



## Faking Normal

By Courtney C. Stevens

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### Faking Normal By Courtney C. Stevens

An edgy, realistic debut novel praised by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Sepetys, as “a beautiful reminder that amid our broken pieces we can truly find ourselves.”

Alexi Littrell hasn’t told anyone what happened to her over the summer by her backyard pool. Instead, she hides in her closet, counts the slats in the air vent, and compulsively scratches the back of her neck, trying to make the outside hurt more than the inside does—and deal with the trauma.

When Bodee Lennox—“the Kool-Aid Kid”—moves in with the Littrells after a family tragedy, Alexi discovers an unlikely friend in this quiet, awkward boy who has secrets of his own. As their friendship grows, Alexi gives him the strength to deal with his past, and Bodee helps her summon the courage to find her voice and speak up about the rape that has changed the course of her life.

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## Faking Normal By Courtney C. Stevens Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Sixteen-year-old Alexi has a secret; something bad happened to her last summer, but she is not saying what. Publicly, she pretends that everything is alright, but privately, she counts compulsively and painfully scratches herself. She is, she thinks, “fresh out of happy,” but “faking normal” is a skill she learned last summer. Then Bodee—the quiet, shy boy next door—moves in with her family, and Alexi finds a friend and confidant. Meanwhile, an unknown boy begins leaving song lyrics for Alexi that have an uncanny capacity to capture her moods. She calls the boy Captain Lyric and realizes that she is falling in love with him. But who is he? And what is the secret Alexi resolutely continues to keep? First-time novelist Stevens does a nice job of managing these unknowns, though many readers will have guessed the answers before the big reveals. Nevertheless, Alexi, though occasionally exasperating, is a well realized, sympathetic character, as is Bodee, and the resolution of their slowly evolving relationship is deeply satisfying. An engaging read for romance fans. Grades 9-12. --Michael Cart

Review

“A beautiful reminder that amidst our broken pieces we can truly find ourselves.” (Ruta Sepetys, New York Times Bestselling Author of *Between Shades of Gray*)

“Somewhere between Sarah Dessen and Laurie Halse Anderson lies Stevens’s rich debut about two adolescents grappling with extraordinary trauma....the mood is intense and the story moves briskly, complete with an ending so surprising that some readers may flip back to the beginning to start fresh.” (Publishers Weekly)

“Reminiscent of Melinda in *Speak*, Alexi tries to find her voice. A story that resonates.” (Kirkus)

“Debut novelist Stevens has written a powerful and fast-paced first-person story of a young woman who finds an inner strength she never knew she possessed.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA))

From the Back Cover

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## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Ann Gross:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have

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