



Barn Boot Blues

Catherine Friend

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Meet Taylor McNamara: She's twelve. She's a city girl. But her parents have just moved her to a sheep farm in the middle of nowhere. Meet the farm animals: 40 chickens, 20 sheep, 10 ducks, and 4 goats, one of which can pee on his own head. Meet the principal and kids in Taylor's new school: Kids tease her about her ugly barn boots and the chicken poop in her hair, yet they admire her pluck. Taylor struggles to adapt to her new life, but finds it hard to adjust to the farm's daily surprises, especially those that prove to be embarrassing at school. With the help of her friend Megan, Taylor embarks on a nearly disastrous plan to move her family back to the city. But one lonely night, in the barn, Taylor discovers that farming isn't all bad.

Barn Boot Blues Details

Date : Published October 1st 2011 by Two Lions (first published September 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780761458272

Author : Catherine Friend

Format : Hardcover 144 pages

Genre : Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Animals, Juvenile

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From Reader Review Barn Boot Blues for online ebook

Jennifer says

Summary:

Taylor's mother may have lost her mind. After growing up in the city, her parents just decide to purchase a small farm and move to the country. Taylor's mother wants to be a farmer even though Taylor and her father are not fully on board with the idea. But, now they are in the country, and life must go on. Taylor is expected to help out along the farm, so she begins to learn how to do that. To make matters worse, she has to start at a new school smelling like a farm (poop stench included).

My thoughts:

While this is a cute story, I only kind of liked it. There really wasn't anything that really made this book special to me. It was a quick read. Taylor is a good character. She is developed wonderfully with both good and bad characteristics. She is over the top selfish at the beginning, but she does begin to learn her lesson. Overall, the highlight of this book is the development of the farm. The description and building of the farm is very well described. There are some ups and downs just like starting a small farm would be. The whole family definitely learns together. I'd say this is targeted towards the right age group. I may give it to a third grader that has a good attention span and reading level, whereas seventh grade may be a little old for the book. It definitely fits more with girls than with boys. They will appreciate the "Barn Boot Blues."

Cheryl says

Bravo; well done! Family stress, new-kid at school, and city-to-country issues, all told with zest and heart. There's even a friendship with an older person, lessons in preparing wool towards clothing, a boy, and a school rule about short skirts. All in 142 breezy and delightful pages.

So sad it's short and over already.... so... Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet has been on my list for awhile, now it's a priority!

Sofia Alessandrini says

This book was a HUGE let down. The ending was so boring and girl made some mistakes but everyone was just like "whatever". I would never suggest or reread this treacherous thing. Don't waste your time.

Angie says

Taylor is new to the farm. Her parents packed up and moved to the country from Minneapolis and Taylor is not having fun. Her dad still commutes over an hour and is never home. Her mom is trying to learn how to run the farm and is always busy. And Taylor has had one misadventure/embarrassing incident after another: she wore barn boots to the first day of school, showed up to school with chicken poop in her hair, wore a skirt that didn't fit into the school dresscode. Taylor has had enough with farm life even if she does like some

of the animals. She hatches a plot to get her parents off the farm and back in the city, but will she really want to leave?

This was a fun, light read. Taylor is a wonderful character and seems very true to life. I loved all the animal antics and embarrassing moments. And some of the kids at school remind me of ones I went to school with. I think young readers will laugh or cringe at Taylor's mishaps, but cheer with her during the triumphs.

Laurie Jernigan says

Great book

Great book for my 8 yr old daughter. She started reading and finished it with in a few hours. She couldn't put it down.

Alyssa says

Twelve-year-old Taylor McNamara has been uprooted from a city of 400,000 to a small town of 7,000 which means she has a lot to navigate. First there is making new friends, then figuring out what to do with these friends when there is no mall to hang out at, getting used to living in a home miles away from anyone else, and most of all taking care of farm animals. It is her parent's dream to raise animals on their farm, but to make it work financially her father commutes back to his job in the big city every day, putting strain on the family relationships. Taylor and her friends decide to start a club to raise awareness about the social isolation of rural kids and the hardships to children living on farms; yet in the process of her research, and meeting friends of all ages the rural lifestyle comes to suit Taylor just fine after all.

Barn Boot Blues is a coming of age story filled with the dynamics of family relationships as well as self-discovery and growing up. Appropriate for 10-14 year-olds, this book can be used to spark discussions about empathy for new students who come mid-year or for those who have experienced drastic changes in their living situations. A writing project related to this book can involve students comparing themselves and their experiences to that of Taylor's life thus far.

Ally Goodwin says

delightfully funny story

Mrs. Hassig says

I love the cover of this book and everyone knows that covers are really important to my choice of books! 12 year old Taylor used to live in the city, but her mother always wanted to live on a farm and raise chickens and goats and food for her family so now Taylor lives on a farm with all of the above creatures and some sheep as well! Is she ready for this monumental change? Read Barn Boot Blues and find out! If you have had

everything go wrong in middle school you will relate to Taylor and all of her misadventures!

JennLynn says

A fun story about a girl whose parents have moved to a farm. The transition is difficult for everybody. But Taylor has it hardest, going to school after a variety of traumatic experiences - being attacked by a duck, being pooped on by chickens, and smelling like the goat she had to wrestle into a truck. So she comes up with a plan to convince her parents to move back to the city. Will a newfound skill at spinning wool and the imminent arrival of baby lambs be enough to change her mind? A fun read and light-hearted look at the messier side of farming. B-

Ida says

I just re read this book and finished the book last night. Can you imagine HAVEING TO DELIVER BABY SHEEP

Sara says

Barn Boot Blues by Catherine Friend follows Taylor McNamera a girl whose parents pick up and move to a farm from the city. Taylor not only has to adjust to a new school and community but she also has a new burden of farm chores. Can she convince her parents that they need to move her away from the farm?

This is a great book that tweens will really love. Taylor has a personality and a basic set of problems that kids will be able to relate to. I sped through this book, unable to put it down.

Appropriateness: There is no adult content in this book. I would recommend it for readers 10-14

Colette says

Barn Boot Blues is a cute, easy Middle-Grade novel. It is relatable to young teens in the categories of starting at a new school and fitting in. The main character is just beginning the farm lifestyle, and Friend describes that scene wonderfully and accurately. Farm life isn't glamorous, but it has its perks, and that comes across in Friend's writing. Being that this is a Middle-Grade novel it would have been nice if it was longer; 141 pages doesn't give one enough time with the story to really connect with the characters. This fact brought down my overall enjoyment of the book.

Loren says

it was really good

Sonya says

Good book

Lisa says

Cute, predictable, nothing mind-blowing, but enjoyable. The writing style was fine. Possibly the best part was- no weird, stupid names!! I'm so sick of weird names in j fic. Anyway, I did think about Bonnie the whole time they were doing the lamb birth scenes. Appropriate for a younger audience of stronger readers. She is making poor choices, but ends up turning it around. Like I said- enjoyable, a nice sweet read about a girl learning to coop with what life's handed her.
