. This realistic read is likely to appeal to middle schoolers and reluctant readers.- Kefira Phillippe, Nichols Middle School, Evanston, IL(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journal. LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Rachel, 14, has a secret. She has taken money from her college savings to buy a plane ticket to Florida, where she hopes to convince her dad to return home. To cover up the expense, Rachel begins accompanying her mother to clean houses, many of which turn out to belong to her classmates' families. As Rachel learns that everyone has secrets, she starts keeping The Dirt Diary. Rachel is a naive, likable girl who loves to bake and is prone to startling exclamations such as, "Oh my goldfish!" Her story teeters on the outlandish while covering some truly painful events. As Rachel stubbornly ignores the signs that her father has gone for good, she comes to realize that none of her friends has a perfect life. The secondary characters are nicely developed, as is Rachel's natural emergence from simplistic, wishful thinking to a more nuanced understanding of life. Staniszewski, the author of the My Very UnFairy Tale Life books, begins another appealing series that promises more goofball humor blended with the real issues of early adolescence. Grades 5-8. --Diane Colson

Review

""Confidently addressing a number of common tween troubles that include bullying, parental divorce, and peer pressure, Staniszewski introduces a determined eighth-grader desperate to get her separated parents back together in this humorous problem novel." " - *Publishers Weekly*

""Staniszewski neatly captures the pain of a shy young girl with newly separated parents . . .The quick pace and creative storyline will attract those in the mood for an undemanding, light read."" - *Kirkus*

""Rachel's situation and feelings ring true . . .This realistic read is likely to appeal to middle schoolers and reluctant readers." " - *School Library Journal*

""It's laugh-out-loud funny and one of the most fun books I've read all year."

"an inspiring book for anyone who has ever been bullied."" - *Justine*

""Rachel's voice is entirely teen authentic in its self-centeredness . . .there is still heart and humor here, so

readers looking for a heroine as flawed as themselves will commiserate with Rachel.'" - *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"another appealing series that promises more goofball humor blended with the real issues of early adolescence." - *Booklist*

"Anna Staniszewski, author, has done a magnificent job of creating a wacky yet serious character, Rachel, an eighth grader whose hokey expressions stick to your brain long after you're done reading the book... [The *Dirt Diary*] has secrets, heartbreak, romance, and humor-a great mix." - *Writing Against the Wind*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Auyeung:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children till adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Dirt Diary* seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book *The Dirt Diary* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book *The Dirt Diary*. You never experience lose out for everything should you read some books.

Joe Lowe:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specifically book entitled *The Dirt Diary* your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unknown for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The *The Dirt Diary* giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Ann Gonzalez:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you just dont know the inside because don't determine book by its handle may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer might be *The Dirt Diary* why because the fantastic cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly make suggestions to pick up this book.

Antoine Anderson:

That book can make you to feel relax. That book The Dirt Diary was bright colored and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book The Dirt Diary has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until youngsters. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading in which.

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