



The Truth About Faking

Leigh Talbert Moore

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Jason just wants a date with Harley.

Harley just wants a date with Trent.

Trent's still getting over Stephanie.

When Harley and Jason decide to fake date, they uncover a school of deceptions. Trent's got a secret, but so does Jason. And the more time Harley spends secretly kissing her fake boyfriend, the further she gets from her dreams with Trent.

Worst of all, Harley's mom is getting cozy with her hot massage therapy student, and even Harley's Reverend Dad can't fake not being bothered by it. But when the masks finally come off, can everyone handle the real truth?

The Truth About Faking Details

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Author : Leigh Talbert Moore

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From Reader Review The Truth About Faking for online ebook

Carla says

5 STARS WOULDN'T GIVE THE BOOK JUSTICE. IT DESERVES A LOT MORE THAN THAT.

10 stars! ♥ ***spoilers ahead*

It was late at night, around 12AM, when I suddenly decided not to sleep early and read a book instead. I decided to read this one. I've had a copy of this book for a little more than two months, and whenever I wanted something to read, I've always read something else. I was skeptical about this one. I can't believe that I didn't read this sooner. The best book I've read this March 2013, no kidding!

From the start, when he accidentally hit her car with his, I immediately knew. There's just this thing with books that you can already expect what would happen and who would fall in love with who and all those things. I was so excited for them!

After reading chapter 9, I was like, "AAHHHH I CAN'T TAKE THIS!" When Harley asked Jason to fake date, I already knew that I would ship them, especially when Harley was kind of sad and jealous when they broke up. And that truth or dare session ... ohmygod I just can't.. I WAS GRINNING! :>

****At this point, I would just be mentioning random lines from the book, I'm so random so ... yeah.**

"Kiss me." His eyes lock on mine and hold them. My heart jumps, and I feel my cheeks grow warm.

"I'm serious," he says. "I don't want you to go out with him."

"I know we got off to a... well, a strange start. But I really like you."

"Sounds like you got over me and Trent fast enough." ---> She's obviously jealous! She heard about Jason kissing Shelly and now she's being like this. Too cute! :>

"Jason's kisses are the best." & "Kissing Jason makes everything else just go away." --->
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!! :>

Also, I also kind of guessed that Trent might be gay. I didn't expect to be correct. Hahaha. :)) Also, I hate Steph so much. I mean, yeah she's drunk and all, but ... :((

Jason is such a heartbreaker omg! Going out with Steph and all. "At least she knows how to be real." /3

When Harley was talking to her dad about him meeting her mom and falling in love, I was like "Awww." Then after that, Harley went to Jason's house and I noticed teardrops coming out of my eyes. I was just so sad. :(((

I was crying by the time that they were talking and figuring things out, but when they were okay I was crying

tears of joy. :')

I really can't believe it! Such an amazing book! I logged into goodreads immediately and I saw "The Truth #1". I was like, "OHMYGOSH AOFJEWUIRHIGBIR". No words can describe what I felt. Then I read the description and found out that it's not about them anymore.

Then I read it and saw that there's a character named Colt. First Charade, then Falling Into You, and now this one? What is the thing with the name COLT all of a sudden? Is this a sign? Am I going to meet someone? :">

Hahaha just kidding. I don't believe in those things.

Anyway, **that book deserves a lot more than 5 stars.** So amazing. so beautiful.

Lisa says

The Truth about Faking had all the elements of a great YA book. It had a strong story line, wonderful characters and was clean enough for a teenage girl yet entertaining enough for me! I read so many YA novels with damaged characters, which I love, but I also like this type which centers around relatively normal teenagers dealing with what life throws at them.

Harley (love that name) is a typical teenage girl. She worries about how she looks, finding the perfect boy who can give her that perfect kiss and wants others to like her. She is also the minister's daughter and lives life on the straight and narrow for the most part. She thinks she has her future all figured out and will one day walk down the aisle in her Greek inspired white wedding dress with braids in her hair, marrying Trent. Well, life through the eyes of a seventeen year old isn't always what it seems and she may soon realize not all dreams are meant to become reality.

Trent is a great guy; he is kind, considerate and very respectable. So many girls in school want to date him but he doesn't seem to into any of them. Then Harley finds out that he may like her after all and tries to sway him her way by fake dating the new guy, Jason.

Jason is the boy I would have fallen for in school. He has a great sense of humor, always listens and hears what Harley is saying, and has a playful quality. He does not fit into Harley's perfect picture; he swears, drinks, and drives a Gremlin. Through most of the book, this boy genuinely put a smile on my face!

Now, there are secrets being kept by several of the characters in this book that will have an affect on the outcome of the little love triangle. Besides Harley's relationship issues, she also has a suspicion that her mother is having an affair with her massage therapy student which seems ridiculous to everyone else because of Harley's parent's still very sizzling relationship. Harley soon learns things aren't always how they seem...

This book is a breath of fresh air and I would highly recommend it for anyone who is searching for a lighter, yet very entertaining read. I can guarantee you will fall in love with the characters while appreciating the Talbert Moore's writing style.

Jessica *The Lovely Books* says

Very predictable but it didn't stop me from loving it!

Kami says

I am seriously giving myself gold stars for finishing this...it was not what I expected at all. In this case, that is *NOT A GOOD THING*

The story is disjointed, annoying and predictable. Evidently, everyone's problems are solved because someone else is gay. **The author was trying to make a point about stereotypes and living in dreamland, well Ms. Moore, try harder next time.**

Initially, I was overwhelmingly annoyed. Harley is ridiculously disillusioned even for a 16 year old and her friend, Shelley, is the reason people use that phrase "who needs enemies when you have friends like that."

The story has these ridiculous shifts which give it the disjointed feel. It doesn't flow together well at all. It starts with Harley's ridiculous obsession with Trent, moves to her equally if not more ridiculous plan to "fake" dating Jason in order to win Trent, then, Harley and Jason like each other but Harley is too dumb to get it and "fake dumps" Jason, then Shelley picks up Jason and Harley is jealous while still trying to win Trent and on and on and on until we are then given the new story of Harley's mom maybe being an adulteror and how awful that is because her father is the pastor of their church... **Does anyone else see how ridiculous and senseless this story is?**

There is so much back and forth, it's like watching a super ball bounce up and down constantly hitting the ceiling, losing momentum and then rolling aimlessly to a stop.

And, the solution to the problem made me seriously want to scream or shake something especially because it was used to diffuse two separate situations - evidently as parallel for Harley to understand her mom's position. **Ummm, originality points? NO, I THINK NOT!** (view spoiler) I was incredibly annoyed that using a sexual preference was not only used as a scape goat to make everyone else's lives easier in this book but also as a "lesson" about stereotypes. It doesn't work because the book isn't written well enough for a clear, meaningful message to be delivered. *There's too much nonsensical bullshit to muddle through.*

The *ONLY* character who was tolerable to me was Jason. There may have been potential for some of the other characters but they just weren't written well enough to appear more than ditsy, disillusioned, ridiculous or annoying. I will say Ricky was kind of endearing but he also wasn't a focal point until he was needed as a solution to other problems.

The conclusion is as much of a cop out as the solutions put forth earlier in the book. Shelley, who is a jump from guy to guy kind of person, finds love after 2 days being with Aaron - REALLY?!?!?! ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME! This makes no sense! Jason and Harley ride off into the sunset with the stipulation that she no longer lives her life around fantasies- Pfft, Yeah, right! Trent moves away because,

you know, no one in Shadow Falls could accept someone who is gay- **Can we say "MIXED MESSAGE!"**
- Let's not perpetuate stereotypes but rather condone running from the issue. WHAT?!?!?

Alright, I have sufficiently ranted. I will not be giving this book any second thoughts!

Melissa says

Plot 8/10: This book sounds like it would be a love triangle, but it's more of a love pentagon. It's also very realistic to how relationships work in high school where everyone dates each other's exes. I remember my senior year I worked at Applebees and it seemed like every week a couple would break up and go out with new coworkers. Things got messy, just like they did in this book. Although I did figure out the big twist before it happened, my interest never faded. I had to find out how it would all end! The plot was cute and fun one moment and then it would touch on a serious topic. It's great when books can do that without losing the light feeling of the book.

Characters 9/10: I liked that Harley actually had parents and some morals! That alone made her stand out from other YA books. At first I kept picturing my brother's dog everytime someone said Harley in the book. Once I got over that I was able to picture the cheerleading reverend's daughter who is pretty, but still feels like she's stuck in her awkward teen phase. She was instantly likeable...her friend Shelly, not so much. Shelly disregards everyone's feelings and blames her parent's divorce on her behavior. She's known Harley since Kindergarten and yet she doesn't realize she's hurting her? Either that or she just was selfish which made me hate her. Jason was exactly what every girl wants-minus the Gremlin, his rusty car with no AC. He's funny, charming, assertive, and actually cares about Harley. Oh and he's hot (just look at the cover). Trent seemed a little bland to me, but I guess I could see why Harley would be interested in him.

Setting 10/10: Since it's contemporary it's mostly her house, school, and town, but I liked the idea of it being a cute and safe little town where everyone knows each other. And the scenes by the lake were my favorite. The skinny dipping incident made me giggle.

Pacing 10/10: It starts off with action and humor which is the best way to start a book, in my opinion. It reminded me of the beginning of Of Poseidon where I'm smiling right away as the two main characters meet in a funny way.

Style 10/10: I couldn't believe this was a self-published book. The quality of writing was so high. I loved that it felt authentic to a high schooler. All of Harley's thoughts, feelings, and actions seemed so realistic. She writes similarly to one of my favorite authors, Sarah Dessen. She tucks a few messages/life lessons in there when you're not looking. Like the message about accepting change in our lives. I was thinking about it this morning while I brushed my hair with my brush that has been broken for 3 years. I hate change and haven't replaced the brush because I like the one I have even if I constantly have to worry about it flying off the handle and landing in the toilet. Harley has dreamt of being with Trent for years and she's having a hard time accepting she can change her mind and be with Jason. She grew up with Trent and he is familiar, her feelings for him are familiar. Jason makes her feel out of that comfort zone so she fights against it. There were a few other messages, but I'll let you discover them.

Final Thoughts: If you're looking for a fun, cute, light read this is it! I see this book going far if enough bloggers read it and get the word out. So you should pick it up before it gets popular...so you were one of the cool ones who found it first! I hope L.T.M. write some more because I would totally read another book of

hers. I know I said I wasn't going to read any indie books, but this one was so good, I'm starting to rethink that decision.

Total: 97/100

Abbie says

The Truth About Faking bored me.

Harley annoyed me most of the time.

Her fixation with Trent irritated me, and i really didn't get why she was so obsessed with the idea of him being the one.

I didn't really like any of the other characters either. They were either annoying, dull, or both.

I was bored for the majority of the book, and it felt a lot longer than what it was because of it. The ending was probably the least dull part in the whole thing , but i was so relieved that i was finished, that i didn't really care.

Overall, Dull, and had annoying characters.

Trisha says

No matter what the grownups say, people do put you in boxes and label you.

This was cute. I found Harley to be a little young and naive at first - annoyingly so. But I did like her growth and maturity as the book continued. I was a little frustrated with some of the LGBT stereotypes but it's hard to knock a book that actually brings the topics up. It was done with respect at heart and I did appreciate that.

Jason was adorable. But I did find her mom frustrating.

Tiffany Holme says

This was such a cute and realistic contemporary novel. When I received the email about reviewing this one it was an immediate yes! I have had such good luck with Indie contemporary novels and the synopsis for this one sounded so promising I couldn't wait to start it. I got my chance while on holidays and to be honest I didn't put it down! I read it from start to finish without even realizing it. The story just has so much fun, emotion and twists that you don't want to put it down.

The story is both what I had expected and what I didn't. What the description fails to mention is that Harley's

dad is a pastor. This frequently brings up the right and wrong issue. Meaning every time something might remotely be looked down in Harley tries to steer clear. Not that there is anything wrong with a character that wants to do the right thing but I didn't expect the religion factor. However I felt it didn't take over the book and was tamed way down by Harley's sexy masseuse mother. She does play more of a part than I realized though and she kind of proves the don't judge a book by it's cover theory.

Harley is a great example of a boy crazy teen. Not crazy for every boy but one in particular. Her eyes are set on Trent and she is determined to get him, even if that means using Jason. Though I found Harley quirky and determined, she was a times out right clueless and I couldn't believe that she didn't see what was in front of her. This does make for a believable teen girl though. I mean what teen girl legitimately wants the guy that is best for her. She does learn that what you want isn't always what it seems but it comes at a cost.

The boys in this book come off like night and day. I really loved Jason's up front and kind of in your face personality. He kind of pulls at my heart with some of the things he says and the things that happen to him. He tries so hard and always seems to just fall a little short but he sticks to his guns and keeps trying. This sometimes involves him doing things that I don't quite agree with but hey he's a teenage boy. Trent was a little harder to love but I think that was due to the fact that I always felt that there was something just beneath the surface with him. He wasn't an overly developed character but in the end I think that was because he wasn't really a main character. His secrets proved to be much different than I expected and I ended up respecting him more in the end than I did any other time throughout the book.

The other thing that made this such a believable book was Harley's best friend. Shelly is quite... Unique we will say. There are many of her in any given school and most of us were either friends with one or knew one at some point and time. She seems to have good intentions but really when it comes down to it she most often puts herself first. Despite this she is frequently there for Harley when she needs it and Harley does love her despite her many faults.

This book was overall a fun and easy read. It really captured much of the teenage romance type scene that I remember. Things aren't always as they seem and Leigh threw the twists at you at the right moments. The biggest thing for me was that I felt something for all of the characters, no matter what their role was in the book. Leigh Talbert has a wonderful and flowing writing style that you can appreciate from start to finish! Pick this one up if you want something on the lighter side of reading.

Leigh Moore says

TTAF is one of the first books I ever wrote. It's a happy little love story that I hope will make readers smile, swoon, and fall in love.

Maybe it will surprise you, maybe it will share a little something about how trying to make people be what they aren't is bad and how change is good. But mostly I hope it warms your heart and spreads the joy. <3

Angela says

He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not . . .

It can be hard when you're a teenager with a crush. Not only do you have to compete with all those raging hormones, but it's easy to idolize someone that doesn't idolize you back. I remember those years, and man were they painful. I was so shy I had a hard time ordering a burger at McDonalds. How on earth could I talk to boys?

In Leigh T. Moore's book, *The Truth About Faking*, Harley has a similar problem. She's obsessed with a boy named Trent, but is too scared to ask him out. Trent with the blue eyes and gorgeous blond hair. Trent who rescued her when she got hit in the head with a basketball. She's wanted to go out with him for an entire year, and now that he's broken up with Stephanie, this is her chance!

Then Jason shows up and ruins everything, from her mother's car (that Jason smashes into at a red light in the first chapter) to her chance to go to the big dance with Trent. And Harley, who's a pastor's daughter, needs to find a way to forgive him. No, wait. Not just forgive him. Use him to help her get Trent!

What happens when a beautiful, intelligent cheerleader pretends to like someone else to make another person jealous? It's a great premise, but it's only the tip of the iceberg. Because there's so much more going on in this small town than anyone would guess. There are secrets, hidden motives, and deeper issues the author delves into that made me think about how hard it is to fake who we really are. Yet, how often we do it anyway. To protect our parents. Our friends. Our community. This is a beautiful book.

Jolene Perry says

This book is FABULOUS.

Great story.

Amazing love story.

It's everything I adore about YA contemporary.

Nereyda (Nick & Nereyda's Infinite Booklist) says

Copy provided by author for review

Harley is your typical boy-crazed girl. She has had a crush on Trent for the past year, and now that his ex dumped him, Harley can put her operation: get Trent to ask her to the Luau plan into motion. On her way back from buying a dress to impress Trent, she is suddenly rear-ended. The guy who rear ends her turns out to be Jason, who happens to be the new guy in town. He tries to flirt a little with Harley, but she is so distracted by her plan to pay much attention to him. Except for the fact that Jason is cute, she does notice that. The next day in school, Harley is wearing her perfect dress, has her hair the way Trent likes it and is ready to put her operation in motion. Just when she is convinced that Trent is about to ask her out, Jason comes out of nowhere and beats him to it. Furious that Jason messed up her plan, Harley confesses her plan to Jason. She comes up with the crazy idea to pretend to date Jason to see how Trent will react, and maybe get him a little jealous. Jason agrees because he actually likes Harley.

Harley's new plan doesn't seem to be working as well as she had hoped, but at least she is getting to spend

time with Jason. Things between Harley and Jason are easy and fun and soon Harley is starting to get a little distracted by Jason. Maybe it's time to change plans? Or maybe it's time she dumps Jason, even though they aren't really dating. The more time she spends with Jason she realizes that she likes him, but is she ready to give up on Trent? Maybe it doesn't even matter because she might have pushed Jason away too far one time too many. I LOVED the relationship between Harley and Jason! And Jason? Sigh....he was just...perfection! I usually go for the jerkish guys because the really nice ones sometimes bore me, but there was nothing boring about Jason. He was nice, sweet, funny and romantic! I also really liked Harley, although she annoyed me sometimes when she was a little mean to Jason, she was still a good person. I loved the fact that although she was the daughter of a preacher, she wasn't the wild child or the super conservative girl. She was just...Harley.

Meanwhile, while Harley is trying to make sense of her feelings towards Jason and Trent, her mom has been spending a way too much time with her hot student. Harley catches them in suspicious encounters more than once and soon the town starts spreading rumors about her mother having an affair with her student. This could possibly have a huge impact on Harley because her father might have to step down as preacher and they might have to move somewhere else. But of course, Jason is there to help Harley as she goes through with this.

The Truth About Faking has everything I love about contemporary stories (and Indies!) Plus, Jolene Perry gave recommends this book so I knew I had to read it. Not only does Jolene write great books, she also recommends great books. When it was over, I wasn't ready to say goodbye and I wanted more of this love story. Leigh Talbert Moore (who is one of the nicest people ever!) wrote a sweet romance story with a touch of humor and sprinkled with a nice message. Sometimes the only way to find your true self is when you pretend to be something you're not.

4.5 out of 5 sparkly stars!

Some of my favorite non-spoiler quotes from The Truth About Faking:

- "What's the problem?"

"Well, what if dating you's fun? I mean, you might not be so bad to go out with."

"You're joking, right? I'm great to go out with, but more importantly, we are not dating. It's all fake."

"But what if you change your mind? I mean, I've heard I'm pretty great to go out with, too."

- "But if we're going out, I don't think he'll tell me that he likes you. I mean, you're my girl. At least that's what he thinks."

I never thought hearing those words from someone besides Trent would make me happy, but when Jason says "my girl," a tingly little pulse moves through my chest. It makes me want to smile, but instead I frown and shake my head. What's wrong with me? This is all fake. I'm falling for my own scheme.

- "Harley," Jason starts. His voice is gentle, and it's the first time he'd used my name in days. My stomach tightens.

"Yeah?" I brace myself. I'm afraid he might suggest we start dating for real, and I'm not ready to have that conversation with him.

I like our growing friendship, but Trent is Mr. Right.

- "Wow. Is that a compliment?"

"No, I mean...I think you look..." He's suddenly embarrassed. "C'mon, Harley, you know how you look."

In my mind, I'm still braces and legs to my armpits, but I can tell from Jason's expression that's not what he sees.

- "Better?" Jason whispers in my ear.

Tingles race down my back. I jump forward and start grabbing my books. "Thanks. You don't have to do that."

"I don't mind. If it helps you feel better." He's standing too close to me, and his warm hands are still on my shoulders, making my heart beat faster. I'm trying to convince myself it's anger, but I've never felt this angry.

Read more of my reviews at:

www.MostlyYABookObsessed.com

Lori says

I know what you are thinking. I NEVER rate anything under 3 stars. This doesn't mean the book was horribly unreadable. I read it in one sitting. It was cute. But predictable. I know, this is a YA contemp romance. It's not like this book was put out to change the world. I know that. It just wasn't completely satisfying.

If you are looking for a cute, quick, fluffy read then I think this might work. But don't expect big butterflies or huge plot twists.

I should note. No matter what your friend is going through they should never treat you the way that Shelly treats Harley. That girl was a bitch who only cared about her own feelings. Young girls, you would be better off having no friends than a friend who would treat your feelings in such a heartless way.

/rant I'm off my soapbox now.

Arlene says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

I had the pleasure of receiving a copy of **The Truth about Faking** by Leigh T. Moore for review and after reading the synopsis I have to say I was definitely intrigued. When I jumped into this book, it took me about 50 pages or so to catch the cadence of the narrative and enjoy this light YA Contemporary novel about love, friendship and learning to live with your choices.

In this story, we meet Harley who's had a crush on Trent for quite some time. So, she takes matters into her own hands and puts a plan together to try and get his attention. She does this with the help of the new guy in school named Jason. Harley convinces him to pretend they're dating along with a few other schemes to hopefully get Trent to notice her. As Harley and Jason become closer friends, their relationship begins to change, but Harley has too much time vested in landing Trent, that she's not ready to abandon her plan. This all comes to a crash landing, when Harley realizes she's been aiming for the wrong target, but is it too late to undo the damage she's done?

Overall, I really came to like Harley's character despite her poor assumptions and choices at times. There were awkward moments, but that only achieved to make the novel a bit more charming. I must point out that in this book, Harley is a pastor's daughter and there were a couple of scenes where I felt it got a bit preachy, but not enough for me to abandon the story or feel uncomfortable. It was light and it was used sparingly

enough to not detract from the novel. I did like how Moore incorporated Harley's moral choices as part of her responsibility to her family and making the right decisions played a significant influence on her because of her family's position in the community.

Jason was definitely my favorite character in this novel. He was adorable, friendly, and just an all-around-good-guy, which is always pleasant to experience in books. I liked the decisions he made and how he played his part throughout the book. Jason was perfectly crafted as the gem of this book.

As far as Trent and Ricky, I figured out that piece of the story well before the half point, but I still enjoyed watching it play out and witnessing Harley's reaction when she discovered the truth about these two characters.

Overall, it's a good book for YA Contemporary fans that don't mind a delicate mix of religious influence along with a good serving of current and relatable issues. I really enjoyed this one.

Eunice says

3.5 stars

The Truth About Faking is one sweet and cute read. I have always love the idea of two people faking a relationship but would eventually developed feelings for each other. Reading Harley and Jason's story was a fun and enjoyable experience.

Harley had a crush on Trent for quite a long time so when Trent's girlfriend broke off with him Harley made plans on how to win Trent over and be his boyfriend. However some of her plans went flying out of the window when the new student, Jason, came. Harley asked Jason to help her get Trent to notice her by fake-dating. When the two started spending more time together they became closer and noticed more things about each other. But Harley felt complicated about it and her feelings for Trent, to top it off some issues were arising between her family and their community.

Harley is a character that is fun to read about albeit a bit awkward and frustrating sometimes. Still she's a character that is easy to like. She did mistakes and wrong choices but that only made her character more realistic. What's more good was that she learned from it and her character did progress throughout the story. Jason. He's my favorite character in this book. He was never dull and I really liked his sense of humor. Plus he was really sweet towards Harley and had always been there with her even if she was quite hard-headed.

Harley's dad was a pastor so there were some religious aspects in this book. Although some parts felt a bit preachy it wasn't really that much to make me or some readers uncomfortable about it. I actually liked some of the messages this book had offered. And I think the issues were handled very well.

Overall, this was an entertaining and enjoyable read. The characters are great and fun, the plot was wonderful and sweet and the messages were lesson-filled and insightful. I recommend this.

Thank you Leigh Talbert Moore for the review copy of this book.

This review is also posted at Book Overdose

