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10 Steps To Girlfriend Status (The Bird Face Series) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

"Without knowing or caring where I'd wind up, I sneaked out of the house and took off running."Â Wendy Robichaud is on schedule to have everything she wants in high school: two loyal best friends, a complete and happy family, and a hunky boyfriend she's had a crush on since eighth grade--until she and Mrs. Villaturo look at old photo albums together. That's when Mrs. V sees her dead husband and hints at a 1960s scandal down in Cajun country. Faster than you can say "crawdad," Wendy digs into the scandal and into trouble. She risks losing boyfriend David by befriending Mrs. V's deaf grandson, alienates stepsister Alice by having a boyfriend in the first place, and upsets her friend Gayle without knowing why. Will Wendy be able to prevent Mrs. V from being taken thousands of miles away? And will she lose all the friends she's fought so hard to gain?

Book Information

Series: The Bird Face Series

Paperback: 202 pages

Publisher: Write Integrity Press (September 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938092643

ISBN-13: 978-1938092640

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,176,251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 inÂ Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Family #56 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Friendship

Customer Reviews

I grew up reading Judy Blume novels and it's so refreshing and heartening to find an author who understands the everyday trials and tribulations of real teenagers. Wendy wants what every teenage girl--indeed, almost anyone of any age--wants... to be liked for who she is. But who is she? Friend, girlfriend, sister, stepdaughter... every aspect of her life seems to demand something different from her. Can everyone who matters to her accept her in all the roles she has to play in all their lives? With refreshing candidness, the author lets us see through Wendy's eyes as she navigates her first crush, her first heartbreak, her first dealings with mortality, and the difficulties in blending a

family and learning about dark family secrets. I hope the author continues to document Wendy's growth for us in future books.

This is another winner for Cynthia Toney. I loved Bird Face, the first in the series. However, 10 Steps to Girlfriend Status can be read without reading Bird Face as it is a stand alone novel, but I highly recommend you don't miss out on either one. These are great coming of age stories for young people. So insightful. I wish I had been able to read these books when I was growing up. Do yourself a favor and read these two novels, and then give them as a gift to some young people you know, because they have something to offer everyone.

I just finished this second book in the series, and I was happy to see the author still tackle difficult topics but in less quantity than attempted in her first novel. Wendy is growing in age and maturity, and in doing so is finding more of herself. Though Wendy's voice sometimes sounds like an adult and sometimes a young teen, it remains a wholesome, engaging story. Parents looking for a way to talk to their daughters about dating may want to read this as an intro. An interesting twist/family mystery adds to the plot of this lovely YA novel and a heartbreaking goodbye helps Wendy grow as a person. I look forward to seeing what Wendy does next!

I've read Book 1 of The Bird Face series, and just now finished Book 2, Ten Steps to Girlfriend Status. Cynthia Toney's attention to detail makes this book outstanding. And Wendy's unique voice is still spot on. Cynthia has a knack for active use of verbs, no passive writing from this author. Cynthia kept my attention through the whole book, especially when Wendy set out to discover what happened to a relative of the past. I found the relationship between Wendy and her boyfriend sweet, and very clean. Nice going! Cynthia touches on a sensitive topic, and does a real fine job. I can't wait to read the next Cynthia Toney book.

If only I had read a book like this when I was in junior high! Wendy is so much like I was, but I didn't figure out the 10th step until way past high school. Cynthia Toney brings back to my mind all those horrible insecurities of the teen years, and weaves a story of wise advice against the background of our nation's history in race relations.

This was a fun book! 10 Steps to Girlfriend Status by Cynthia Toney is a sweet story of Wendy Robichaud, a freshman in high school. Wendy seems to have everything together. She knows

exactly what she wants and all the steps it will take to get it. But sheâ€™s in for a few surprises that throw her off her game. When neighbor lady Mrs. V, who Wendy loves dearly as if she were her own grandmother, begins to show signs of trouble, everything changes. Wendyâ€™s attention is divided several ways. She still wants to achieve girlfriend status, but now she wants to look after Mrs. V, and Mrs. V has just hinted there may be a scandalous mystery from the past. Additionally, her mother has just remarried and her best friend has become her sister, adding struggles she hadnâ€™t foreseen into the mix. I loved the humor, fun writing style, and character development in this story, just as I did in the first book in this series, *8 Notes to a Nobody*. The characters do not fit neatly into any stereotypes, often seeming to surprise Wendy with their behavior. My favorite character was Sam, the deaf grandson of Mrs. V. Too often we jump to conclusions about people with special needs or challenges, but Wendy soon discovers this character faces his own fears, goals, challenges, and needs, just like any teen. I hope that Sam will be in the next book in this series! While I particularly enjoyed watching the mystery of the scandal from the past unfold, I was able to relate to the challenges of fitting in and finding yourself in high school. I remember how starting a new school threw everything in my life out of whack, and I often felt like a fish out of water. This story shows the importance of deciding what type of person you want to be. Wendy and all the characters grow in this story of friendship and forgiveness, a story teen and preteens are sure to enjoy.

10 Steps to Girlfriend Status picks up where Book 1 in the Bird Face series left off but could be read as a standalone without any problem. Wendy is now a high school freshman, but that's not the only or biggest change in her life. Her mother is about to remarry, which means the addition of a stepfather and two siblings as well as moving to a new house in a new neighborhood. Her surrogate grandmother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and she's navigating her first boy-girl relationship with crush David. The beautiful thing about *10 Steps to Girlfriend Status* is that Cynthia Toney doesn't try to wrap it all up in a neat little package. Like life, there are fits and starts - bursts of maturity and clarity and slides into uncertainty and childishness. In other words, it's real. There are arguments, disappointments, and loss but also forgiveness, new beginnings, and hope. The strain in the relationship between Wendy and her step-sister/best friend Alice is spot on, repeated countless times the world over as one friend acquires a boyfriend before the other and an unintended rivalry is born. Neither Wendy nor Alice handle it perfectly, but they learn and they forgive. The romance is sweet and perfect for young teens. I loved the little tidbits of life on the Cajun bayou intertwined in the story. A light mystery with a little history also adds a bit of suspense and intrigue. The

intergenerational relationships are refreshing, especially since so often teen stories are populated with only teens.(I received a complimentary copy for my honest review. The author is a fellow member of the Catholic Writers Guild.)

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