



Wesley James Ruined My Life

Jennifer Honeybourn

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Sixteen-year-old Quinn Hardwick's having a rough summer. Her beloved grandmother has been put into a home, her dad's gambling addiction has flared back up and now her worst enemy is back in town: Wesley James, former childhood friend—until he ruined her life, that is.

So when Wesley is hired to work with her at Tudor Tymes, a medieval England themed restaurant, the last thing Quinn's going to do is forgive and forget. She's determined to remove him from her life and even the score all at once—by getting him fired.

But getting rid of Wesley isn't as easy as she'd hoped. When Quinn finds herself falling for him, she has to decide what she wants more: to get even, or to just get over it.

Wesley James Ruined My Life Details

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Author : Jennifer Honeybourn

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From Reader Review Wesley James Ruined My Life for online ebook

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Wesley James Ruined My Life by Jennifer Honeybourn

Publisher: Swoon Reads

Publication Date: July 18, 2017

Rating: 4 stars

Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

Sixteen-year-old Quinn Hardwick's having a rough summer. Her beloved grandmother has been put into a home, her dad's gambling addiction has flared back up and now her worst enemy is back in town: Wesley James, former childhood friend—until he ruined her life, that is.

So when Wesley is hired to work with her at Tudor Tymes, a medieval England themed restaurant, the last thing Quinn's going to do is forgive and forget. She's determined to remove him from her life and even the score all at once—by getting him fired.

But getting rid of Wesley isn't as easy as she'd hoped. When Quinn finds herself falling for him, she has to decide what she wants more: to get even, or to just get over it.

What I Liked:

This book was adorable! Light, cute, and a quick read - exactly what I needed at this present time. I had a good feeling about this book and I'm glad it went my way. I'm not a huge YA contemporary fan, so I try to be as selective as possible when I read them. This book was worth it!

Quinn life is not so great at the moment. The one bright spot is that she's going to London with her high school's band over the summer, which is going to be awesome, since Quinn has been dreaming of going to London for years. She has to work often at Tudor Tymes restaurant to come up with the money for costs, but it's worth it. With everything else going on, she needs this. Her grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and the family had to put her in a home. Quinn's parents have been divorced for several years, and her father has not been able to get back on his feet since the divorce. He has no job and is constantly gambling. And then there is the source of all of Quinn's problems - Wesley James, who recently moved back to Seattle, after living elsewhere for five years. Quinn wants to exact her revenge on Wesley, but the more she schemes, the more she falls in love with him. Would it be so bad to fall for the guy whose life you're trying to ruin?

I'm not really big on second-chance romances so I was a tiny bit apprehensive about this one, at first. But it's not a second-chance romance at all. Quinn and Wesley were childhood friends for years, until they were eleven years old, when Quinn and his family moved to Portland. The going-away party was the night that everything changed - in which Quinn and Wesley fought, and then Wesley did the thing that Quinn thinks ruined her life forever. Five years later, Wesley is back, and Quinn still hasn't let go of that grudge.

Quinn is hilarious, even if her rationale was a little misguided. She likes doing things by the rules, which Wesley thinks makes her uptight, and she doesn't really play around. She is stubborn and really good at

holding a grudge, which I found more impressive than anything else. I liked Quinn a lot, more than I thought I would. I could relate to her on some level, whether it was her annoyance with the customers in the restaurant, working at the restaurant in general, dealing with a boy she didn't want to see ever again, etc.

Wesley is a charming sweetheart. Everyone likes him, and it's no surprising, since he is charismatic and fun. He tries very hard to have conversations with Quinn and get along, but she is never having it. Wesley is just as stubborn as Quinn, though in his case, it's persistence. He's a good guy, not a sleazy or douche-y character. I would have loved to meet and fall for a guy like him in high school (or college!).

The romance is kind of there, though there is only one kiss between these two (and it's at the end!). I loved seeing them reconnect in their own way (Wesley trying to make nice, Quinn stubbornly having none of it, circumstances forcing them together, etc.). They have a subtle chemistry that was fun to watch unfold. I wanted more actual swoon, but the romance was cute nonetheless.

The story doesn't just deal with Quinn trying to ruin Wesley's life and her falling for him instead. I like how the focus is also around Quinn's dad (who is broke and jobless and has a gambling problem), Quinn's grandmother (who both Quinn and Wesley loved), and really, Quinn's family in general. Family is an important part of this book, in a subtle way. And Quinn's friendship with her bestie Erin - I loved their relationship! Such a lovely friendship.

I liked the light, humorous tone of this book. So many funny times in Tudor Tymes, or with the band, or in a truck. Lots of serious times too, or moments filled with some yummy tension. But the overall tone of this book is humorous, and I liked that.

This book ended really well, exactly how I was hoping it would end. It's a great ending, one that Quinn deserved. I really enjoyed reading this book and would probably reread it in the future!

What I Did Not Like:

The thing I've noticed about Swoon Reads books is the lack of actual swoon. Where are the scorching kisses? Warm, tight hugs? Almost kisses? KISSES? There was only one kiss between Wesley and Quinn, and it was at the end, and it was very short. More swoon is needed, especially for a cute and chemistry-laden romance like this one!

Would I Recommend It:

I do recommend this book, despite the lack of kisses. If you're a YA contemporary fan, this is a good one to check out. I mean, even if you're not a YA contemporary fan, it's a good one to check out. I like that it was so dense for such a light and compact read. I breezed through it though - it's a very engaging and enjoyable read. So cute!

Rating:

4 stars. I will definitely be keeping an eye out for more books by Honeybourn in the future. Hopefully more Swoon Reads books, with more swoons. More kissing is always good!

Samantha (WLABB) says

Once upon a time, Wesley and Quinn were super close friends, but right before his family moved away,

Wesley put a set of events in motion that ruined Quinn's life. Fast forward five years, and Quinn's life is sort of like this:

This girl was dealing with a lot of heavy things, but she had one thing she was looking forward to: the band trip to London. She grew up with her beloved grandmother telling her stories about her life back in England, and Quinn could not wait to journey there and see those places and things in real life. She was working at Tudor Times in order to earn the money for her trip, and all is going swimmingly, until Wesley James moved back to town.

This was the type of fun and easy contemporary romance that I generally gravitate towards, and I really enjoyed this friends-to-enemies-to-lovers story. I am a fan of a would-be couple with history, and these two had a lot. We got small glimpses into their past together as children, and there were some very sweet moments that they shared.

At times, I thought Quinn should build a bridge and get over it. She was really hard on Wesley, and even tougher on him as she tried to deny the attraction and attachment. However, I empathized with her because of all the drama and stress that was in her life. I also really shared that grandma connection with her. I had an Oma, who told me stories of her life back in Germany, and it was very painful when the dementia set in, and the grandmother who I adored and referred to me as her "little stinker" disappeared. So, that really hit home with me, and I may have shed a tear or two during the grandmother parts.

I am glad to say that there were plenty of sweet and fun bits to keep me from getting too sad. And there was Wesley. He was such a prince charming and all around good guy. He kept working at rekindling his friendship with Quinn, and I believe he really missed her. I totally would have loved to have had a friend or boyfriend like Wesley. There were a few really swoony scenes (wish there were more) that I thought were magnificent and totally awww-worthy.

The real fun was found at Tudor Times. The place was filled with a bunch of quirky and rather wacky characters, and I found myself looking forward to going to work. I also thought many of Quinn's inner monologues were amusing, especially when she was trying to battle her burgeoning feelings for Wesley.

I have been reading a bunch of reviews, and some take issue with the "conflict" that turned Wesley from friend to foe, but keep in mind, Quinn was 11 when this all went down. I could see an 11 year needing something or someone to blame for what happened, and this made sense in her 11 year old mind. I could also understand her holding onto that scapegoat, because life was hitting her from all sides.

I am all about endings, and Honeybourn did right by me. There were a lot of loose ends tied up in the final chapter, and the epilogue was so sweet, my face sort of hurt from the huge, stupid grin I was wearing.

Overall: A fun and amusing tale of hate to love, with an ending that I found picture perfect.

**I would like to thank the publisher for the advanced copy of this book.

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Stacee says

3.5 stars

I am a sucker for the hate to love trope. It's one of my favorites and between that cover and the synopsis, I was sold.

Quinn is a decent character. She's a good person, but everything is completely overshadowed by her need for revenge on Wesley James. Wesley seems like a nice guy. It didn't feel like we really got to know him since all of his interactions with Quinn are combative. There are a few other characters, but no one really stood out.

Since Quinn was obsessed with something that happened 5 years ago, literally the entire book is about the fallout. It did get a bit old and sadly, I didn't quite see the transformation of Quinn's hate to love. The last couple of chapters were exactly what I wanted, but they felt rushed.

Don't get me wrong, I did enjoy the book. Overall, it was a quick and cute read. I just wish there was a little more of Quinn and Wesley together.

****Huge thanks to Swoon Read for providing the arc free of charge****

Giselle says

This was a cute and adorable read. Pretty much a cliché one as well, but the thing is I didn't mind. I love it when romance relationships start off as dislike or even hate. I find that I end up rooting for the couple no matter what. Though in this case, it certainly didn't stop the main character because the reader knew more things than she did. It was oh-so obvious! And I loved that! When you're anticipating the entire duration of the novel to get the two together, it just makes it more satisfying by the end. The pacing was pretty much perfect, I was never bored. I was in love with the setting, where she worked sounded like a lot of fun! I didn't really get the feeling of them working in the food truck until later, so the cover didn't make a whole lot of sense. I also thought the cover model looked older than she actually should be.

The only thing I didn't really like how Quinn was very quick to pin all the blame on Wesley. You know the entire time that holding a grudge is clearly not healthy and Q was blinded by it. I wanted a bit more of development with her parents at least, because I felt that could have been expanded as well.

A perfect quick summer read, this was a great debut (from a fellow Canadian), and I'm looking forward to her future books!

RATING 3/5

QUOTES

I may look physically different, but I still feel the same inside. (10)

Relationships are built on trust. Without that, you've got nothing. (188)

Leah says

Wesley James Ruined My Life is one of those books that infuriates you right until the very end, when you realise those last two chapters were kind of worth it? It also helps that Wesley, despite Quinn's best efforts, was actually pretty decent throughout the entire book (more than decent, in fact, and way, way more than Quinn deserved, imo). Despite all my frustration, I read this book in just one sitting, although I will confess that by the time I got two thirds through, and Quinn finally got her wish, and immediately regretted it, I kinda skim read a bit, until those last few chapters.

THE GOOD

- **WESLEY FREAKING JAMES.** Quinn is a jerk, from start to finish. And yet, not once does Wesley tell her where to go, and he's never nasty. He's always polite, he's always trying to get Quinn on side (except for the bizarro girlfriend thing which seemed as if it had been punted in during an edit to add spice??) and he was just a decent human being. He literally made this book for me.
- **The writing.** Despite the fact I frequently got annoyed with Quinn, the narrative was enjoyable - it clipped along at such a good pace, and it never felt boring.
- **The medieval restaurant!** Quinn and Wesley both work at Tudor Tymes and I freaking loved it. The costumes, the act, the stocks, Henry VIII, the only king I know anything about (divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived!), it was vastly amusing!
- **Erin!** Erin was the only one who spoke any kind of sense in this book, constantly counselling Quinn to grow the hell up and stop being a child, because trying to get somebody fired for something you perceive to be their fault at 11, but was actually faintly ridiculous, is extra ridiculous.

THE BAD

- **QUINN.** Look, I get it. At age 11, Wesley may, in your eyes, have broken up your family, however it is inconceivable that you would *still* think that at 16. Considering how quickly the situation is rectified in the book, a quick chat with your mother would have cleared all that up years ago making your revenge scheme even more ridiculous than it already was.
- **The revenge scheme!** I just... if you think someone ruined your entire life, something that you still hold on to FIVE YEARS LATER, why would you then do that to another person? ON PURPOSE. What Wesley did at age 11 wasn't malicious, but what age 16 Quinn did was. If you're going to have a whole plot about how Wesley James Ruined Your Life, at least give the ruining a better think. It just genuinely baffles me that you would think an 11yo can maliciously ruin your life and still hold some kind of grudge five years later????

I have so many mixed feelings about this book. I loved the ending, it gave me that swooshy feeling that good romance books do. But could I forgive everything that came before? I JUST DO NOT KNOW. I don't know how you can base an entire plot on something so easily unfounded. On something that could never have malicious intent, WESLEY WAS ELEVEN. This cannot be repeated enough, and since he never seems to be a jerk previous, why would you suddenly assume that the night he moves away he's going to purposefully tip your world upside down? *rages* it just makes no sense!!!!

On the one hand, I loved Wesley. He literally made this book for me. But Quinn. I wanted to punch her in the face. She's horrible. Genuinely horrible. She's spiteful, purposefully going out of her way to hurt Wesley, who has no idea why she's doing it FYI!!!!!! and then the whole Caleb thing. WHY. WHY, QUINN, WHY? Why are you a jerk to people, to make yourself feel better? And then the icing on the cake! When the revenge on Wesley works - SHE GETS UPSET, like wtf? THIS WAS WHAT YOU WANTED. But a few magic words from your mom, that you didn't think to ask five years ago and suddenly Wesley's the best thing since sliced bread to you? LOL, what.

This book just baffled me. Simple as that. Those last two chapters I loved but they came way too late. Quinn was just awful. Her motivations were screwed up, and Wesley deserved better. #justiceforWesleyJames

Stacy Fetters says

"He's sweaty-- his shaggy blonde hair is sticking to his neck-- but it's the good kind of sweaty. The sexy kind of sweaty. Wait. Why am I noticing his sweat? Why am I noticing anything about Wesley James? I should be focusing on my master plan to get him fired, not about how sexy he looks or whether or not he smells good."

This was a very quick read. The storyline caught my attention with a broken family, love and some kind of revenge. I wanted to be hooked but I felt more annoyed and awkward throughout.

Quinn is a huge bitch with an ego to match. The grudges she holds and the vendetta she has against Wesley is downright cruel and completely unnecessary. Quite a few times she goes above and beyond to make his life as miserable as possible. And all of this over something she doesn't know the full story about. Yes, I know, we have all been in that place. Something we heard when we were younger breaks a friendship and things get thrown around. But that's it! When it's over... it's over. We grow up and move on, but not for our girl Quinn.

Wesley moves back to town and wants to reconnect with Quinn. She has plans of her own. She's gross and appalling at her schemes and tricks. If you didn't hate her before you will definitely hate her when she uses a guy who has a crush on her to make Wesley jealous. And all Wesley wants is to be loved and liked.

If Wesley was a real person, I know too many girls who would jump at the chance to be with a genuinely nice guy. Quinn is just an evil asshole with a childish demeanor. Her petty games ruined this book.

The thing that got me was the smoochy lovey dovey ending. We all knew what was going to happen but it didn't make it less cute. I loved dreaming of new love in a different place. Living in her grandmothers footsteps.

And don't get me started on the crazy family drama. Talk about a definite save!

Now go out, explore, and fall in love!! ?

Olivia (The Candid Cover) says

I have always been a fan of good old revenge stories, so Wesley James Ruined My Life instantly drew me in. It is all about a girl who is stuck working with an old friend, who became her enemy years ago. The medieval restaurant setting is so original, and the main character is a little obstinate but also compassionate. I really enjoyed this one, and it is perfect for the summer.

This book has such an entertaining plot. It is all about a girl who ends up working with her enemy, a boy who ruined her life. She vows to get revenge on him by getting him fired from the job, but finds herself falling for him. I love the enemies-to-lovers trope, and the way it plays out in this book is so adorable. Wesley and Quinn's conversations are so amusing and real. This is such a cute and quick read that is perfect for those who enjoy a good revenge story and rekindled love.

I absolutely adored the setting in this story! The main characters work at a medieval restaurant called Tudor Tymes that is honestly so over-the-top. King Henry VIII thinks he has actual power over all the employees and really gets into his role. This place is so developed, and I would love to visit it if it were a real restaurant. I am always one for a unique and quirky setting, so I was thrilled to see Quinn taking on an unconventional waitressing job.

Quinn is such a stubborn main character. She holds a grudge against Wesley for all those years, even though I feel like she could have given him more of a chance. However, she makes up for it with her generosity. Quinn has always dreamed of going to London, and has been saving up to go there on a trip with the school band. She is so determined to make her dream a reality, but is willing to put it on hold in an instant to help her dad out. I loved the way she prioritizes others' needs before her own... Except for Wesley's.

Wesley James Ruined My Life is a cute contemporary about a girl trying to get revenge on the boy who she believes ruined her life. I enjoyed the medieval restaurant setting and the main character's kindness. This is a perfect book for the summer, and I would recommend it to those looking for a fun read to take to the beach

Cait • A Page with a View says

2.5 stars. It was a cute idea and I do love hate-to-love stories! There were definitely some elements I liked, like the medieval restaurant where Quinn worked. But the story as a whole felt kind of rushed, empty, and a bit... boring, honestly.

abby✿ says

It was a really cute summer read, I really loved it! This is the kind of book that I will re-read all the time.

Marochka says

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Eileen (BookCatPin) says

Wesley James Ruined My Life is a fun, light and quick read. I love a great rivalry love story and this one definitely hit all the marks for me.

I love the setting: Tudor Tymes is amazing. The restaurant sounds like such a fascinating place to eat at; the cast of characters make me want to visit. I may be a little old for its usual crowd but I'd 100% go if I'm ever within range of such a place!

Quinn and Wesley were childhood besties before he did something unforgivable (in Quinn's eyes) at his moving-away party. "**Relationships are built on trust. Without that, you've got nothing.**" (ARC, p188). Years later when Wesley comes back into her life, she concocts a revenge plan to get rid of him. I enjoyed watching Quinn discover things about herself. It was quite an emotional ride but one she was able to learn from.

Ms. Honeybourn brought up a variety of teen issues. I was surprised. While the matters were mostly on the lighter side, I appreciate their inclusion and how they're ongoing not easily solved matters. Everything was not tied up in a neat bow by the end. The realistic way the author has her characters deal with their problems made for a well-rounded story.

The reasoning behind Quinn's hatred for Wesley was a tad immature for me to get behind. It seemed rather silly for her to be holding such a grudge after all the time that's passed. Even her best friend repeatedly tried to tell her that. Having said that, given the timing and the outcome of what happened back then, I can see why Wesley's supposed betrayal hit her so hard. I thought her reactions and actions were appropriate for her age.

I'm so glad the story wasn't overly dramatic or frustrating. It was fun and even dealt with a few mature issues. Wesley James Ruined My Life is a book I definitely recommend for the summer!

Melissa (The Reader & The Chef) says

This review can also be found at **The Reader and the Chef! Huge thanks to Xpresso Book Tours for the review copy in exchange of my honest opinion.**

This was such a cutesy read! Imagine spending your summer working on a Tudor Times themed restaurant with your worst, albeit cute, childhood enemy? Definitely the recipe for swoons & disaster!

What I Liked:

I am such a fan of hate-to-love romance in my books and Wesley James Ruined My Life had me covered! Quinn swore to hate Wesley James after he "caused" her family to fall apart (according to her) when they were kids, and she was perfectly fine hating him across the distance since he moved away to Portland. But Wesley James moves back to Seattle and he dares to get a job at the same place she's working at. THE NERVE.

I loved Wesley James right from the start. This boy is adorable and not at all the guy Quinn paints him out to be. He's charming, charismatic, and has such a sweet heart (especially when it comes to Quinn's Gran!). Quinn gives him such a hard time over something that he let slip when they were much younger, but like the nice guy that he is, it doesn't affect him how he treats Quinn. He is definitely the highlight of this book!

I liked Quinn when she wasn't so set on getting revenge over Wesley. I liked reading about her relationship with her father who has a gambling problem. In contemporary books, when the parents are divorced, we don't usually get to have a main character who tries to keep in touch with both. Her father is not the best role model so I felt for Quinn as she struggled (and failed) to not encourage his vices because she loves him, despite the rest of his family turning their back on him.

Wesley James Ruined My Life also gave me a lot of Anna and the French Kiss vibes as the story progressed and I liked that because I LOVE Anna and was happy to read that the author also loves the book. And while they might not be out exploring a city as marvelous as Paris or studying in a French school, working at a medieval restaurant (and food truck!) and being in a school band that's ready to travel to London, wasn't a bad setting at all. ;)

What Left Me Wanting More:

While the last chapters were my favorites, I would have loved to see more of Gran and Wesley's life. Quinn is too scared to visit her Grandma who was settled into a retirement home after her Alzheimer gets worse and she doesn't really interact with her until the last few chapters. She does spend a lot of time remembering, but her grandma was still alive and constantly asking for her when she had lucid moments, wasn't ignoring her worse? She needed her support and Quinn failed her. Even Wesley went to see her more often!

As for Wesley, I never truly got to know his private life. Wish we could have met his parents and twin sisters!

Final Verdict:

All in all, Wesley James Ruined My Life is a quick, adorable novel that's perfect to read in the summer!

Katy Upperman says

This forthcoming debut was everything I was hoping for in a summer read: voice-y, witty, and swoony, but with depth I always appreciate. Quinn's summer is becoming quite a mess: her grandmother is suffering from Alzheimer's, her father has gambling addiction that's costing him a lot more than money, she's lost her shot at a band trip to England, and her friend-turned-nemesis, Wesley James, is back in Seattle after years spent in Portland. Quinn makes it her mission to punish Wesley for a mistake he made years before, but along the way, she starts to realize that maybe she doesn't hate him quite as much as she'd like. Quinn and Wesley have fantastic banter and flirty chemistry, but their relationship is deeper than that, too, and I loved watching it rekindle, and then develop into more. I also loved this story's setting: Seattle and, more specifically, Quinn and Wesley's workplace, Tudor Tymes, which is full of charm and ridiculousness. Pick this one up in a few weeks if you're looking for a fun, smart, romantic poolside read.

mith says

find my review here!

SPOILER ALERT.

Unfortunately, there was a lot I was not fond of in regards to this book. First: the fact that Quinn tried to get Wes fired. The whole idea was so stupid and so selfish and just terrible. She hardly seemed to care how it would affect Wesley if he lost a job--I doubt she even thought of how he might need it, in the first place. And for a person who really needed the money/job, the whole idea seemed backwards and terrible.

Second was the fact that there was a moment where cheating would have been a possibility. This is mostly on Wesley's part and I hated it--the fact that he'd almost cheat on his girlfriend. Quinn didn't know, of course, but it wasn't something that Wesley should have done.

Which sort of connects with the next thing: how Quinn "retaliated", sort of. Basically, she hooked up with another guy to... what? Get back at Wes? To distract herself? I don't even remember and I don't care. How that arc ended was done poorly and there wasn't even a satisfying conclusion to it. (They sit next to each other in band! There was nothing about how what happened between them might have affected that situation.)

The ending seemed too clean cut. Everyone got a happy ending, which, I guess, yay? That's cool, but everything came out so easily, and that felt a bit... unsatisfying to me. There also weren't enough swoons so really.

Anyway, overall, I wasn't that impressed. Quinn's voice hardly stood out, so on top of everything, there wasn't a lot the story offered me. But it was a quick read so oh well. 2 stars.

cyborgcinderella says

This book was ADORABLE. Seriously, it was SO CUTE and I'm so glad I traded for this book!

I started reading this book around midnight last night and even though I was sleepy, I kept saying "oh, I'll just read one more chapter." Well, after a while I figured I might as well just finish it, so I did. I don't regret it though, because it was super cute and gave me all the feels!

I thought the developing relationship between Quinn and Wesley was really cute! I was definitely rooting for them and I really liked how their romance happened. Wesley seemed like such a genuinely nice guy and it was SO obvious that he liked Quinn, even if she couldn't see it. He was incredibly sweet, but he wasn't perfect, and I liked that.

I also liked Erin. I thought she was a good friend, but that she was also just a generally good person. She didn't really approve of Quinn's plan, so she would support her in some ways, but didn't encourage her to enact revenge on Wesley. She was really cool and I liked her.

The only thing I didn't like was that Quinn kept blaming Wesley for her parents' divorce, and even though she explained why at the end, it still annoyed me because some random kid is not going to manage to break up a marriage unless that marriage was already falling apart. But that was kind of my only issue with this book. (view spoiler)

Overall, this book was a lot of fun and just really sweet! I would definitely recommend it if you're looking

for something cute and quick.
