



Fall from Grace

Charles Benoit

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"I need you to steal something for me."

Grace always has a plan. There's her plan to get famous, her plan to get rich, and—above all—her plan to have fun.

Sawyer has plenty of plans, too. Plans made for him by his mother, his father, his girlfriend. Maybe they aren't his plans, but they are plans.

When Sawyer meets Grace, he wonders if he should come up with a few plans himself. Plans about what he actually wants to be, plans to speak his own mind for a change, plans to maybe help Grace with a little art theft.

Wait a minute—plans to what?

From Charles Benoit, acclaimed author of *you*, comes a witty and unsettling tale of two high school seniors planning the job of a lifetime.

Fall from Grace Details

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Author : Charles Benoit

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From Reader Review Fall from Grace for online ebook

Ryaan Basheer says

Fall from Grace is a novel about self discovery and a young man just trying to find out what he wants to do with his life. The main character, Sawyer, seems to have his whole life already planned out for him by his parents and his girlfriend regardless of what he actually wants. This changes when he meets Grace. Grace slowly pulls Sawyer into her plans of becoming famous and Sawyer goes along with it for a chance to do something that he's in control of for a change. The book has many memorable moments, Sawyer quickly compromises on his values and morals to become a willing accomplice to Grace's art theft. While the ending isn't a traditional happy one it make the reader truly reflect on the nature of the characters in the book and perhaps even the readers decisions in real life.

Kim Nelson says

Realistic language with real world references but the story was too short and the characters didn't feel real or overly developed. The ending was rushed.

Chris says

"You're not having fun?"

He was. A different kind of fun. Not Xbox fun or birthday fun or sex fun. More like hands up, first car in the roller coaster, busted-safety-bar fun. Only better than that.

Sawyer is a passenger in his life. His parents and girlfriend are the drivers, making nearly all of his decisions for him: what classes to take, where to go to college, what career to pursue, what to do for fun, and who to associate with, just for starters. He doesn't mind his passive role, since it's not a bad life.

Than he meets someone new, someone different. She's fun, easy to talk to, and spontaneous. And she challenges Sawyer to step outside his comfortable boundaries, to try things he would never have considered before. The more he does, the more he likes it, and the more he begins to question the life everyone else has planned for him.

Except Grace, his exciting new friend, has plans of her own. Plans that might not be what he thinks they are. Plans that might lead him further astray than he ever expected.

This is a casually suspenseful read that is easy to slip into, goes quickly, and has more surprises than readers might expect. Appealing, intriguing, and fun.

But there was another feeling, one he couldn't nail down, one that came late at night or when he went for a run or when it was slow at Mike's Ice Cream or like now, in precalc, Mr. Young up there speaking in tongues, *that* feeling--he wondered if it would be with him for the rest of his life.

It wasn't lost.

Lost was what you felt when you didn't know where to go or how to get there. All you needed were directions and you wouldn't be lost. He knew where he had to go and what he had to do to get there, the directions clearer than the ones that came with his phone. Get good grades, get into college, get more good grades, get a career, get money, get kids, get old, get on with it. So it wasn't lost.

Was it drifting, was that the feeling? That sense that he was simply floating along without a plan, wondering where he'd land when he washed up on shore? No, that wasn't it, he had had a perfect plan handed to him, and the plan told him exactly where he'd land. It couldn't have been drifting. Drifting actually sounded pretty good.

Besides, he was going too fast to be drifting.

Here's what he knew--he had a direction and he had a plan. They weren't his, but they seemed to be working. And he had a hot girlfriend and a car of his own and an okay job and a future as an insurance actuary. What was he complaining about? He had it good. He know all that.

But it didn't make the feeling go away.

Meredith says

Ever read a book where your reading about this great character, have really high hope that they get a happy ending and get to turn they're life around, and then realize that the whole story wasn't even about them... I just did.

Aeicha says

While I've tried to remain as spoiler free as possible in this review, and I don't go into any specifics, I have very strong thoughts and opinions, that when expressed may allude to certain book details

THREE WORDS: Flat. Unlikable Characters.

MY REVIEW: I love a good coming of age contemporary and based on the synopsis, Charles Benoit's Fall From Grace seemed like my kind of story. It was, but it wasn't. It has all the potential to be a great, witty and even provocative contemp., but unfortunately it failed to live up to my expectations.

Sawyer has plans. Well, at least his parents and girlfriend have plans for him, but they're plans nonetheless. Even if they are boring plans that Sawyer isn't sure of, he goes along with them. That is until he meets Grace. Unpredictable, mysterious Grace. Grace has her own plans. Plans to be rich and famous and to have fun. Especially to be famous. And when her plans- including art theft-involve Sawyer, he finds himself questioning everything and having real fun for the first time.

The plot sounds super exciting and fun, right? Too bad the execution fell flat. As I mentioned above, the idea has great potential but the story ended up disappointing me greatly.

Fall From Grace is a quick read, which may be a part of the problem. There just doesn't seem to be enough development: story development, character development, relationship development. The story itself could have gone in a lot of different directions and I'm not a fan of the direction it takes. I love the concept of two teens stealing art from a museum and concocting a wild, elaborate plan to do so. I mean that concept has intrigue, mystery and thrills...but, the way this idea played out in this book lacked any real thrills, unpredictability or thoughtfulness. Where are the OMG moments, the fist in the air triumphant moments, the thought-provoking material? Not in this book apparently.

Then there are the more emotional stories- Sawyer and Grace's stories (both individual stories and their intertwined story). When the book began I thought Sawyer would end up experiencing some powerful coming of age experience and come into his own as a wiser, more thoughtful individual. This never happened. Yeah, Sawyer experiences some interesting and out there things, but his character never grows or evolves. In the end, he's really the exact same person he was at the beginning and pretty much in the exact same situation: a young man who lets his parents, girlfriend and friends run his life. And it's this lack of character evolution, along with being quite boring and flat, that made Sawyer a hard main character to connect with or like.

Now, Grace I actually liked. In many ways, she's an enigma, a mystery that we never quite figure out. I really liked her spontaneity, humor and cleverness. The few witty moments in this book come courtesy of Grace. Honestly, I think Grace is the only reason I kept reading this book until the end; I needed to understand why she did the things she did and where she ended up. But, sadly, even Grace's character and all the things I really liked about her were kind of ruined in the end for me. *le sigh*

And Grace was the ONLY likable character in the whole book. NO LIE! Sawyer's parents, his girlfriend Zoe and Zoe's friends were awful. Boring. Annoying. Dull. Slappable. I would have felt sorry for Sawyer if he wasn't such a cowardly pushover. I found myself just hoping Grace would appear as I turned every page and wanting desperately to just skip ahead to her dialogue.

The ending. I think readers are either going to love or hate the ending. I hate it. Oddly enough, I think the author has crafted a very realistic ending, and I'm usually a big fan of realistic endings, but in this case I wanted my happy ending. I wanted the profound, powerful life lesson or revelation. It never came. *le BIG sigh*

MY FINAL THOUGHTS: Fall From Grace has a potentially awesome concept, but a disappointing execution. Even one likable character could not make this an enjoyable read for me.

Kadbury says

Toss Up between 3.5 and 4 stars.

I'm still reeling from the ending of this book.

When I read the blurb for the first time I thought that it would be a book about art theft (like Heist Society)

but I was wrong. This book is about Sawyer and his life .Even though I was a little disappointed that this book wasn't a novel in which the characters were criminals ,I really liked this book.

This book basically deals with Sawyer and his issues.Sawyer is a bit of a pushover and his parents have basically planned out his entire life for him.His girlfriend has also planned out their entire future and she's pretty much in control of his personal life.

Here's what he knew -he had a direction and he had a plan.They weren't his, but they seemed to be working.And he had a hot girlfriend and a car of his own and a future as an insurance actuary.What was he complaining about?He had it good.

He knew all that.

But it didn't make that feeling go away.

-20% of E-ARC.Fall From Grace (This is from the uncorrected e-proof it can be changed)

I could really relate to Sawyer.I've met so many people who are in the same boat as him .The sad part is that Sawyer knows that his parents are in control while the people that I know are in denial.I didn't like the fact that Sawyer wasn't digging his heels in and making a stand but with the parents the guy had,I couldn't really blame him.There were times when I wanted to spank him and tell him to just STAND UP FOR HIMSELF but there were also times when I was sympathizing with him.The guy doesn't have a clue what he wants for himself and I can relate to that .

Grace is one character that I have mixed feelings about too.I liked her more than Sawyer of course but I can't say I connected with her as much (It could be because this book is told from Sawyer's perspective) .One thing I really liked about her was the fact that she did what she wanted to do and didn't have any regrets.I loved her attitude towards life and even though sometimes I thought she was pretty crazy ,I really admired her spirit.

One thing I'm not quite sure about is the writing style.I had a hard time warming upto it ,even when I was engrossed in the story.

There were times when I was really frustrated with the side characters (I think the author wanted us to be) but the end really surprised me.All I can say is that this book is painfully realistic and I really liked that about it!

My Rating :
3.5/5

Was very close to giving this one 4 stars

NerdyJediGymnast says

BEWARE! Lots of spoilers!

2.5 stars.

I CANT RIGHT NOW! ARE YOU KDDING ME?!?!

Ok, ok I need to breathe.....

So, I did like this book. It was good until the ending....WHHHYYYY? Is that ALL I get? I need closure! What happened to Sawyer after college? SOMEONE TELL ME!

The characters were awful. Awful meaning I hated them all except Grace. The parents too controling, Zoe is a HORRID girlfriend, and Sawyer was just a puppet to me...didnt take control of his life. I felt like he was a little crazy with the art theft stuff, but I thought he was making progress on doing what HE wanted and not his parents, until the end.....

I want to know more about Grace. I feel like there wasnt enough about her, even in the court case part.

But the REAL problem is the end.

I wanted Sawyer to dump Zoe (I HATED HER), to be with Grace, to TAKE CONTROL! But he didn't and I hate that.

Overall, I LIKED it, but the ending ruined the whole book for me
#FallFromGrace #CharlesBenoit #2.5Stars

Alison (AlisonCanRead) says

Fall From Grace goes into the category of books that I appreciate more than I like. The themes of self-discovery and rebellion from expectations are what stand out most from this novel - more than the plot itself. The characters are intriguing but achieve the real feat of all being unlikable. Usually we have a hero, some sidekicks, and some villains. But I don't even like the good guys. But the book comes very close to redeeming itself at the end.

Sawyer is a wuss. He lets his parents and his girlfriend make all his decisions, because he doesn't have the guts to stand up to them. They're not even nice people. They push, they cajole, they manipulate - whatever it takes to get Sawyer to go to the college of their choice, take the classes of their choice, do the activities of their choice. I'm surprised his mother doesn't set out Sawyer's clothes every morning. Perhaps she does and it's not mentioned in the book. I quickly disliked his cardboard passivity. It felt overdone. Are there really 18 year old guys out there completely lacking a backbone? Not just someone who likes to follow rules and obey authority, but who is totally incapable of standing up for himself? There probably are, but I don't like reading

about them.

Amazingly, it's taken Sawyer 18 years to figure out that not having any free will is a bad thing. It all starts to change when he meets Grace. She wants to be famous and has decided that the best way to do it is art heist. This makes little sense, but she does have a relatively well thought out explanation for how this will bring her fame (or infamy). She ropes Sawyer into being her sidekick the same way everyone else does - cajoling and manipulation. Only she catches flies with honey rather than the vinegar his parents and girlfriend spew at him.

I enjoyed seeing Sawyer's little rebellions, as stupid as they were. He desperately needed to distance himself from his family and I liked seeing him grow into himself. He came to life around Grace and that was heartening. I also liked how Grace was such an enigmatic character. Is she really a heartless manipulator that I hinted to above or a girl who truly enjoys being with Sawyer and brings him into her game, because she likes him? I can't say for sure which viewpoint of Grace is true. A highlight of this book is how it makes you think and question all your initial opinions of the plot and the characters. Maybe your initial impressions are correct, but maybe there's more going on beneath the surface than you initially noticed.

The ending to Fall From Grace is shocking. It made the book. I will probably (happily) forget this story quickly, but the ending will stick with me for years. It's a choice few authors dare to make and Mr. Benoit did it perfectly.

My recommendation for Fall From Grace is odd. I didn't like this book very much. It was well written and clearly leans toward the literary bent, but the plot wasn't strong enough to draw me in and I hated the characters. However, the ending was fabulous. I'd recommend you read this book just to get to the ending. An odd juxtaposition: this is probably my least favorite book of 2012 thus far, but it has one of the best endings I've read in years. Check it out.

Margaux says

I read this book because I'm in my school's Library Club, plus the author is coming to our school to talk to all the 10th graders. We voted to read either Fall From Grace or his first YA book, YOU. I honestly chose YOU, but I am glad I was overruled. This was a really great book!

The main character, Sawyer, is a kid who has everything set out ahead of them. Sure, his plans for the future are really the plans of his parents and girlfriend, but he DOES have plans. Just not plans he has made for himself. I mean, he doesn't even know what an insurance actuary IS, much less does he want to go to school to be one. So anyways, he is at the Model UN, when he meets Grace. He helps her "borrow" a treaty from his country, and that's where it hits off for them. She later tells him that she wants to be famous, and that is where the whole book really gets interesting.

This was like a book I read a year ago. I forgot the name, but I remember the whole town was split up into the two sides. The North Side and the South Side. There were separate schools and everything. Anyways, Sawyer's town is like the town from this other book. The town is separated into the West Side and the East Side, there are different schools, and the different sides have different stereotypes. The East Side, where Sawyer lives and attends school, are the "preppies," for a lack of a better word, and sort of moshed in with the smart stuff. They have money, connections, the good grades, all that stuff. The West Side, where Grace lives and attends school, is known to be less educated than the students at East. The "Westies," as nicknamed

by the East kids, are despised.

****SPOILER ALERT**** The part I didn't like was the ending. The chapter before the ending chapter, which is pretty much the next year, had Grace and Sawyer getting caught committing art theft. They give Sawyer a bargain at the ending of that chapter. Since Grace wasn't talking about anything, if Sawyer told them everything they knew about Grace, he would let him go, watch him for a few months, and if he didn't do anything against the law, they would take the crime off his record. Then, in the next chapter, the author made it clear that Sawyer had ratted on Grace. But then again, Grace gets her own reality TV show when she gets out of the slammer, so Grace got what she wanted.

I didn't necessarily like the ending, but that doesn't mean others wouldn't like it. I would recommend it to people, but I would warn them about the bad ending.

Kenya Reviews Stuff (ReviewsMayVary) says

This was the first book I read by CB, as part of Rochester Teen Book Festival 2015 Challenge. I was pleasantly surprised. I remember thinking it was clever.

Hannah says

Fall from Grace sounded like my kind of book. I'm a big fan of books about a main character figuring out what he wants to do, as opposed to what others expect him to do. Grace sounded like a very fun character, so I was definitely looking forward to reading about Sawyer and Grace together. And then there's the art-theft/compromising-your-values aspect, another storyline I usually enjoy - reminded me a little of Pretty Crooked, which I thought was very cute and fun. But sadly, Fall from Grace ended up disappointing me.

Sawyer was an okay character. I didn't really have a problem with him, but I didn't like him either, and I found it a little hard to feel for him. I liked reading about him in the family-storyline, liked discovering alongside him what he'd like to do. His relationship with his parents was pretty well-done, and I found the conflicts between them interesting to read about. But in a few other situations, like in the scenes between him and his girlfriend, I did not understand him at all. It was kind of hard for me to get into Sawyer's head - I wanted to understand his emotions and his decisions, but I couldn't.

I was expecting Grace to be a great character, powerful and fun to read about. But she didn't end up being as great as I'd hoped - she was just lacking something, in my opinion. Parts of her personality didn't make sense to me - she's an outsider at her school, and she seems mainly okay with that, but her goal is to become famous. Those two things don't really work together, in my opinion. I think the reader never gets to really know her - I kept thinking that some big secret would be revealed soon, that Grace has some issues we're about to find out about, but then... nothing. I wanted to know more about her family background, why she does what she does, but we never really got to understand her.

Maybe my main problem with Fall from Grace is the narrative. Fall from Grace has a third-person narrator, and we spend most of the time outside of Sawyer's head. It's a personal preference, but I generally like books better when we're closer to the main character. The way it is, I felt somewhat removed from the story - I never really connected with any of the characters, and I just felt kind of distant.

One aspect I did like is the art theft storyline. I enjoyed reading about the planning and how they wanted to pull off breaking into the museum. That part was fun and definitely unique.

But then... the ending. That ending frustrated me to no end. If it was all supposed to end up like this, what was the point of the story? And what was that stuff about Grace's motivations? I didn't get it all.

I didn't connect with the story or the characters, so Fall from Grace didn't really work for me. But Fall from Grace isn't a bad book, and whether or not you can connect with the characters is different for every reader, so I don't discourage you from reading Fall from Grace - it just wasn't my kind of book.

Reviewed at <http://www.paperbacktreasures.blogspot.com/2013/07/fall-from-grace-by-charles-benoit.html>

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

3.5 stars

Funny thing about this book. When I first picked it up a couple months ago I put it back down, because I just couldn't get into it. Now that I've gotten into a bit of a contemp kick I picked it back up again and surprisingly ended up enjoying it. For me this was a book that had a bit of a rough start, but it's one that progresses beautifully not just with the story line, but with the characters as well as it goes on. For me, this a book that just gets its. It's a story about teens who are on the verge of graduating from high school, who are about to embark on their own journeys away from home for the first time and really finding themselves in the real world. It's also about something more.... This is a book that tells the story of two teens, one who just wants attention, and will do something drastic to get it. The other just wants his freedom to decide what he does with his own life and not have his parent's controlling every single aspect of it.

Sawyer, one of our main characters hails from a great family home life, has a hot popular girl friend, a fabulous job, and controlling parent's who are set on their son going to the same prestigious college they went to. The thing about Sawyer is he's tired of all that. He's done being the guy who idles by in life, and does what everyone excepts of him. He wants control and when the mysterious girl Grace enters his life, he gets a little bit more than he bargained for. Grace and Sawyer for me are two characters I could relate to on same level. I got how they were feeling and their need to want something more from their lives.

Grace is a character who grabs life by the horns and just does it. She doesn't care what other people think. She tasks risks, she plans and she's a girl that doesn't always care/thinks about the consequences of her actions, which ends up hurting a few people in the end. She's also someone who teaches Sawyer to think outside the box. With Zoe, the hot girl friend of Sawyer's on the other hand left a lot to be desired. At first I felt her character was flat and lacked personality, but as the story went on, I got why Charles wrote her the way he did, which was a direct reflection into Sawyer's life at the time and getting to see how he viewed their relationship and everything in his life at the that time.

Above all, the thing I enjoyed most about this book was the friendship that Sawyer and Grace had. It was not a romantic relationship, which was a huge breath of fresh air for me. Don't get me wrong, I love my romantic relationships, but not every book needs to have a love interest. I adored the friendship part of this book. From their late night "outings", outrageous conversations and everything in between, Grace and Sawyer have something that's both strong and unique, and different. It's like one big secret we got to get a little glimpse into. Charles Benoit has created a story that will make you think a little differently, open your eyes up a little

more, and for those of us who already did our time in high school, it will make us look back on those years and relate to the way these characters are feeling.

If you're looking for a good contemp with a bit of mystery, friendship, romance and a heist involved, I'd recommend picking this one up.

Karen says

Whew! Another good story by Benoit. You really never know what to expect with his writing. Sawyer meets Grace at a school function and she gets him to do things for her. Stealing a paper, then assisting her with stealing a painting. What will happen? Will his girlfriend Zoe find out? What about his parents?

Anna says

This was a Giveaway that I won a few years back. The lead character was boring, placid and non-participatory in his own life. When he finally decides to take a risk, he remains a pathetic loser and completely betrays someone he considers a good friend. Though the ending had an interesting twist, it was not good enough to make me ever recommend this book.

Kaitlyn rodriguez says

a uniquely written story. it leaves you wanting so much more.
There is so much room for your own imagination to shape the ending.
