



# Handcuffs

*Bethany Griffin*

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## **Handcuffs** Bethany Griffin

PARKER PRESCOTT IS an ice princess. Cold, aloof, a snob. At least, that's what everyone says on Marion Hennessey's blog. And everyone reads Marion Hennessey's blog.

Parker Prescott is a middle child. She's the good one, the dependable one, the one her parents trust. Well . . . she used to be.

Parker Prescott's parents want her to break up with her boyfriend. But she already did, two weeks ago. And then she realized it was a mistake. He came over. He had the handcuffs in his pocket. Everything went downhill from there. Sort of.

Parker Prescott's world is changing and she no longer knows who she is. Does anyone?

## **Handcuffs Details**

Date : Published December 9th 2008 by Delacorte Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780385735506

Author : Bethany Griffin

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Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Realistic Fiction, Teen, Young Adult Contemporary



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## From Reader Review Handcuffs for online ebook

### Claire says

Handcuffs is a thoroughly entertaining read for teens and adults alike. It has enough spice to entice and enough substance to enthrall. A fantastic debut from a promising author--I certainly hope to see more from Bethany Griffin in the future!

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### Cindy Dobrez says

The author's writing shows promise but the plot contained the complete grocery list of YA problems...

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### Jill Heather says

Co-starring: the good stalker, and the victim who sort of led him on!

Yeah.

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### Beth says

This was an excellent book. All the better for being, a rare thing in teenage fiction, subtle. I'm not a huge sexual chemistry fan (or a romance fan), but I felt it here. That being said, I was amazingly glad that the love interest ended the way it did. That was realistic and mature, because it just was never going to happen. The intricate relationships Parker had with her parents and especially older sister Paige were AMAZINGLY written: the family was definitely my favourite thing in the entire book. It felt sad and real. I just adored little brother Prescott and the relationship Parker had with him was heart-melting without being unrealistic. I loved Kyle and Marian too, even though I know Parker cast Marian in the role of a bitch all the time. I would have liked to see more of them and the way Griffin created realistic three-dimensional characters from apparent stereotypes is just perfect. One thing that bugged me? Their love for Radiohead. I don't personally like Radiohead, but I can get past that. The problem I had with it is that it didn't feel like a very Parker thing to appreciate, and I could tell that Griffin herself was a Radiohead fan. It was just an unnecessary self-insertion, but it wasn't continued or anything so I could forgive it. Also, Parker and her love interest annoyed me at times, and not just in a "they're teenagers" way, but no biggie. Still, a great book that deals with romance in such a mature way. I want to have a few stern words with whoever compared Bethany Griffin to Sarah Dessen on the front cover. Griffin is no Dessen - Dessen could never be this realistic, honest, careful and subtle and deep.

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### CuriousLibrarian says

Wow, this book is very poorly written. And where was the editor? She couldn't even decide what the age

difference was between Paige and Parker, once even contradicting herself in the space of two pages! I was consistently rewriting passages in my head as I read - either to make things better or simply make it make sense.

Now the whole build up in this book is the sex. And then she doesn't show it at all. Which I guess would be okay if she then had Parker talk about it a bit. In the vein of "it hurt" or "it was uncomfortable" or "it felt good" but you don't even get that level of discussion. Why write an entire book about sex and then ignore the sex when it happens?

One thing this book made me think about is today's teen culture of cell phone cameras, blogs, and social networking sites. Sure people spread rumors when I was a teen, but now they can reach dozens of people instantly and with pictures! Middle school and high school must now be an extra-special hell.

Poorly written YA book. Don't bother.

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## **Nomes says**

Parker has such a perfect teenage voice that I felt like I was visiting my own past teen self.

The tension in this book! I was completely sucked in - especially with the escalating high school warfare and Parker and her boyfriend/ex-boyfriend (supreme hotness) who's relationship is complicated and sexy in the best of ways.

Griffin writes with a subtlety that captures those teen feelings of identity and belonging and high school hardships and... lust :)

I especially loved the intricate ways Parker related to her mum and her older sister (I also adored her little brother. ADHD little bro's FTW!) And, confession, I am a middle child. So, Parker and I are likethis.

I expected to like this book - I didn't quite expect it to have as much depth as it did. Especially in various characters sub-plots, like her sister and her neighbours. Whoah - impressed me :)

Basically - I really really liked this book.

I recommend this to: people who love contemporary YA with well-drawn characters, hot steamy moments and page-flipping high school tension.

Random stuff:

You never find out the name of Parker's boyfriend/ex-boyfriend. OooOooh - I liked that...

The ending! Argh! I don't know what to say, but it kinda broke my heart but also felt good. Cryptic, I know.

Get comfy before you read this. Because you won't want to put it down.

I kept imagining if my parents walked in on me and my boyfriend while we were... and I was in handcuffs. My poor lovely dad would die... My mum? I would be sooo dead. Me? Thank God I only had to live through

it vicariously :)

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## **Dana J. Moore says**

Another selection for the **I READ IT SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO** shelf.

Honestly, I'm not sure this book is worth the time it's gonna take me to review it. So I'm keeping this brief. This is not a book about handcuffs. If ever there was an asinine title, this is it. Handcuffs? Really, publishers? I read the blurb and the suggestion is that Parker's boyfriend bringing handcuffs over is the catalyst to some crazy story. I thought he came over and kidnapped her or something. I was all ready for a thrill. No, this book is a paltry coming-of-age teen romance/family drama - if you can even call it that.

**Writing Technique: ★★★** Griffin made me laugh a couple of times. So it's not that she's not good with words. I think she could be, but her storytelling is...boring.

**Plot/Story Development: ★★1/2** The major plot arcs are

1. Will Parker's obsession with her ex-boyfriend mean she finally gives in and has sex with him even though he doesn't love her? And will he love her if she does it?
2. Will Parker's parents get their ish together or will they lose their house and have to move and ruin Parker's life forever?
3. Will Parker's sister Paige prove herself to be a human being or just stay a mean, heartless slut?

Answers: 1. (view spoiler)

2. (view spoiler)

3. (view spoiler)

**Character Development: ★★** Oh Parker. The Ice Princess thing was stupid. Let's get that straight. A title with the word "princess" implies something different from a shy tongue-tied 16-year-old who is considered the good girl. This book could more accurately be called Obsession. And in the end, she apparently changed or something, but particularly when it comes to her boyfriend, I didn't really see her change. So I don't buy it. \*shrug\*

**Message/Theme: ★★1/2** love/lust/infatuation/obsession/sex, family, friendship, abuse...

**Rating: PG-13** for language and sexual content.

**Overall: ★★** This was a waste of time. Plain and simple. I've definitely read worse. But this was a waste of time.

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## **Kimberly says**

Loved it! I usually don't enjoy "realistic" teen novels. I lean toward supernatural twists but Parker was a great character. This book shows what teens are feeling and how they handle their emotions. I can't wait for the

next Bethany Griffin.

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### **Kate says**

Considering this got a lot of local press because the author is local, I was sort of excited to read it. Alas, I found it mediocre and some of the writing just down right silly. The plot meandered and I'm not really all that sure what the central idea was for the story. So, oh well...

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### **Carmen Rodrigues says**

This wickedly-humorous novel will have you rooting for its heroine, ice princess Parker Prescott. Make sure to settle into a comfortable chair because once you pick up this book, you won't want to set it down. Griffin is a fresh new voice in the world of young adult literature!

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### **Pascal Bailey says**

When I first put my hands on a copy of *Handcuffs* by Bethany Griffin I thought it was a typical teen novel with a racy spin. I didn't think I would enjoy it. I'm too old to fall into the world of teenage romance, but I found myself drawn into the Prescott's family drama seeing snippets of my own feelings and emotions on the page. I could not put the book down and I read it in two nights. This book takes a unique situation that draws the reader into a dysfunctional American drama. By watching this family, I learned how personal growth can influence all members of a family after a seemingly disastrous situation.

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### **Paige says**

So this book gets a 4.5 (rounded to a 5) because, to be honest, it was great. Outstanding. It's nearly 4 AM and I've stayed up all night to finish this book. I admit, my expectations weren't too high. The premise was fantastic, but I was expecting a shallow novel with shallow characters and shallow writing. I was wrong. Surprisingly well-written and subtly suspenseful, this is a great story by a great author. Different types of obsessions are portrayed, and different types of stereotypes are shattered. The relationships were one of the best things about the novel. I'm definitely looking forward to Bethany Griffin's next novel. :]

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### **Bmem says**

If Parker Prescott went to my school, I would hate her. She's gorgeous, gets perfect grades, and has the hottest guy in the school after her. On top of that, her older sister has paved the popularity path for her already.

I can't hate her in *Handcuffs* though. Beneath the surface, there's a lot more going on with Parker than

anyone realizes. Without giving anything away, I'll just say that Parker Prescott knows how to use her brain for a lot more than just getting good grades. Of course it nearly lands her in jail, but the ride there is a fascinating journey of discovery--along the way, Parker realizes that those around her may have secret lives of their own.

I read this in a day and a half (fell asleep with it at 2am). Don't expect action every five seconds, but do expect characters who will stay with you and plot twists you never saw coming.

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## **Steph Campbell says**

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## **YA Reads Book Reviews says**

Parker Prescott is in love. The only problem is, she just broke up with the boy in question and now she's realised that she made a huge mistake. She's pretty sure he'd still take her back, but what about the reason they broke up in the first place? He was getting way too pushy about the whole sex thing and Parker wanted to wait till he told her that he loved her before doing the deed. But now she wants him back so badly that she thinks she's willing to go all the way, and not just for him either; Parker craves his body, his lips and his hands.

One day he shows up at her house when her family is out, and the hanky panky starts. Parker allows him to handcuff her to a chair in her father's office, and as he's unbuttoning her shirt and loosening her bra, Parker's mother and father get home early, busting them in the act. Parker is grounded indefinitely, and so starts the beginning of all her problems.

Marion Hennessy – Parker's arch nemesis – is out to get Parker, and writes a whole bunch of nasty, untrue stuff about Parker and her man on her blog. Everyone reads it and suddenly Parker's relationship is the centre of speculation and gossip. To make things worse, Parker realises that she has some very hot competition. Kandace – Marion's friend – has it bad for Parker's man and is doing everything in her power to steal his affections. This launches Parker into a world of self-doubt and unrest. Will Parker sleep with her boyfriend to keep him, or will wait until she gets what she wants from him first?

Being inside Parker's head was a real pleasure, for very odd reasons. Parker is an ordinary girl. She's smart, but she's average looking. She's a bit of a wallflower and certainly not part of the popular crowd, but her boyfriend is. I really love that the girl-next-door, the girl that no one thought would snag the most desirable and sought after boy in school, does. However, what I like about Parker Prescott the most, is that she could be me, or you, or the girl sitting next to you. This gives hope to all ordinary girls everywhere that they can do, and have, what they want too. Parker makes ordinary look extraordinary.

Parker's character surreptitiously highlights some important issues for teen girls everywhere. Because everyone else wants to date her boyfriend, Parker is constantly questioning his motives. The gossip often gets the better of her and every now and then she finds herself believing the gossip articles about her that appear on Marion's blog. Is there really a bet out on her virginity; is that the real reason why he wants to sleep with her. Maybe that's why he hasn't said he loves her yet. Is he sleeping with Kandace behind her

back, as Marion wants her to believe? Parker lacks self-confidence, which is a big problem that a lot of teens face today. If Parker were more sure of herself she'd be able to have more faith in her allure, more faith in her man. Like so many girls, Parker can't see her own assets because she is blinded by everyone else's best characteristics. *Handcuffs* highlights the complexities of navigating your way through the day-to-day problems associated with attending high school; I don't know a single person on the entire planet that can't relate to that in some way or another.

Readers never learn what Parker's boyfriend's name actually is. Parker never says it, nor do any of the other characters in the novel. I really like this technique, as it allowed me to shape my own version of him. Because he is nameless, because there are very few physical descriptions given, readers can construct him in their own desirable terms. I found myself questioning his motives, as Parker did, but just like Parker, I was unable to hate him. Ultimately, I wanted him as much as she does. As the novel comes to a close, readers are exposed to the truth; I was biting my nails all the way till the end.

*Handcuffs* is Bethany Griffin's first novel and she captures the essence of adolescence superbly. Her characters are believable, raw, honest and absolutely engaging. Teenage girls everywhere will be able to relate to Parker's pain and angst, her self-doubt and her hormonal desires. *yaReads* offers a huge round of applause to Bethany Griffin for an awesome debut novel. We look forward to more work from her in the future.

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