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The Running Dream (Schneider Family Book Award - Teen Book Winner)



Synopsis

When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together and learns to dream bigger than ever before. The acclaimed author of *Flipped* delivers a powerful and healing story. Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself she wants to take Rosa with her. "Inspirational. The pace of Van Draanen's prose matches Jessica's at her swiftest. Readers will zoom through the book just as Jessica blazes around the track. A lively and lovely story." **Kirkus Reviews**

Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL650L (What's this?)

Series: Schneider Family Book Award - Teen Book Winner

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Ember; 1 edition (January 10, 2012)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 386 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #7 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports #17 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Jessica has run her personal best at a track meet-then there's a tragic bus accident and the high school junior loses her leg as well as her future dreams. From waking up in the hospital and coping with the trauma, to her return home, then school, she tries to grab her life back. On one level the story offers inspiration to those dealing with physical changes in their own lives and the stages of recovery, fight, survival, and victory as Jessica reaches deep to push past her wall of self-pity and loathing, and moves beyond the "finish line." On a deeper level, there is her blind discrimination toward a fellow classmate who has cerebral palsy. Rosa is hard to understand and easy to ignore. She is anchored to a wheelchair. Jessica, encumbered by her crutches and her tender "stump," is seated in the back of the class, out of the way, next to Rosa. She learns that the girl is smart, wise, and friendly. They pass notes and share lunch. Rosa writes, "I wish people would see me and not my condition." When Jessica is running again-on a specially engineered prosthesis-she challenges herself to help her friend be seen. How Jessica orchestrates putting Rosa in the forefront of a community race and pushing her wheelchair across a finish line is a study in faith and determination. Readers will cheer for Jessica's recovery and be reminded to recognize people for their strengths and not overlook them because of their disabilities.-Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Sixteen-year-old Jessica is the track team's star sprinter until tragedy strikes: the team van is struck, killing one runner and demolishing Jessica's right leg. The book begins with Jessica refusing to acknowledge the result: a stump. But she is slowly reintroduced to life, which involves being fitted for a prosthesis, returning to school, and dealing with the usual tough teachers, mean girls, and one really hot, sensitive, supportive boy. It's a classic problem novel in a lot of ways; accordingly, Van Draanen inserts setbacks with narrative precision, the most affecting of which (surprisingly) is the insurance battle that Jessica's parents face. Overall, though, this is a tremendously upbeat book, with Jessica's family, friends, and community coming together (the track team raises funds to buy Jessica a \$20,000 running leg). Even a subplot involving Jessica's friendship with the cerebral palsy-afflicted Rosa is not as treacly as it could have been. Van Draanen's extensive research into both running and amputees pays dividends—readers will truly feel what it's like to walk (or run) a mile

(or 10) in Jessica's shoes. Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I liked this book because it was very inspiring and showed a life into someone who lost a leg and how they deal with it. I would recommend this book to someone who likes reading of motivational books. I gave the book this rating because it was so fluid and understandable and made u really think about what was going on. The theme/themes of this book tells you to 1. Be thankful of what u have not what u don't have 2. Get to know someone first before you want to base them off their deficiencies.

Wow, what a story! I am not a runner, but used to enjoy it, and I am not a teenaged girl, but used to be one (and am raising a tweener girl!). This book has a powerful message for anyone about acceptance in life. Whether you come to it as a girl, mother, teenager (maybe a little too old for my 10 year old, though), it is worth the read and enjoyable. I read it straight through! Very compelling.

As a lifetime runner, I understand the feel of freedom that running gives you and I can't imagine not being able to run any more (although riding a horse is quite the high too). Well written, and believable, we join Jessica on the worst day of her life. She has just set a record for the 400 at her high school, when the school bus is hit by an uninsured driver's truck and Jessica wakes up in a hospital with a doctor telling her how lucky she is. Jessica feels anything but lucky since her dream of running is now over. Even when she considers the death of her teammate, Jessica feels as if she died to, or at least her dream did. With the help of her friends and family, Jessica goes from denial, to depression, to learning to live again in a different way, but just as fulfilling. She learns more about herself and how she took being healthy and popular for granted until her life fell apart. As she regains her life, Jessica wants to help another girl, Rosa, fulfill her lifelong dream. As Jessica heals, she brings another girl with her into a life that is fuller than the one Jessica had lived previously. A great book to show how even the worst things that happen to us can give us unexpected gifts. Jessica is a great character that I'm sure young girls will relate to and inspire to be like. Highly recommended.

We were introduced to the book this year as it is on a list of suggested summer reading choices for my soon to be 7th grader. A friend read and recommended it to my daughter, who then bought it. Three days later, she came to me and insisted I read it too. I am very glad I did, as it is a well written

story about facing adversity, understanding matters bigger than oneself, and overcoming obstacles. Jessica, the main character, loses part of her leg after a car accident. At sixteen, that alone would be very difficult to cope with; however, Jessica is a fast runner on the track team, and to lose her leg makes her feel like she has lost her freedom. The book is in five parts, with very short chapters in each section, so it moves along at a very quick pace. The story opens with Jessica facing the reality of not having a leg and continues with her going through different stages of denial, anger, acceptance, and ultimately resolve. She has some supportive friends, a realistic family, and doctors who care but don't always know how to express themselves well to a teenage girl. Along the way to her recovery, Jessica learns more about herself, her fortitude, and her character than she ever expected. The author does an excellent job taking the reader along on the journey. This review is vague, because I don't want to share too much about the plot and inadvertently give away a spoiler. Suffice it to say, the book is great for middle school and high school students. There is no inappropriate language or behaviors, and the lessons learned will be relevant to the 11-17 year old age group. As an adult, I also found it meaningful and am glad my daughter suggested I read it.

My son's school put this on the required summer reading list. He hates reading, so he was not looking forward to having to read this book. We just went on vacation, and he actually chose to pack this book because he was enjoying it so much. The kid has never willingly packed a book before, so this was amazing! I'm one happy mama;))

The "Running Dream", a book full of hope, action, love, determination, and dreams shows us to never give up and to live every day to the fullest. 16 year old Jessica is a runner. That is who she is. On her way to a race, when her bus crashes, one of her teammates is killed, and Jessica loses her leg. She soon finds out that her prosthetic leg, made for everyday life, isn't capable of running. With lots of fundraisers, she tries to raise enough money to buy a "blade leg" so that she can run again. She tries her hardest, but will that be enough?

Read this before sending to my Grand daughter.....excellent writing and story. Seems writers for mid-high and high school students are doing better these days than most other fiction authors!

Read this book in one day! Love everything about it. So many levels of life. My mark of great book-one that makes me want to be a better person...this book did that for me. Several 'life lessons' I believe every reader will walk away with one. KEEP WRITING THESE TYPE of BOOKS!!!

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