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Jake, Reinvented (repackage)



Synopsis

There is a mysterious new student at F. Scott Fitzgerald High. Jake Garrett looks like he's stepped out of a J. Crew ad, he's the best long-snapper the football team has ever had, and he hosts the party every Friday night. All the guys want to be like him, and all the girls want to date him, but Jake only has eyes for Didi, the girlfriend of quarterback Todd Buckley. Rick Paradis, kicker and back-up QB, tries to stay out of the drama, but that's easier said than done at Fitzgerald High, especially once he gets to know Jake. But it turns out nobody knows the real Jake, and when his secret comes out, his perfectly crafted world might come tumbling down. In this modernization of *The Great Gatsby*, beloved author Gordon Korman provides a new look at age-old truths about the desire for popularity and acceptance, and the darker side of human nature. "A compelling investigation of the transience of charisma and the flimsy underpinnings of popularity." -Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Korman's reworking of *The Great Gatsby* places the action in a modern framework, which makes it more recognizable for today's readers and may lead them to the classic. Teens will find deeper issues to consider about popularity, being true to one's self, and taking responsibility for one's actions as they relate to the setting and characters." -Booklist

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-When Rick comes home from summer camp, he discovers that there is a new "it" guy in his high school--one who dresses straight out of J. Crew; is a great football player; and throws the party, complete with multiple kegs, on Friday nights. When Rick finally meets Jake, he discovers

that he likes this hip fellow. He is stunned to find out that Jake once tutored Didi, the girlfriend of the quarterback and the most beautiful girl around, in math. When they start spending time together, the entire student body awaits the fallout. It turns out that Jake has given himself a whole new image and persona in his new school to win the approval of the school's most popular and completely superficial crowd simply to attract the attention of someone he loves. Korman's reworking of *The Great Gatsby* places the action in a modern framework, which makes it more recognizable for today's readers and may lead them to the classic. Teens will find deeper issues to consider about popularity, being true to one's self, and taking responsibility for one's actions as they relate to the setting and characters.--Betsy Fraser, Calgary Public Library, Canada Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 9-12. High society meets high school in this retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, set at the class-conscious F. Scott Fitzgerald High. The stories correspond in many particulars: new kid Jake Garrett, "cool, mysterious, different," has won over the "it" crowd with raucous parties at his subdivision McMansion. Popular opinion turns against Jake when alpha male Todd Buckley suspects the newcomer, rightly, of pursuing his best girl, Didi, and turns up an ugly secret: Jake was once (gasp!) a big nerd. So begins Garrett's plunge to ignominy. The Nick Carraway character, Rick, offers a wry, comic voice, but constricting Fitzgerald's plot to the narrow world of high school, and scaling back the major crises (there's no death, murder, or suicide), leaves behind a drama that has more in common with a John Waters movie than a great American novel. Yet even as young adults feel insulted by the novel's portrayal of teenagers as nerd haters, beer guzzlers, and herd followers, they're also likely to read it with a wink and a smirk as they catch the sundry *Gatsby* allusions. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

As someone who has read *The Great Gatsby* several times under different circumstances, I was intrigued by the idea of a teen version of the story. While the book is easily read and not very long, it took me some time to finish simply because it held no allure to draw me back. From the opening party, I was bored. The only interesting aspect was Korman's parallels to Fitzgerald. To Korman's credit, he does shadow Fitzgerald's characters and plot. But that's all he does. There was nothing new or noteworthy about this version of obsessed love. The few parts where Korman shined (briefly) were the final courtroom scene and Rick's interaction with Jake afterward, and the fact that the

Myrtle character (Nelson) does not end up dead. Also sorely lacking is Fitzgerald's rich use of language through symbolism and figurative language. Korman does not use parallels to the eyes of T.J. Eckleburg or the Valley of Ashes, he does not use the green light off the Buchanan's dock, even his wild parties do not come across the way Fitzgerald's did since there is the undertone of underaged drinking and the mild vandalism in a home not "owned" by Jake, but by his unobservant father. At least Jay Gatsby had an air of dignity about him. Jake's dignity is shattered early in the story and he never acquires the same level of nobility again. Jake comes across as a sham, where Gatsby retains a bit of mystery and respect.

Played well. Arrived on time.

An amazing reinvention of The Great Gatsby set in High School. I was surprised at how well it came off. I would recommend this book to any fan of Gatsby in High School or just able to remember what it was like to be totally smitten.

This book has romance, suspense, humor, and a sporty feel to it. Be careful if your stomach can't take an intense inspirational book.

This book is a wonderful adaptation of "The Great Gatsby", taking place in a high school setting rather than the 1920s. Although Gatsby is an American classic, people often miss the subtle social commentary and seem to not truly understand the significance of all that happens. "Jake, Reinvented" on the other hand is extremely readable, and the ramifications of characters' actions are immediately understood and it leaves you truly wanting to know what happens next. This is a good book for all ages, but particularly young adults- the only reason that I can't give it 5 stars is that it is not on par with its inspiration.

It's a good book and can be relate-able to teens. Although this wasn't relate-able to me, I still enjoyed reading it.

Really good summer reading. I definitely suggest this book for high school kids because it's easy to relate to it!

Loved it!

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