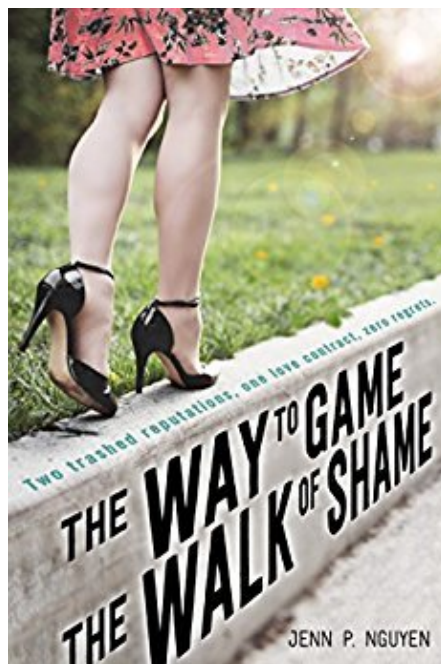




The Way to Game the Walk of Shame

Jenn P. Nguyen

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The Way to Game the Walk of Shame Jenn P. Nguyen

Taylor Simmons is screwed.

Things were hard enough when her single-minded dedication to her studies earned her the reputation of being an Ice Queen, but after getting drunk at a party and waking up next to bad boy surfer Evan McKinley, the entire school seems intent on tearing Taylor down with mockery and gossip.

Desperate to salvage her reputation, Taylor persuades Evan to pretend they're in a serious romantic relationship. After all, it's better to be the girl who tames the wild surfer than just another notch on his surfboard.

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame Details

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From Reader Review The Way to Game the Walk of Shame for online ebook

Sophie says

The fake boyfriend trope is one of my all time favourites in YA books. This book immediately jumped on my wishlist when I read the synopsis, and I preordered it after my birthday, and the fact it came out the day of my final uni exam seemed like fate.

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame begins with Taylor, the girl known around school for being a geek, a nerd, and a shoe in for valedictorian. When she wakes up in bed with the school's biggest player, Evan, she hopes no one has noticed. Unfortunately for her, everyone at the party saw them together, and as soon as she walks into school on Monday morning, the rumours start circulating. So, what else is there to do, that manage the situation and do risk damage? Taylor's solution - her and Evan are actually together, and she's not the 'slut' that everyone is saying she is. Luckily, Evan agrees to be her fake boyfriend, and a contract - really - is drafted. Like most books with this trope, they fall for each other, for real, but not without a good helping of angst thrown in.

Taylor was amazing. Just because everyone thinks she's an Ice Queen, doesn't mean she doesn't have feelings. She's just dedicated to her work, and knows exactly what she wants with her life. She has everything planned out, and has no time for distractions. Because of this, she comes across as rude, but for those who really know her, she's kind. As the book progressed, she shed some of her icy-ness, and even though she never wavered on achieving her goals, she understood that there was more to life than just good grades.

I loved Evan, too. He was very typical for YA love interests, but he had a proper softer side, that not many people saw. What was great about this book, was that Evan was the first to realise his feelings for Taylor were real, and that meant the the green monster popped up a fair few times, when another prospective love interest appears.

That love interest, Brian, was fairly boring, and not a good fit for Taylor, at all. They'd been friends for a while, but nothing had happened, until Brian saw Taylor with Evan, and decided to make his move - not a good idea, dumb ass.

Overall, the book was just a really nice, cute, fluffy read. I had a smile on my face for the majority of the book, and though Evan and Taylor's relationship was one of the best fake-dating-to-real tropes I have ever seen. I can't wait to read more from Nguyen in the future.

A_Ryan says

5 Absolutely Awesome Stars!!!

What's it about? After a night together that neither can remember, a straight-A student and the school's hottest player strike a deal in order to protect the girl's reputation and pretend to be a couple. But the lines between pretense and reality soon begin to blur...

The best bits: I just love fake-boyfriend stories, especially when they are done well and both characters

develop slowly and realistically. This is pure light hearted fun and never delves too far into the angsty fillers. Loved it.

The worst bits: The cover! The ONLY reason it took me so long to pick this book up was because the cover is thoroughly un-inviting. The legs are bad, the graphics are bad, it's not at all the way the heroine is portrayed, and theres not even a *hint* of the humour and great characters inside this fabulous book. Bad, bad, BAD cover!!! Dont let it put you off!

Recommended for: fans of young adult romances and fake-boyfriend tropes. This is one of the best out there!!!

Raven_Blake (dreamy addictions) says

Same Review Also posted In My Blog: Dreamy Addictions

This book was one delicious sweet cupcake that will definitely melt and warm your heart. When I first read the synopsis of this book, I knew it was going to be a fun read. The story was so cute and sweet and even though it was a overused fake relationship trope, I really enjoyed this book. Taylor and Evan are so adorable in this and I loved how their fake relationship slowly turned into something real. I liked every aspect of this book and might re-read it in the future. It's my first book from Jenn P. Nguyen and I'll definitely look forward to more books from her.

The Story starts with Taylor wakes up to find herself beside the school's bad boy surfer Evan McKincley. Taylor doesn't remember anything about what happened in last night's party after getting drunk and how'd she end up in Evan's bed. Next day rumors starts spreading in the entire school that she has slept with the school's bad boy and was tagged as a slut. Taylor has a reputation of being a Ice Queen, straight A Student, running for Valedictorian and aspiring to be a lawyer. When the rumor goes out of control affecting her academic life, she makes a deal with Evan to be her fake boyfriend until everything cools down. Evan and Taylor are perfect opposites of each other but opposites always attract and although it was a fake relationship they can't help getting attracted to each other and starts to enjoy each other's company.

Taylor is labelled as a Ice queen but if you get to know her, she's really a nice girl who is aspiring to become a lawyer in the future and doesn't want any distractions. She is a relatable character and I really liked her in this book. Evan is also a great character and I'm surprised to find that he isn't completely bad boyish as I thought he would be but still I love him. I'm glad he wasn't a typical bad boy with tattoo's on his arms, who wears black, hangs out with wrong crowd and has too much baggage to handle. Instead Evan is confident and fun character but it doesn't mean he doesn't not have any issues. Both Taylor and Evan have their own issues to deal and they find relief in each other's arms. I loved the slow burn relationship between Taylor and Evan. The romance is the best aspect of this book, It was totally swoon worthy with late night star gazing, sweet kisses and touching pinkies. There isn't any triangle but there is another love interest Brian who's used to be Taylor's crush. The secondary characters are also nice especially Oreos, Taylor's cute dog.

The plot is predictable but it's well executed and trust me you'll definitely love reading this book. It's one of those books that'll lift up your mood. It's a perfect YA read that doesn't have sex or hot steamy romance but it's highly entertaining read if you're into sweet, cute and fluffy contemporary read. The pacing is perfect and I had a smile on my face through out most of this book. I liked the writing! It's simple and fun and just the

way I like it. The book finally concluded with a perfect ending with lots of smiles and giggles.

Overall, It was fun and entertaining! Honestly, I wanted to give this a 4 stars because it does have some minor flaws but still I can't help giving it a 5 stars. It's a great YA read with perfect amount of romance, fun and drama.

Rose says

I think I fell in love with a book, you guys...

Angie Elle says

Thank you to MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING GROUP and Netgalley for providing a review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

4.5 stars

I was expecting **The Way to Game the Walk of Shame** to be heavy read, but it was actually quite fun. I had a huge smile on my face throughout most of this book. Of course, it may have had something to do with the fact that I could picture this entire story line taking place in Tree Hill, one of my favorite fictional places. (Interestingly enough, this book takes place in Wilmington, North Carolina where One Tree Hill was filmed.)

I think this story could have worked either way – a heavy, serious read, or just as it was, light and fun. I love that Evan was so good-natured about everything and thought about the little things in their fake relationship when Taylor didn't, and the silly things he'd do just to put a smile on her face. They had chemistry from the beginning with the whole opposites attract trope going on. She was pretty high strung about school, organization, and the future, and Evan was carefree about most things. He made Taylor think twice about what it was she really wanted, and she, without even knowing it, influenced him to focus on his future and setting goals for himself. Seeing their feelings develop for each other and actually coming around to admitting them was a fun journey. I also liked their friends in this; Taylor's was just nosy enough to be funny, but didn't stick her nose too far in her friend's business. Evan's best friend was carefree like he was, but he wasn't careless. He and Evan had a nice friendship, and his friend was a hoot constantly looking for details about Evan and Taylor's relationship. Taylor also instantly took Evan's side in regards to the way his step-father treated him, and it came at a time when Evan really needed to know someone was in his corner. Her family was quite typical with very little drama, so it was a nice balance between the two.

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame was a great way to spend an afternoon. It's a book I know I'll be reading again and again, and if you're looking for a fun, flirty, low-angst read, I can't recommend this one enough. I loved it from the first page to the last!

This review was originally posted at Badass Book Reviews.

V. PARENTAL GUIDANCE ALERT: A Court of Wings and Ruin is NEW

ADULT/EROTICA but Goodreads editors won't tell you says

Update: Just to add some parental guidance, this is one of the few YA reads marketed as YA that are indeed clean, but I'll add a warning for language. Nothing particularly inappropriate, no f- bombs. Nothing they wouldn't hear on TV.

4.5 stars rounded because FINALLY! A young adult is REALLY a young adult book, and not a NEW ADULT book pretending to lure underage teens to its dirty sex scenes (cough ACOMAF cough)

This book is REAL, age appropriate young adult.

Seriously. I can't be the only one noticing that lately you find almost the same amount of nudity, drama, sex, and heavy topics such as drugs, rape, cheating, bullying, violence, and "inappropriate" behaviour in "YA romance" books than you'd find in edgy New adult, adult fiction, even erotica. (cough Paper Princess, cough)

Well ladies and gentleman THE WAY TO GAME THE WALK OF SHAME (promising yet tongue-twisterish title) is a book that isn't trying to pretend to be what isn't. You know from reading the blurb that you'll encounter the typical high school drama, the bad boy, the nerdy girl, the fake relationship, the mean characters and for once CUTE YOUNG ADULT ROMANCE LIGHT ON DRAMA AND A FULL OF CUTE, AGE APPROPRIATE FUN. Anyone looking for heavy drama, originality or edginess won't find it here. This is a book that might appeal to readers in search of a romance with no complications, no cheating, plenty of fun banter, cuteness and in short, ENTERTAINMENT.

As I said, this book isn't pretending and isn't pretentious. It's not trying to be original, what book is? and it's not trying to be intellectual. The premise is very basic and very compelling. Taylor, a nerdy girl, is bullied at her school for being, well, nerdy! Oh! so you're a nerd? virgin? bookworm? Let's make fun of you.

Then our nerdy heroine finds herself in the bed of the school playboy. Isn't that cool? And neither remember a lot of that "wild" night.

It turns out that our virginal nerd girl finds herself again the victim of bullying. This time one of the worst forms of bullying: slutshaming. OH how dare you sleep with a manwhore? Someone you aren't dating? He can sleep with a lot of girls and that's fine, but YOU are a woman and you shouldn't take control of your sexual life, you shouldn't make bad decisions, you should stay in your nerdy role and never stray from it. To get rid of the slutshaming she asks Evan (book boyfriend, I want him to be real) to date her in real life and he not only accepts! he even drafts a contract! Who the hell has a contract for a relationship?

Perhaps

or

This fake relationship is supposed to save heroine's reputation. Because slutshaming works with double standards and women can never win. If you are a virgin you're a prude, a judgmental bitch, an undersirable nerd. If you sleep with someone after a moment of poor judgement you are a slut. All this sounds very heavy right? It's what's happening, in this school and all around us, but that's not what the book is about. The author could have made this book an anti-slutshaming and pro-feminist book, but instead she focused in the story, in the fun, in the banter, in the entertaining factor. This book is not preachy at all, it's not dramatic. It's just fun for the sake of fun!

The book being a Young adult book, doesn't have a lot of steaminess, but it compensates that with cuteness and smiles. YOU have to suspend disbelief a little because the attitude of the teachers in this book is almost supporting of bullying in a student, but other than that I think this book is a great read. It might be silly at times, this is a book that you shouldn't think too much or you might start to find things that will ruin your reading experiences. This is a mindless reading but that's what makes it a great summer read.

I want to read more of the author.

Safety issues: H unfortunately kind of has eyes for other girls after starting to date the heroine, but everything was so cute that didn't bother me.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

2.5 Stars

You're all familiar with the "Walk of Shame" right

Oh wait, wrong genre. This book was about the other kind

Meet Taylor. She's gone through high school pretty much like this

When she gets waitlisted to Columbia rather than immediately accepted, she doesn't take it well and ends up not only

But also?????

Or at least that's what the entire school thinks when word gets out that Taylor woke up next to none other than super player Evan

Now Taylor just wants everyone to shut up about her – or even go back to thinking she was the “Ice Queen” like before her not-really-a-one-night-stand-one-night-stand. The way she thinks that can happen? Enter into a fake relationship with Evan until they are yesterday’s news.

I’m telling you if this were a Netflix movie I would watch the crap out of it. Actually the way I ended up reading this was because I got put on an eternal waitlist for *To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before* once I discovered that was a Netflix movie and I wanted instant gratification in the form of YA romance so I checked this one out instead. Obviously this wasn’t a life-changer and the writing wasn’t real great either. Buuuuuuuut, I enjoy the fake relationship trope enough that I found it to be a cute little couple hour time waster and

I now declare Young Adult Week on Goodreads officially kicked off!

Natalia says

It's more like 3½.

Really cute and funny book.

OMG I love Evan! He is just amazing! ;)

Karole Cozzo says

Five things I greatly enjoyed about this book:

- 1) It's sweet, really sweet. Not all YA romance needs a dark, brooding bad boy, and Nguyen did a great job illustrating that.
- 2) At certain points when I thought the plot might be going down a predictable path...it didn't.
- 3) Nguyen included enough memorable details (blue cotton candy wishes, the coin necklace, little sister make-up application) to give this story its own personality, one I'll remember.
- 4) The more I got to know the main characters, the more I truly liked them and found myself rooting for them as individuals as well as a couple.
- 5) While there were YA character standbys (the uber-confident bestie, the sexy I-want-your-man mean girl, the guy who SHOULD'VE been right), Nguyen did a fantastic job rounding out their characters so they didn't end up feeling one-dimensional.

Kudos to Jenn Nguyen on her debut novel - I believe she nailed what she was going for with this one! It's a happy, fun read with plenty of sassy banter, which I adore. Sure, sometimes the player-with-the-heart-of-gold can seem a bit too good to be true...but isn't that one of the reasons why we have YA romance anyway??? :) Give it a read - it'll warm your heart and leave a smile on your face. I was lucky enough to receive an advanced copy from Swoon Reads and I wholeheartedly endorse this book.

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

This is more of a 2-3 stars read. The first half and the last dragged which put me in an odd position. But, the third half is engaging so.

I enjoyed reading the banter, and the fake dating trope. I just wish, there's no slut-shaming, and, "you're not like the other girls" litany. I highly advocate for Nguyen not to use the same plot drive next time, because she really knows how to write an engaging contemporary-romance book.

Natalie (Never trust a duck) says

Huh. They wrote a book about me.

Marty :) (thecursedbooks) says

I'm very conflicted about this book, I've read it in a few hours, it was pretty addicting. I love the fake-dating trope and the chemistry of the characters was so great, I loved them and shipped them and rooted for them. But ugh. Why does every young adult romance have to include girl hate and girls being mean to each other over a boy? It's such an anti-feminism thing to do, please just stop. Also, this book had the 'she's not like the other girls' phrase twice in it, that's the only thing I hate as much as girl-hate and the mean girl trope, if a guy ever says it to me, I will slap him.

I understand that mean girls are a thing in real life too, but can't we just support great female relationships and how girls can be jealous without insulting the other girl involved (yes, it's possible, ya authors!!!), I think it would be pretty effective to do this in order to stop the girl-hate.

So, yeah, if these two irking things would have been left out (they really didn't help the plot much anyway if you ask me), I would have easily given this book four, maybe even five stars. I liked the writing a lot and the voices of the characters were great (except those moments when Evan couldn't stop talking about how Taylor isn't like the other girls and Taylor couldn't stop hating on Amber).

ambsreads says

Such an enjoyable book! Proud for this to be my 200th book of the year, honestly. I will be writing a full review for this, hopefully, it may, however, be sans gifs since i won't be updating as frequently for the next week and a bit due to lack of wifi implemented by moving. Thank God for books.

Dani (Dani Reviews Things & Love in a time of Feminism) says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book for review. This does not affect my rating or opinion.

"You know this will probably backfire on you."

"How?"

"You might fall in love with me and won't want to let go in the end."

At some point while reading this book (in one sitting), I asked Jamie if I was allowed to write a love letter to Evan as my review. She said yes, but I'll tone it down and simply *start* with Evan.

Evan was just the most delicious young man ever. **Yes, he was a player, but that didn't mean he had to be a jerk.** He was gorgeous *and* actually really, *really* nice. And funny and thoughtful and, yes, a little broken. The book wouldn't be as great if the characters weren't a little flawed and broken. He was very much embedded in my heart as soon as he woke up! (By the way, you can see just *how* gorgeous he is in Books Are My Fandom's guest post... ;))

OH, AND HE PLAYED THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND. But I'll let you discover those heartwarming, wriggle-happily-in-your-seat moments yourself.

Taylor was so relatable I actually set the book down for a couple minutes here and there. She had an obsession with perfection so she could be just like her step-dad, who she considered her real father. She preferred biology to physics (same) and zoned in on all the gross things about dirt when it got on her face (same). She confessed to secretly being a terrible person and having dirty thoughts (same). Oh wait, that last one was me in high school; I'm pretty open with my dirt now. She also flashed from being serious, to insecure, to fiery a lot, which is something I struggle to control in myself.

Also, both of them had daddy issues. YES. HELLO. RELATABLE. I have daddy issues as well, in case you missed that. I'm pretty open about that, too.

Reading the blurb, you can tell it's going to be a fake relationship storyline, so there shouldn't be any surprises in the overall story. That being said, **I loved that Taylor wrote a contract!** AND IT WAS INCLUDED AT THE END. Love. It. That, coupled with Evan actually being a all-round Kind Human Being, gave this take on the fake relationship trope a fresh twist.

A few things kept it from being a 5-star read for me.

1. I wish Taylor didn't have to be a virginal saint.
2. Leading on from that, I actually felt a little bit deflated at the end because I didn't feel there was *enough* hot stuff. Hell, I didn't need anything too graphic, but a few good makeout sessions that made me really *feel* something.
3. I wish that there was more to the mean girl than *just* being a mean girl.
4. I couldn't believe a teacher would punish a star student for *one* forgotten assignment to the extent that this dude did.
5. When someone you haven't seen in years has a history of bouncing in and out the prison system, is it wise to do what Evan agreed to do?

All in all, however, I really enjoyed this book, and my love for Evan will go on. Near, far, wherever he is. He will stay in my heart, and my heart will go on and on.

(Heyooo. Wait, will 2000+ babies understand that reference??? OH MY GOD, PLEASE SAY YES OTHERWISE I WILL FEEL OLD. Older. Ok, fine, I'm old.)

See this review in its natural environment, Dani Reviews Things.

You can find me on Twitter and Instagram.

Olivia-Savannah Roach says

The Way to Game the Walk of Shame by Jenn P. Nguyen was a book I fell in love with as soon as I read the title. Suddenly I was pulling up everywhere to try and get a review copy of this one. Which was why I was so happy to snag a place on this tour here! I was anticipating it like crazy.

I recently read another fake dating kind of story which was No Love Allowed by Kate Evangelista. I've quickly gone from not having read any of these kind to two! This one had quite a different reason for the couple pretending to get together. I really liked the whole situation of them waking up in bed together, neither of them knowing what happened the night before. Then on top of that, everyone saw them leave together. Taylor hates the gossip trailing after her, and seeing as she is used to being the school nerd who no one dared to even talk about in her presence, she wants to have her status back again. How to do that? Start dating Evan. I loved that premise!

This book quickly became one I wanted to read all day long. The story narration switched between Evan and Taylor so that we got to see things from both of their eyes. Both of their voices were unique and I really liked that they didn't blend into each other at all. I think I liked Taylor's the most - she had so much attitude and even though she appeared confident to most people on the outside, she had her own inner panic moments. She was the kind of girl who really wanted her dreams to come true and chased after her ambitions. But sometimes she also doubted that they would really happen. Taylor was just one of those go-getter girls I could really appreciate.

Evan was another person who was very confident. Even though he is a player, we quickly get to know him as so much more. The best thing about him is that he never denies the whole player side of himself - he knows that's who he is and the author makes no excuses for him. I would have thought this would have made me dislike him because there was no previous reason for him being that way, but it's more so that he's a guy, y'know? And he accepts that, and with his point of view we learn about there being more to him. As soon as Taylor is introduced into his life, things start to change about his life too.

This book also spotlighted family conflict. Evan and Taylor both have divorced parents. Although in Taylor's case she loves her stepdad and thinks he is much better for her mother than her biological father was. Evan's biological father spent a lot of time in jail and he really dislikes his stepdad. Together this contradicting portrayals of families caused a lot of turmoil in emotions in this novel. It was never quite the forefront of the novel but it did play its part in the grand scheme of things and I believe it was handled well.

Primarily, this book is a romance. As it was a clean romance, I ended up very satisfied on this front. It was sweet. It had some miscommunication and some trials and tribulations that the couple had to solve their way out of together, and it also had plenty of banter which made me one happy reader. Banter is the kind of thing I can never get enough of in a novel.

The ending was super sweet and I really appreciated the bonus chapters at the end. I won't say what they were to do with because the pleasant surprise of what they were made them the best. It was a good way to tie up the novel.

I did appreciate the friends group that Taylor and Evan both had. Aaron, Carly and Brian all made a gang of unique but good-hearted friends that supported them both with whatever they were trying to do. I do wish there had been a bit more time to deepen our understanding of the secondary characters but that never really happened. And at times, I wished that there were more issues for the couple to overcome than the way their relationship began or miscommunication. At times it felt a little too... easy?

In general though, this was a brilliant romance contemporary that I raced through! It's brimming with voice, character and a romance you'll want to be a part of. Can't wait to see what this author produces next!

Gif Summary:

This review and others can be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>
