



Georgetown Academy: Book One

Alyssa Embree Schwartz , Jessica Koosed Etting

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It's the beginning of a new political administration. That might not mean much at most high schools, but at Georgetown Academy, Washington D.C.'s most elite prep school, January 20th means new alliances, new flings, and new places to party.

While freshmen—nicknamed “interns” for their willingness to jump into bed with anyone higher on the D.C. totem pole—navigate the not-so-friendly halls of GA searching for Algebra and Bio classes, the school's lifers have other things on their minds.

For self-proclaimed D.C. royalty Brinley Madison (of those Madisons), the first day of school is all about establishing the social hierarchy and playing the part of perfect political wife to her boyfriend, the outgoing Vice President's son. Too bad he has a wandering eye that puts Bill Clinton's to shame. Can she keep him, and her own secret vice, in check?

Ellie Walker, Brinley's best friend, floats through the halls on the arm of golden boy Hunter McKnight (the JFK of GA). But when her ex-boyfriend, Gabe, returns to town and her Senator mother's political nemesis is reelected, Ellie's life starts to snowball out of control.

Shy, quiet Evan Hartnett is more into books than beer, and her closet is full of t-shirts and jeans instead of Jason Wu and Jimmy Choo. No one's ever really noticed her—but she's been noticing them. When her star rises as an intern at D.C.'s most-watched political news show, she soon finds the two worlds colliding in ways that make her question what's secret and what's fair game.

New girl Taryn Reyes is all laid-back, California cool; with a father who's in line to be the first Hispanic president, she's ready to dive into the D.C. scene with an open mind. But when her fellow students turn out to be more interested in spreading rumors than making friends, she realizes that forging a drama-free path might be a lot harder than she thinks.

With so many new friends and former flames in the mix, things are bound to get a little heated. And while diplomatic immunity might keep the cops away, there's not much it can do about the press.

In a town where one teenage misstep can turn into a national scandal, the students at Georgetown Academy will have to be on their best behavior—or, at least, they'll have to make the world believe that they are.

Because there's only one rule: whatever you do, don't get caught.

What's Cool from Coliloquy:

As the party scene at Georgetown Academy gets under way, authors Alyssa and Jessica let readers decide which of the main girls to follow. You'll see scandalous behavior, unexpected liaisons, and secret betrayals...all giving you a different perspective as events unfold.

And don't forget to take the Georgetown Academy Quiz! <http://bit.ly/VgUgMm>

Georgetown Academy: Book One Details

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From Reader Review Georgetown Academy: Book One for online ebook

Tasha Turner says

I enjoyed getting to know the four main characters. The book has a feature I've not seen before where you can choose to follow an individual character for part of the story. I wasn't sure how much this was going to distract me/throw me out of the story. I was pleasantly surprised that it didn't at all. I loved that at the end of the section I had the option to go back and follow another character so for a critical scene I got to follow it from each of the 4 characters POV. Because I knew who I was following I didn't feel lost.

So now to the story. This is a YA book so I'm not the target market. It has the usual teenage angst you'd expect from a YA placed in a high school. What was different is how political the students are and how aligned things are with their parents positions. There is high style, romance, food, parties, ignoring teachers, laughter, pain, betrayal, lost friendships, new friendships, gossip, journalism, love and respect for parents.

The characters were relatable. The plot was believable. These are shorts written almost like TV episodes so it ended on a cliffhanger. All and all I'd say it is a good start for a new series. I'm about to start book 2. Look for a review later today or tomorrow.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

ktheland says

[Ellie: I really don't like her and Gabe together. At all. He just seems off and I dislike him for toying with Taryn.

Taryn: Super naive and I maybe dislike her a little bit, because she's way too free-spirited. She and Brooks are cute.

Brinley: I have a soft spot for her. Don't know why but I do. And I head-canon her as blonde for some reason. And her brother too.

Evan: Really don't like her. Nope. A

The Three Bookateers says

Taken from our book blog: The Three Bookateers

What could possibly be more dramatic than the teen problems of high school? A high school filled with the of drama of politics that is.

Georgetown Academy is an elite private high school located in the city of Politics – Washington DC. The story is told in the perspective of four rich, young girls; Ellie, Evan, Brinley and Taryn.

Ellie Walker the girl who went from a nobody to the girl everyone envies. Her hot new boyfriend, Hunter McKnight (who is described as the “JFK of GA”) is loving, kind and everything a boyfriend could possibly be. Her life couldn’t be filled with less drama until her ex boyfriend steps back into the picture. Not only are their parents political enemies, but their unresolved tension later proves to be a problem.

Brinley Madison is the school Queen Bee, the girl everyone loves to hate. The ultimate IT girl and if anyone steps on her toes, she will make sure they are eliminated. Fashion and manipulation are her middle names and in a society where public image is everything, Brinley will do anything to keep her image squeaky clean and perfect.

Evan Hartnett is a shy, innocent girl who flies under the radar. Her internship at the top-rating politics news show could show some moral decisions on her part – keep the secrets of her friends or tell all to the media to further her own career?

Taryn Reyes is the new girl, the “rookie”, fresh from LA where the sun is always shining and the girls are less bitchy. She has trouble finding her feet within the school so when decides to “make her own rules” she makes a few enemies along the way that could potentially spell trouble for her father’s career.

While all their parents are somehow involved in politics, anything they do could be turned into a national scandal. Their every step watched, alliances formed and broken over rumours and even petty high school rumours can ruin their parent’s political career. They can do whatever they want as long as they don’t get caught.

Even though the story is told in four perspectives, it is almost like four separate stories yet they are all somehow intertwined with each other. Each character is written well and given enough of a back story to give the story some substance. The first few chapters are dedicated to each character individually to allow the reader to get to know each character – which is important to a novel, especially one that is divided into four different perspectives.

The interesting thing about this novel is that once it reaches around the chapter five mark, it separates into a Create-your-own-Adventure style book, where the reader chooses which character to view the party scene from. This was an aspect of the book that I thoroughly enjoyed. The only problem with this was deciding which girl to read on with!

The authors did well to capture the essence of high school drama with a very Gossip Girl feel. I loved this book! There was not one part I didn’t like. I stayed up all night to finish it and it was well worth my time. Although the only downside, I think, is the cover. But that is minor to the greatness that is Georgetown Academy. This book is perfect for a quick read and really is quite enjoyable.

Gen says

Just downloaded this book after I saw it being talked about by Eva Longoria and others all over twitter. What a wonderful surprise-- I first thought it might be too young for me since it takes place in a high school (the promos says its Gossip girl meets West wing)but I was intrigued since it sounded like it might be somewhat interesting because it was taking place in DC.I have to say I was hooked after the first few pages... I read the book straight through!! Loved the characters, especially Brinley who is so sneaky and out just for herself, yet surprisingly still likable... I don't know how the authors managed that!! There were surprises and twists and

turns throughout the book as well as a very interesting interactive section that let you choose a particular character to "follow" during a chapter of the book to see it from their point of view. I actually went back and followed all four characters and thought it was so interesting to see what each character was thinking!! Anyways book one ended on a cliffhanger so now I am going to buy book two immediately to see what happens!! By the way I am in my 50's and could totally relate to the characters! If you are looking for a fun read buy this book now!!

Sue (Hollywood News Source) says

Are you looking for your next Young Adult Contemporary read? Why don't you grab your Kindle and read Georgetown Academy by Alyssa Embree Schwartz & Jessica Koosed Etting. Georgetown Academy has been hailed by Gossip Girl producer, Josh Schwartz, as "Smart, sexy and insanely addictive."

Georgetown Academy, Season One follows the story of Ellie Walker, the DC Sweetheart, Brinley Madison, the DC Princess, Evan Hartnett, the goody two shoes & Taryn Reyes, the new girl in town. They all attend the most exclusive private school, where all fancy parties are being held, where life isn't actually drama-free and the place where all the spectacle unfolds. Georgetown Academy has a very engaging plot. I finished it in one sitting down. I don't have any qualms getting into the story. That's how gripping and fun it is to read. The characters are vivid, real and relatable. Their stories offer a valuable lesson we can always learn. One of the greatest things about reading Georgetown Academy is that politics play a significant part of the plot and even if I have zero interest in politics it certainly piqued my buds. It was perfectly executed. It's like reading a Scandal slash Gossip Girl episode. Georgetown Academy has been easily one of my favorite reads this year. A highly recommendable series to everyone.

Julie says

NOTE: This review is for Season One, a collection of the first four titles in the Georgetown Academy series. This review is for all four titles, but does not contain spoilers and each title has been given appropriate star rating on its own merits.

Digital ARC provided by publisher for honest and thoughtful review.

From the start, I loved the idea of these books and jumped at the chance to review them - with their backdrop of Washington DC politics (I'm a political junkie and I love vacationing in DC), the Gossip-Girl-esque drama (I watched the show for several seasons and reveled in the frivolity of it all), and an updated "Choose Your own Adventure" feature (I absolutely loved those books as a kid!) they were right up my alley. And though I went in eagerly with high hopes, I found that the first four books in the Georgetown Academy series just weren't able to give me the substance I look for in a four or five birdie review. But you all know that "man cannot live on bread alone" and these four titles were a decent break from the heavier stuff I'm reading right now - all four books are light reads, filled with enough romance, backstabbing, and excess to rival any soap opera on daytime TV.

Each of the four main characters (Ellie, Brinley, Evan, and Taryn) can be broken down into typical characters you see in YA books and movies - the beta good girl, the alpha bad girl, the pretty brain, and the new girl/DC outsider, and they don't often deviate from those roles. Each girl has a secret they're hiding and I found certain characters (Taryn) more enjoyable than others, though none of them are among my favorites. I just like more substance in my characters, even for "fluff" reads. There was too much time spent establishing the excess, wealth and power these girls (and their parents) had and not enough on THEM. I also like at least one character to have some redeeming qualities, but each girl has moments (some much more frequently than others) where they rationalize their drug use, cheating, libelous behavior, etc. as necessary. I work with teenagers every day and even the most spoiled and inane ones have moments of humanity that didn't often appear for these girls. In this series, the characters who take action based on their consciences are the love interests and I found myself enjoying those characters more than the girls.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy the escapism of books like this and am sure girls who live like this do exist, but I just didn't find the scenarios and actions believable as a whole. The authors attempt to insert varying levels of hardship into the girls' lives, but it ultimately isn't successful because the stories focus so much on the luxury and excess, with shopping trips to Paris for school clothes, vacations with the President of the United States, and 24/7 chauffeurs to avoid any DUI's that might befall them. I also found the plot lines too predictable - I predicted every hook-up from Book One on and only one thing in all four books caught me off guard (beginning of Book Four, I won't spoil it for you though :)).

A final point of contention, which has absolutely nothing to do with the writing, is the "Choose Your Own Adventure" (CYOA) feature and technology; it frustrated me and on more than one occasion it made me put my Kindle down and take a break. If you're like me, you still read every path in the CYOA books even though you aren't supposed to (bad reader, not following directions! ;)) and part of the reason the CYOA appeals to you is that you can see how things turn out differently when different decisions are made (à la the movie *Sliding Doors*). The CYOA feature in the Georgetown Academy series is set up so the reader can view a single evening through the lens of a different girl each time. While this is still pretty cool, it didn't really offer any new perspective on the events or motivations for me (à la *Midnight Sun*) and the technology is frustrating. Each time I wanted to go back to the decision point to start another path, my Kindle took me elsewhere in the story and (I'm assuming here because I haven't had this trouble with any other e-books) because of the CYOA technology, the Kindle locations were all out of whack and made no sense.

Final Word: A drama-filled read with really good clothes. The Choose Your Own Adventure technology needs some work and there aren't a ton of deep, meaningful themes, but it's a decent light, fluffy read.

Books says

I don't think I'll be able to adequately express how stupendously impressed I am with this book. Once I received my copy of Georgetown Academy, I couldn't wait to start reading it. It was everything I was hoping it would be and so much more. The story flowed so smoothly, I couldn't even tell it was written by two – might I say uber talented – authors. I wouldn't be surprised at all if Georgetown Academy is made into the next hit tv series. It is that good! It has more drama and intrigue than *Gossip Girl* could ever wish to have.

The different stories of Evan, Ellie, Brinley and Taryn were so powerful and emotional at times it had me glued to my seat from the first page to the last. I'm not ashamed to admit I devoured this book in less than a day. This is pretty much four stories in one, and each character brings something different to the story. The reader also has the option to follow only one or two or all four stories at once. The first five chapters are

dedicated to getting the reader to know the set-up at GA and the four main characters. From chapter six you can choose which character's story you want to follow, or, like me, you can follow all four story lines. I didn't want to miss out on a single thing.

Each main character was neatly rounded out and I even took a liking to some of the secondary characters. I felt one hundred percent at home at Georgetown Academy and it was incredibly easy to place myself in these characters' shoes. The ending is of course a spectacular cliffhanger. I don't mind cliffhanger endings, as long as it doesn't end in the middle of nowhere – which this one doesn't. I was shocked at Ellie's discovery, and now I can't wait to read the second book in this addictive new series. This first book is a terrific start to the Georgetown Academy series which I highly recommend to all who love reading about characters with exciting, and sometimes somewhat scandalous, lives!

I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Jessica Etting says

Hi guys!

We are super excited about the launch of books 1-4 of Georgetown Academy as a Season One bundle!

If 1000 people add Georgetown Academy Season One to their "To-Read" shelves by June 30, 2013, we'll release a never-seen-before, deleted scene from the series on the Season One Goodreads page!

If 2000 people add it, we'll release a never-seen-before Book One scene from one of the GA guys' perspectives -- finally a chance to get inside their heads!

Add Season One to your shelf now! <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18...>

And join the Ask Alyssa and Jessica Goodreads group! <http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/1...>

xx Jessica and Alyssa

Kala says

* I received a free copy of this book via Netgalley.com in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!!*

Choose Your Own Adventure books work, in print. I don't think the technology is quite there for Kindle books though, and that was a huge detriment to this book. When we got to the "Choose which character to follow" I chose Ellie, and then I had the option afterwards to continue on with the story (which I chose) or go back and read everyone else's stories (which I didn't do), so by the time I finished the book I felt like I had missed out on a lot of the other characters' stories, but at that point, it was too annoying to backpage through my Kindle to try and go back to read their other stuff, so I didn't.

That said, what I did read was decent. I'm not in to politics, but I found the whole private school full of

politician's children to be somewhat interesting. The characters are all pretty well fleshed out and compelling, but I think the author's spread themselves too thin for such a short book. We follow I think 4 different "main" characters and don't really get into the meat of any story with any of them. This book just didn't feel like a complete novel. :(

I am curious enough about the characters that I will continue on with the series and see how it goes. This book ends on quite the cliffhanger for Ellie and I'm dying to know how that works out for her!

Esther Nelson says

OMG I loved it!!! I could not put it down!!! Its been a long time since I have been that impressed with a book. Having spent some time in the Sacramento Capitol, this book was extremely realistic and the characters all came to life and I felt like I knew each and every one of them!!!! This surpassed my Twilight obsession and now I want more of this!!!! I am addicted!!!!

Mary (BookHounds) says

MY THOUGHTS
ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT

Brinley, the queen bee of Georgetown Academy, an elite prep school for Washington's elite, is starting off the school year by getting her classmates in social order with the help of her boyfriend, the son of the Vice-President. Her best friend, Ellie, is the daughter of a powerful senator but her boy friend, Hunter is the son of her mother's political enemy. Taryn, has just transferred in from California, with her father set to be the first Hispanic President and she is about to learn that the stakes are higher in this backstabbing arena of global power. Evan is a bookworm that gets her shot as an intern at a highly political television show.

Much like Gossip Girl, this cast has a lot to lose if the the rumors get out of their social circle and could be devastating on a national level for their parents careers. When Brinley decides to take down newcomer, Taryn by starting a rumor about her trading sex for drugs, she sets off a chain of events that can only end in heartbreak for all involved. Secretly, I have a death wish for Brinley unless she redeems herself in upcoming installments. Taryn is so down to earth and you feel like she has been thrown into the deep end of a pool of sharks but I have high hopes for her coming out on top. There are so many little subplots in this first one, that it could take multiple episodes to resolve.

Remember those cool "Choose your own adventure" novels back in grade school? You had to flip the pages to get to the next section and the story could go in one of many directions depending on the character you chose to follow and what you decide they should do. Well, this takes that to the next level. Taking advantage of technology, you can click on a link to pick your character and action! I admit, I did cheat a bit and read each character's detour. This is such a fun and quick read that anyone will love to get their hands on. Parents: there is kissing, mentions of drug use, and some language.

Sthep Liar says

Maybe it was because it wasn't what I expected? Maybe.
Because if it doesn't come from Scandal I do not feel interested in politics? Probably.
If this book wasn't for me but I think someone else might enjoy it? Surely.

Melissa Scott says

Received copy from Netgalley for honest review

It has been hailed as "Gossip Girl" meets "West Wing". I can honestly say that is a fair description. Was it the best book I have read, no. An highly entertaining read, yes.

The book is written in the "chose your own adventure" style allowing the reader to decide who's story to follow. To really understand what is going on you must take the journey through all the participant's eyes.

At times you struggle with each girls personality, but like everyone you can find something to like about them. Teens (and let's admit it adults too) are complex people.

If you like "The West Wing" or "Gossip Girl" series you will like this series. Teens who are into "The Clique by Lisi Harrison" will also gravitate to these. My main problem, is at this moment it is only available as an eBook. If it comes out in paper, I will add to my public library collection.

Nancy says

These authors have great insight into the thoughts and feelings of each and every character. Set in a posh DC prep school, all of the scandals and intrigues among senators, congressmen, politicians and diplomats play out in the lives of their children, in engaging and frequently surprising ways. You will fall in love with the kind, innocent Ellie, and you will root against the scheming Brinley. A unique feature in the book allowed the reader to attend a party through the eyes of four main characters. Fascinating to see how each one had viewed the same events differently. With every page the reader gets pulled deeper and deeper into the drama and the interwoven plots. You'll turn the pages faster and faster to see what happens next. I just downloaded Book Two and can't wait to start reading it. I'm hooked!!

Alahna says

a gossip girl-esque book about dc? sign me up!

ooh this book is evil. It pissed me off the entire time but now I just have to read the next one because of that stupid cliffhanger. I think I've learned an important lesson: Don't read books that are set in a city that is

important to you because you will end up very angry over what Mexican restaurant the characters go to.

But seriously...Cactus Cantina?? Guapos all day baby.

also i should probably mention that it is kind of a "choose your own adventure" book. Since it is an ebook there is one section where you can choose to read from the 4 characters stories and then move on...but you have to read them all for the story to make any sense.. so it doesn't really work very well. You can just choose what order you read them in. I just picked randomly.
