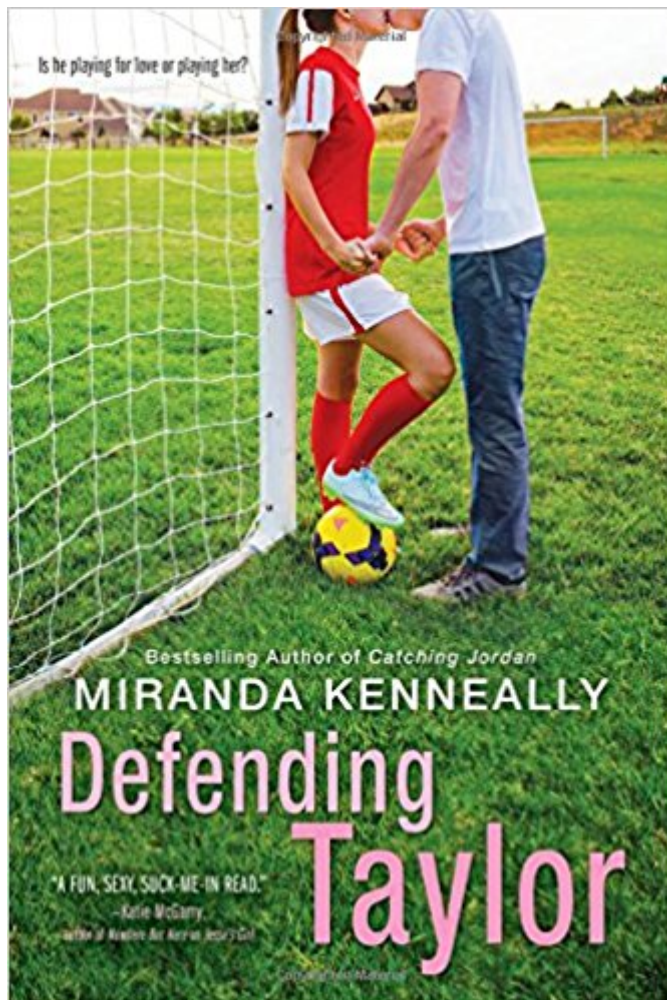


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Defending Taylor (Hundred Oaks)



Synopsis

There are no mistakes in love. Captain of the soccer team, president of the Debate Club, contender for valedictorian: Taylor's always pushed herself to be perfect. After all, that's what is expected of a senator's daughter. But one impulsive decision-one lie to cover for her boyfriend-and Taylor's kicked out of private school. Everything she's worked so hard for is gone, and now she's starting over at Hundred Oaks High. Soccer has always been Taylor's escape from the pressures of school and family, but it's hard to fit in and play on a team that used to be her rival. The only person who seems to understand all that she's going through is her older brother's best friend, Ezra. Taylor's had a crush on him for as long as she can remember. But it's hard to trust after having been betrayed. Will Taylor repeat her past mistakes or can she score a fresh start? Praise for *Jesse's Girl*: "A fun, sexy, suck-me-in read." -Katie McGarry, author of *Nowhere But Here* and *Pushing the Limits* "An absorbing story...highly enjoyable." -Kirkus "Inspires as it entertains." -Publishers Weekly

Book Information

Series: Hundred Oaks (Book 7)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks Fire; Advance Reader's Copy edition (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 149263008X

ISBN-13: 978-1492630081

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #94,240 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in *Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Soccer* #30 in *Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football* #204 in *Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings*

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up - Seventeen-year-old Taylor Lukens has life all figured out. Captain of her soccer team, president of the debate team, and daughter of a Tennessee senator, she dreams of early acceptance to Yale. However, she gets expelled from her prestigious boarding school after she takes the fall for her Adderall-dealing boyfriend. Before Taylor knows it, she's back at home and starting over at Hundred Oaks High, friendless and forced to play defense on the soccer team that used to be her rival. Torn apart by the damage that she's done to her father's reelection campaign

and her relationship with her parents, the teen refuses to tell the world that she is innocent, thinking that her father will view her as a snitch, the worst fate of all. But then she reconnects with her old crush, Ezra Carmichael, and he inspires her to question all of the truths that she has held dear. On the surface, this work presents itself as a formulaic yet totally enjoyable summer read. However, this title has depth. Kenneally frankly discusses the realities of Adderall, Ritalin, and other drugs, and the sexually charged relationship between Taylor and Ezra feels authentic and unique compared with the cookie-cutter teen romances that this volume initially seems to resemble. VERDICT Purchase for collections in need of sports fiction, deeper summer reading, and realistic romance. — Laura Lintz, Henrietta Public Library, Rochester, NY

"On the surface, this work presents itself as a formulaic yet totally enjoyable summer read. However, this title has depth. Kenneally frankly discusses the realities of Adderall, Ritalin, and other drugs, and the sexually charged relationship between Taylor and Ezra feels authentic and unique compared with the cookie-cutter teen romances." - School Library Journal "I can't quite put my finger on what is so enthralling about Kenneally's newest novel, but it totally sucked me in. I loved that Kenneally didn't go with an easy, traditional happy-go-lucky ending. I also enjoyed the flawed nature of the characters, which made them feel more relatable. This is a great summer read and my favorite novel by Kenneally so far!" - RT Book Reviews, 4 Stars

I am a big fan of Miranda Kenneally's books in general, and this one did not disappoint. I liked that she returned to the world of sports, which she inexplicably stepped out of for *Jesse's Girl*. In this book, Taylor is a rich Senator's kid who gets kicked out of her exclusive private school for prescription drugs, which may or may not be hers. She is forced to attend the dreaded public school (where every other character has gone), and mingle with new people and adapt to new surroundings. I liked a lot about this story - the majority of the characters, seeing old characters pop up (hi Jack and Savannah!), and the return to sports. I can't say that I was fond of Taylor or her family, but Ezra more than made up for them. This was a really good read, and the short story about Jordan and Henry at the end was phenomenal. :)

This well crafted romance deals with some issues you don't normally see in teen romance. The author painted a poignant picture of what it's like having all the pressure of being a politician's daughter. The issues of drug use and how our society too quickly judges people are also dealt with in a thoughtful way, and I really enjoyed how the author at the end of the book talks about the ways

her personal experience of burnout and overwork contributed to the overall theme of Taylor's story. This book was refreshingly real in how there is a bittersweet side to the ending too. Yes, the end is a happy one - Taylor ends up with a great guy...but she also has to live with some of the mistakes she's made, and not all of those consequences can be undone or forgotten. Overall, I highly recommend this book. One final note: it's nice to see a romance where two childhood friends eventually become so much more...my heart just about melted as I saw their relationship develop. Give this one a try, you'll enjoy it.

I think it was one of my favorite books of this series. I loved Ezra and Tee. Loved their story, I loved her story. Will there be more or is this it?

Loved this book! I have enjoyed all of Miranda Kenneally's books and this one was no different! I will admit Things I Can't Forget, Stealing Parker, and Catching Jordan will always remain my favorites I really liked this book. I like that she went back to sports after Jesse's Girl, and I loved getting to see old characters come back into the storyline. Wonderfully written, a great summer read and I highly recommend this book or any Miranda Kenneally book!

I love and have read all of the other Hundred Oaks series books and was sort of upset about this one. It was wonderfully written like always but the plot was a let down. All of the other books focus more on the girl and the love she finds. This book had more of a boring storyline. Was disappointed and was probably my least favorite of the series so far.

How far you are willing to protect someone without hurting yourself in the end? Defending Taylor was a quick and enjoyable read. Unfortunately, I didn't feel the chemistry between the love interests, shucks. But it was refreshing to see relationship growth between Taylor and her father.

Taylor is a high school senior who makes a mistake that may very well end up affecting her future plans. She has always wanted to go to Yale and major in business so she can work for the family business. But when she gets kicked out of her private school and forced to go to public school she is worried about what's to come. While home she reconnects with Ezra, her brother's best friend. She has had a crush on him for a long time. Ezra is home on a break from college, working construction and is unsure of where he wants to go from here. I really enjoyed this book, had trouble putting it down. I found myself truly curious as to the outcome of it all. What was going to happen if

Taylor's secret ever came out, what would happen with her relationship with Ezra, and what the futures hold for them both. This was my first book by this author and I will be looking for more. This was a great read!!

Loved this book! Have been following miranda for a while and counted down the days for this book. You can read it if you have not read the others in the series! So happy with it! Not as amazing as the first one, but really enjoyed it!

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