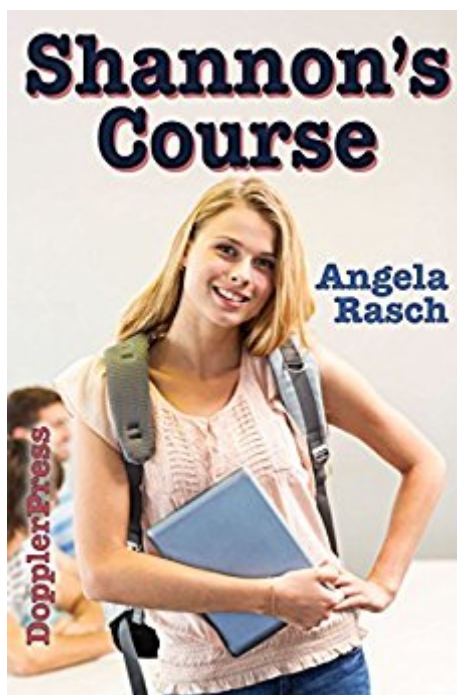


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Shannon's Course



Synopsis

High School Honors Student Shannon has a new psychology teacher with a plan that might get Shannon in trouble - and change his life forever! Is it going to be good or bad for the reluctant Shannon to pose as a girl for a semester? And what about Shannon's friends and family? Teenage angst is not always this confusing! With a murder mystery, too!

Book Information

File Size: 1082 KB

Print Length: 404 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: DopplerPress; 2 edition (June 22, 2017)

Publication Date: June 22, 2017

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0735DLMRX

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #29,341 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > LGBT > Fiction #34 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #67 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Coming of Age

Customer Reviews

To those who loved "Peaches", this book may be a bit of a shock. This isn't, as the author calls it in the preface, "Peaches on Steroids" but rather "Dystopian Peaches". Scoops is the direct analogue of Peaches, down to the short height, gynecomastia, and single mother. Several of the other characters seem like either evil mirrors of characters from "Peaches" or just nastier versions ported over. There are a few positive characters - Hannah and Sally in particular - but overall, this is a much darker place than "Peaches". And I hate to harp upon comparing it to the other book because it's its own work with its own framework... except so much seems to be drawn directly through a

mirror darkly into Shannon's Course (with some bits of dialogue ported almost directly over, such as Natalie's mom speaking about her earnings based on time). There are high points, there are dismal lows. One particular gut-punch moment in the book didn't seem to serve any real purpose other than to reinforce the tragedy being inflicted. All of that being said, there is some good elements in this book, and it's where it breaks free from being a mirror of Peaches that the book begins to become engaging - the murder mystery, from beginning to conclusion, was well done. Perhaps a little contrived in the final revelation, but overall an interesting bit. The final resolution on whether Shannon would remain Shannon or revert to "Scoops" was also well done and added an interesting spin on the book. Overall, I read it and I ended up enjoying it, but I would not recommend this book strictly on whether or not you liked "Peaches" as the two books have VERY different feels to them. Yes, they are similar in some regards, but in most they are vastly different animals based on the characterization. My sincere apologies to Ms. Rasch for a rather brutal review, as I enjoy her work - I just didn't enjoy this piece as much as some of her other pieces.

This is tedious. Too many characters, too many dead end plot lines, too self-indulgent.

Was good to read

What a complex read. What an interesting approach to characters. What an intense plot. The exploration of the characters and their interaction is intriguing. I am sure that I would recognize each and every one of them across a crowded room. Very well done and most enjoyable. Peaches was. I believe the first, on topic work I read on Kindle. Many have come by my eyeballs since then. Few better done than this one. Just be sure your chores are done before you begin. The lies that you tell yourself about stopping at the end of the current chapter will pile up. Fortunately, there is no penalty for reading.

Those of you who have read Peaches by this author may be shocked for this is tails to its heads. The basic plotline and some characters are recognizable yet seen through a twisted glass. Peaches was loving forced fem. Shannon's course is the exact opposite. At times I had to step back from the book so intense were the things Shannon went through. I wondered whether he or I would survive the humiliation. The one thing I do know is that Angela's protagonists prevail despite the hell she may put them through. That faith is what allowed me to finish the book. And my faith was rewarded in the end. Angela always writes a compelling if painful story and this is one of her best.

This is a very interesting roller coaster of a read. Shannon's journey is fraught with peril. As a new student he is manipulated by a sadistic and self-serving teacher, involved with a vain and manipulative lab partner and her dysfunctional family and creepy boyfriend. Add in a psychopathic murderer and Shannon's course to transition is sure to be complicated. Fortunately he has solid friends and family who help him to realize his true gender. Very similar to Ms. Rasch's "Peaches" books, but much darker and with a more complex story line. I had difficulty putting this one down! Let's hope for many more from Angela Rasch!

I enjoyed much of this story, even though incorrect terminology and "conversion" techniques and manipulation was advocated for someone who initially had been cisgender. It would have been more credible if Shannon had shown more transgender indications to better justify Ms North's assertion that Shannon was transgender. Conflicting and inaccurate statistics were given in the book. Several of the terms were also used improperly. Forced femininity is a popular theme for cross-dresser and transgender readers, because most have been subjected to forced masculinity for so long, often using violence and terror. The mystery theme was much like a Nancy Drew mystery, too much given away too soon, with only the finer details remaining until the predicament at the end. Still, a very enjoyable read of a captivating book.

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