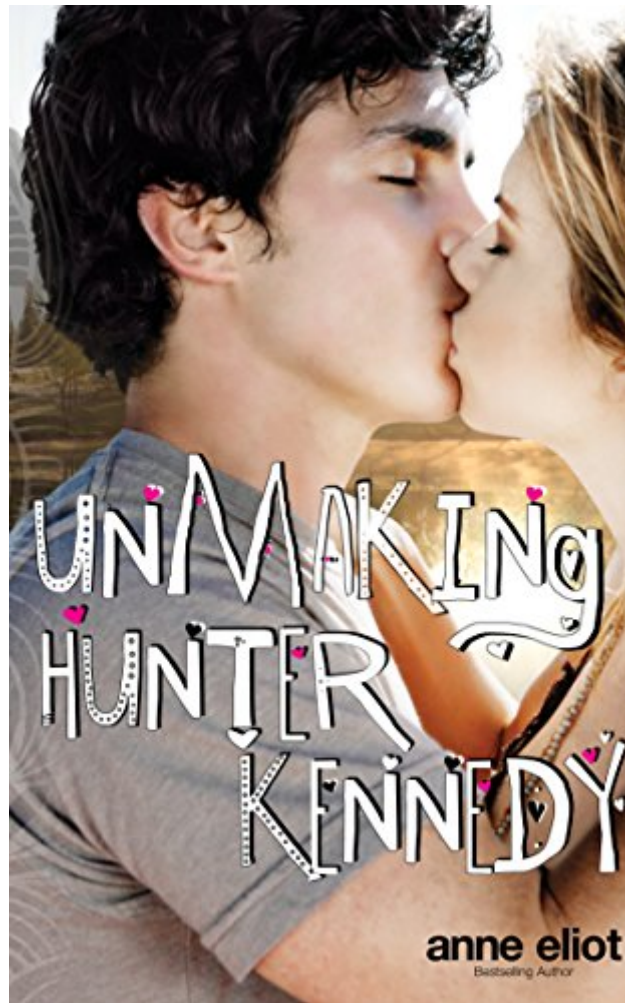




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Unmaking Hunter Kennedy



Synopsis

After a car accident--an event he considers a prank gone bad--jaded pop star, Hunter Kennedy is forced to hide out with his aunt in small-town Colorado. He's supposed to rest, heal his scars and attend high school in disguise until the press dies down. But he only wants to get back to work. Worse, the girl who's been assigned to make him over into a geek is a major geek herself. Vere Roth is a chattering pixie, a blushing tornado and a complete social disaster. He's never met a girl who's never-been-kissed, believes in romance and thinks Hunter's a 'nice' guy. Funny thing is Hunter is nice around Vere because she's his first real friend. He also can't seem to stop sharing his secrets or keep her out of his heart. Knowing he'd never deserve a girl as sweet as Vere, he resigns himself to the friend zone, and helps his new bestie with her own makeover. She tortures him daily for ridiculous guy advice on how to snag her life-long crush. A guy Hunter thinks is totally wrong for Vere, and sadly, one who has taken note of Vere's stunning transformation. When Vere asks her best friend for some kissing advice, Hunter can't resist. And that's when things get out of control. First love. Sweet, teen romance. Now available in audiobook.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Between a 3.5 and 4 stars...I waffle. On the surface, it's 4 stars all the way baby! Great witty banter, Vere and Hunter/Dustin were adorable together and that first kiss....SMOKIN. I thought the backstory with Hunter and his Mom was interesting, and believable about a teen star. I waffled on some of the depression bits b/c I suffer from depression and b/c it starts after his 6 week stay, the book kind of glossed over what kind of help is out there...so you didn't see Hunter's transition on that part. That being said, I LOVED the beginning parts where she's describing his mental states or whatever.... It was so fabulous to see Hunter fall in love with Vere too...just a whole bunch of awwwww all over the place. The ending...well, that's where things go weird. I both loved and hated the ending. It came across very teen movie ending...I just can't imagine it in the real world. So I would say it's unrealistic that a star would do that...but at the same time *sniff* *blink blink* OMG, so sweet!!! See how Jekyll and Hyde I am? It was the same for a few different parts with the ending...like Jenna's reaction when she found out....that was opposite, that was actually very realistic, but I wanted her to be more sensitive to Vere. And Charlie's actions were a bit crazy, and then how easily Hunter forgave him...I guess I didn't always get Charlie. Like how could he be best buds with such a lame guy like Curtis? On the other hand, I LOVE LOVED LOVED Charlie's interactions with Vere and Jenna. The whole scene where they first meet Dustin just killed me... SO yeah, this was a big waffle read. I know most of this didn't make sense, and probably would not help anyone decide whether to read it or not...but at this point I'm just babbling for me.

This is a cute book. A super cute book. I can't resist a story where the geek gets the guy. On the surface this can seem like a fluffy story done many times before ... a Hollywood music star falls into self-destructive behavior and needs to disappear. This throws him in the path of an ordinary girl who is not so ordinary. Romance ensues. But this story manages to feel fresh with themes that resonate and cause me to think beyond the pages of the book. Hunter Kennedy has a mess of a life, and although he is constantly surrounded by fans and an entourage he feels surprisingly alone in the world. This leads to a debilitating depression that threatens his life. Depression is real, and I felt like this story focused on the dangers of depression in a thoughtful way ... not using it simply as a dramatic device to further the plot, but instead dealing with it in a way that many who suffer the effects of depression might understand and recognize. On top of this issue Hunter also suffers from

the lack of identity which comes when ones entire life is scripted for them. Who exactly is Hunter Kennedy? This story truly is the story of his journey to discover who he really is. Along for the ride is Vere, a super shy girl who sits on the social outskirts of her Colorado high school. She is madly in love with her brother's best friend, and has been for many years. But because of a disastrous incident in junior high she can't even speak a word to him. She freezes. She is a girl who publicly is awkward and shy and different. But with Hunter she is somehow able to relax and be a confident, funny, and outgoing girl. He centers her. As much as this is a story about Hunter's growth as a character, this is also a story of Vere growing as well to put aside her old insecurities and learn to love what is really important in her life. I loved Hunter and Vere. They could make or break this story, and I believe that they were a pleasant couple to root for. I'll admit that by the end of the story Vere was so horribly naive and obtuse when it came to her feelings for Hunter and his feelings for her that I had some moments where I wanted to reach into the story and throttle her. It was a bit frustrating. Luckily, that didn't dominate the story, or I don't think I could have rated this as highly. The secondary characters were pretty good as well. I loved Vere's family ... even Charlie, who could be a jerk at times. The object of Vere's romantic obsession for the majority of the book may have been portrayed in the end as too much of a cad. I think it would have been nice for Vere to recognize her true feelings without almost being forced into it by such a jerk. Also, I know that lots of people really liked the way the ending played out. I might be the exception here. I would have rather had the same words spoken, but in a more private fashion. But that's a personal preference thing for me. I think if I had read this when I was a teen I would have totally swooned over Hunter's actions. Only one thing kept this from being a five star read for me. The book was entirely too long. Now before anyone thinks that I am a reading lightweight who can't handle long books, let me assure you, that is not the case. Length doesn't concern me if I feel like I am reading a tightly constructed novel. In this case I think that the book could have benefited from an excellent editor to help pull things together more tightly. Several times in the story I felt the need for things to just move on. All the scenes are great. They are. So I recognize that it might be hard for an author to ever choose to eliminate any of them. Still, I think that a shorter story that flowed a bit better would have made this one of my favorites. Then add the extra scenes as bonus material. I would have loved that. But having said that, this is still a cute young adult story that left me smiling at the end. I do recommend it for those looking for a great romance of two people finding themselves as they find each other. Four stars!

Sometimes predictable can be really fun--when you're pretty darn sure the mean kids will get their

comeuppance, the love triangle will collapse, the disguise will be pulled away, etc.--and you want to be there when it happens. This is one of those stories. The very likable characters work on building healthy relationships and try to stay away from unhealthy people and situations--quite a refreshing change from many mainstream teen romances these days. There are lots of laugh-out-loud scenes and some very honest introspective ones, too. Highly recommend for young adults who have had an embarrassing crush and who want to know they're not alone and there's always hope that the right relationship will work out.

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