



Wrong Kind of Girl

Francine Pascal (Creator), Kate William

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Jessica's at it again!

Jessica Wakefield has sworn never to allow Annie Whitman onto the Sweet Valley High cheering squad. Annie may have the beauty, talent, and spirit to be a cheerleader, but she also has the worst reputation in school. She goes out with a different boy every night, and all the kids call her "Easy Annie" behind her back. Jessica's pulling every devilish trick to keep Annie from ruining the cheerleaders' image.

Only Elizabeth, Jessica's twin, knows what Annie's really like. But can she change her sister's mind before Jessica shatters Annie's dreams?

Wrong Kind of Girl Details

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From Reader Review Wrong Kind of Girl for online ebook

Sarah Crawford says

What is interesting is that this book came out in 1984 but it deals with something that is still in the news frequently and that is the subject of bullying.

Annie Whitman wants to be a cheerleader but she has a bad reputation at school for going out with lots of different boys. She's called 'Easy Annie' by some of the students. Jessica, co-captain of the cheerleading team, does not want her on the team.

Annie is beautiful but has a troubled background. She did some modeling work.

A small secondary story is about Steven and his girlfriend Tricia Martin whose father had hit a woman with his car.

What makes matters worse for Jessica is that Annie is a natural-born cheerleader, possibly the best one in the school. Jessica is out to stop her from making the team at all costs. What Jessica doesn't realize is that bullying can have very severe consequences for the person being bullied. She finds out the hard way and it becomes a question of whether Jessica can get over her prejudices against Annie.

Its a good and very timely story.

Jen says

Ahh, poor Annie. Poor Easy Annie...

This story revolves around the cheerleading tryouts. Jessica, as Co-Captain, has made it her bitchy mission in life to ensure that sophomore Annie Whitman, who is known around school by everyone but herself (how could you not know your reputation is that bad?!) as Easy Annie, does NOT make the cheerleading squad.

Apparently, Jessica feels that Annie's reputation as a girl who "gets around" (because you know this is Sweet Valley and they can't use the word sex!) would promote a bad image for herself and her fellow cheerleaders if she makes the squad.

Of course, Annie is completely oblivious to the fact that Jessica hates her guts, and even more oblivious to her terrible reputation. She seems to think it's normal to have a date with a different guy every night, sometimes two in one night! They never completely spell it out here, because like I said, sex is a taboo word in the world of Sweet Valley High, but to me it is clear that she does get around, and is not just a big tease like Jessica.

What makes it worse is that of course, Annie is a natural to be a cheerleader. Of course. And she's actually very sweet and trying to change her ways. Liz befriends her and tutors her in math so she can make good enough grades to be on the squad.

As usual, Jess gets her way and won't allow Annie on the squad, even though she is clearly the best choice.

What happens next? In a dark turn, Annie gets so depressed that she tries to kill herself by taking a bottle of pills. Jessica actually feels true remorse and holds a vigil at Annie's bedside, and decides to let her join the squad, if she would just wake up!

Everything turns out A-OK in the end, of course. We are in Sweet Valley after all!

Keli Wright says

another book that I was worried to read, cause it says **WRONG KIND OF GIRL**

now I just think she has the wrong kind of hairstyle

Tara Calaby says

It's time for cheerleading try-outs at Sweet Valley High. Funny, it seems like only yesterday that they were *last* holding trials. Book four, to be precise. Apparently they go through a lot. If you remember Lila being a cheerleader in book four, scratch that from your memory because since then, she and Cara have been thrown off the team for nefarious behaviour. By Lila? Who'd have thought.

Lila's not interested in getting back on the team, but Cara is, and Jess is determined that she'll be picked. The second girl on Jess's list is Sandra Bacon, who has the tastiest surname in all of Sweet Valley. Not on the list *in the slightest*? Annie Whitman.

Everyone's heard of Annie Whitman. Easy Annie, as they call her. She has a new boyfriend every week, and the talk is that she does a lot more than give them all a quick peck on the cheek to say goodnight. Annie's only a sophomore, but she's well known to the juniors for her escapades, and Jess is absolutely, definitely, 137% *not* going to let the cheerleaders' reputation be sullied by letting her type onto the team.

The trouble is, Annie's good. Really good. But that's not going to stop Jessica from getting her way.

(view spoiler)

(At this point, it's good to remember that the original audience for these books was a bunch of impressionable 10-to-12-year-olds.)

The way that the Sweet Valley novels present female sexuality is a really fascinating thing. Annie is presented as thoroughly scandalous for her dating behaviour, but Jessica is always represented as a perfectly normal and healthy teen. In the book, we hear about Annie with five boys. By this point of the series, Jess has been interested in nine, and we know that she was a big fan of Danny Stauffer's reclining car seats. There's always the hint that Jess is into more than just the chaste kind of kissing that Liz and Todd get up to—and she's into it with a good number of boys.

I feel we're supposed to think that Annie really *is* having sex with the boys she dates and that's the big difference. And, when you examine the glimpses we have of Annie's home life—Annie's drunken, irresponsible mother and her lecherous boyfriend—there's no wonder that Annie might be seeking positive

attention in the only way she's been shown it. She still has to be redeemed, though, because this is Sweet Valley, and sweet girls don't have sex, and certainly don't enjoy it.

You really have to wonder what Ricky Capaldo thinks about the new, chaste Annie. As a 16-year-old boy full of hormones, it must be a little sucky hooking up with the girl with the reputation, just as she turns over a new leaf.

Anyway, this is classic Sweet Valley fare. Not one of my favourites, though, due to the representation of female sexuality and the awful, awful message it gives to teenage and preteen girls.

(view spoiler)

[re-read: previously read around four times]

star_fire13 says

I definitely have never read this one before. It was pretty good, but nothing great. I feel like the only reason why Jessica has it out for Annie is because Annie is so similar to Jessica. Subconsciously, Jessica probably feels threatened by Annie. Story of my life right now haha

Apparently Annie had no idea what people were saying behind her back, which I find hard to believe. There's gotta be jerks who call her "Easy Annie" to her face. I mean, there would be in a normal high school.

It kind of makes me sad that Annie's been going out with all these popular guys, mostly jerks who just want to get laid, when all she wants is a meaningful relationship. She's just going about life the wrong way.

Jessica gets off way too easily. She essentially bullies Annie (because yes, exclusion is now a form of bullying) and causes her to commit suicide. All Jessica has to do is sob and say that Annie is now on the cheerleading squad for everything to be put right again. Maybe I'm just petty, but if I were Annie, I would not be letting Jessica go so easily. Like jfc, what if Annie had actually died? This isn't the first time Jessica has potentially ruined someone's life, and we're only 10 books in! Yes, it always works out in the end, but just once I'd like to see it come crashing down around her and for shit to get real and her have to face some real consequences.

There was no real subplot in this one. Elizabeth works to help Annie get her grades up and comes to her own conclusions about Annie and her life. Omg Johnny, Annie's mother's boyfriend, was the creepiest guy ever. I would've loved to have seen more of him and Annie's homelife. You totes know that he creeps into her room at night and touches her.

Susan Bazzett-Griffith says

Probably one of the worst (best!) SVH books, this one is about how Jessica torments the beautiful sophomore Annie Whitman by slut shaming her and blackballing her from the cheerleading squad. Reading it as an adult made me realize how very out of touch with actual teenagers Pascal's ghostwriters actually were in the

1980s, as I'm pretty certain Annie's character is vilified for just dating, not even sleeping with lots of dudes. Beyond that, it's very much a mean girl storyline gone bad. Also, the splits is mega hard and cheerleaders used to wear sweaters, even in California. Crazy!

anolinde says

Okay, setting aside the problems with calling a character "Easy Annie," can we get some clarity on what "easy" actually means? Because the extent of Annie's scandalous behavior seems to be going on lots of dates with guys and making out with them at Miller's Point. Are we supposed to be inferring that she's having sex with all of them? Except it's never suggested that she does, at least not based on Elizabeth's private interactions with her.

So if "easy" means going on lots of dates with guys and making out with them, you know who else is "easy"? JESSICA. Jessica is like the EASIEST person in the world by this definition. So it's pretty amazing that she has the gall to think Annie's going to be the one to ruin the cheerleaders' reputations. But, of course, she's Jessica, so there's no telling how low the bar will go.

And then after Annie (view spoiler)

Also, why couldn't Elizabeth tell Todd or Enid that Jessica was conspiring against Annie? I can only assume it would have interfered with the plot, because otherwise there's no reason for her to keep it a secret.

Finally, shoutout to Ned and Alice Wakefield for literally the WORST parenting move:

"While Suzanne Devlin is here with us, one of you will go to New York for the same two weeks," said Mrs. Wakefield...

"One of us?" Elizabeth asked.

"But which one?" Jessica asked.

"We're not going to decide that right now," Alice Wakefield said. "But either way, it should be fun. One of you will get to show Suzanne Devlin around Sweet Valley, and the other will see New York."

Like COME ON you might as well just tell Jessica that she'll be going to New York, because you know if they decide to send Elizabeth (because she's actually the responsible one) Jessica's going to throw a fit until Elizabeth gives in and lets her go instead.

I mean, really. Dangling a trip to New York for one over two teenage girls' heads? What a dick move, Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield. Dick move.

Andrea says

Simply camp-tastic! Damn those scheming, blonde cheerleaders and their no good ways! I hope you wreck that Fiat Spider of yours, Jessica Wakefield!

I read this in the 5th grade (about 100 years ago), and learned that it is in fact possible to be both easy and brunette and still be a cheerleader. Ah, values.

Gloria says

"wrong kind of girl" means that girl was a whore

Maria Elmvang says

This book starts off with a very... interesting quote:

"As she looked over the list of girls who had signed up to try out for the cheerleading squad, Jessica Wakefield purred like a satisfied cat."

Really? A satisfied cat? Am I the only one who thinks this is a weird simile? In my head "purring" and "satisfied cat" has definite sexual connotations. Not so to Ms. William I assume.

Anyway, the premise of the book is that the Sweet Valley High cheerleading squad needs two new members, and of course 75 people signed up to try out for those measly two spots. Not living in the US and never having attended a school that had a cheerleading squad, you'll have to enlighten me - is this realistic? Is being a cheerleader the end-all and be-all as it's made out to be here?

Or as Jessica herself muses:

"The cheerleaders at Sweet Valley High were the cream of the crop - the prettiest, most sought-after girls not only in the school but in the entire town of Sweet Valley."

Tough luck Liz, you're obviously not sought after.

As Jessica reads through the list she is offended that Annie Whitman - or 'Easy Annie' as she's called - DARES to put down her name. Obviously, she's the wrong kind of girl, and Jessica won't have her on the team at all! And why not? Well, allegedly because she'll give the squad a bad reputation (although how Annie's behaviour is worse than Jess' I'm not quite sure... they both 'play the field', no mention of sex at all, other than the connotations of 'easy'), but really I just think Jessica is on a power trip as usual.

Liz tries to talk sense to Jessica, reasoning that perhaps Annie is turning a new leaf. Liz has been tutoring her in math, and realizes that Annie is terribly lonely. Getting into the squad could be the best thing that ever happened to her. Of course Jessica will have nothing of it. Once she's made up her mind, her mind is MADE UP!

Elizabeth goes to Annie's place for another tutoring session. This is the first time she's actually been to Annie's house - until then all the tutoring has been done at school. While there she's told that Annie's parents were only 16 and 17 when they had her. They got married, but it didn't last long, and now Annie's mother has a 'special friend', Johnny. Annie is proud of her mother for having and keeping her, but wishes she had more time for her. Liz muses that though her mother is busy, she always has time for her and Jess. It also becomes apparent that Annie has no idea about the reputation she has. She's not consciously being a flirt, she just sees the guys as good friends, and enjoys the fact that while she doesn't have many close friends, at least she's popular with the boys. Poor, deluded Annie.

Just before Liz leaves, Annie's mother and Johnny arrive home. Johnny could NOT be more of a sleazebag. He's totally creepy, hitting on Liz in front of everybody. Ew! I felt unclean just *reading* about him.

Oh, and Liz RIDES THE BUS home!!! Apparently in this book it's no big deal. When she comes home she sees Jessica drilling Cara through the cheers, as Jessica really wants Cara to be one of the two people to become cheerleaders. I just think it's in order to let us see her pining for Steve, who at this time is actually going out with TRICIA and not just some girl who Looks Just Like Her(TM).

The first of three try-outs for the cheerleading squad take place, and Annie astounds everybody by being extremely talented and really perfect for the spot. She's the only person other than Maria who's able to do back-flips, which impresses everybody... everybody, that is, except for Jessica. Jessica basically takes it as a personal insult that Annie is so good. Even more so when there's a dance contest at the Beach Disco after finals, and it ends in a DRAW between Jessica and Annie! How DARE she show her up like that? Annie, on the other hand, just thinks that her chances of getting into the squad increased, now that Jessica saw how well she moved. She really is terribly naive.

I have to say, I love their cheer though *giggles* I guess Kate does have a sense of humour after all!

"We who are about to win, salute you. Go Gladiators!"

Between talking to Annie and trying to talk sense to Jessica, Elizabeth gets more and more frustrated about being put in the middle. She needs to talk it out, but will burden neither Enid nor Todd with 'problems nobody can solve'. I'm sorry, isn't that what best friends and boyfriends are for? To take half the burden so you won't have to carry it alone, even if there's nothing to be done? Her main reasons for not doing so, is that she doesn't want to put Jessica in a bad light, which I can kinda understand I guess, but it results in Todd thinking she's no longer in love with him (he really is secure, isn't he?!), and that she's so distracted because of another guy! They get into a fight about it, which Todd's mother overhears. I don't know about you, but that would really embarrass me (I tend to try to limit my fights to only me and the person I'm fighting with being around), but Todd just replies "Mom, we're having a discussion", and sends her out of the room!

It really means the world to Annie to get into the squad, but Jessica is equally determined that no matter how talented the girl is, Annie is just wrong for the team! Jessica really is terribly mean, getting everybody to vote for Cara as one of the people getting in (truth be told, Cara deserves to get in), but then voting against Annie as the other person, despite the alternative - Sandra - falling flat on her face during try-outs, just because of who Annie is, and bullying the other members of the squad into voting against her too, by giving them an ultimatum - that if they pick Annie, they'll need to hold new try-outs, because then she, Jessica, is leaving!

Right about here I'd be thinking, "Hmmm... is Jessica really that important for the team? She can't even do

back-flips, like Annie!"

After the final try-out, Liz is at home, waiting for Jess to come home and tell her who got in. Jess just smiles slyly, but refuses to tell Liz anything. Really Liz, when Jess smiles like that, do you even doubt that she got her way as usual? Obviously, you're terribly naive too! It seemed totally contrived that so big a deal was made of Liz trying to get Jess to tell her, when it ought to be blatantly obvious to anybody who knows Jess, exactly what happened.

The chore of telling Annie that she didn't make it, is given to Ricky, the manager of the cheerleading squad, who just happens to be falling head over heels in love with Annie. She runs away from him after he tells her, and he chases her, wanting to give her any support she might need. Annie is devastated. She was so certain she'd get in, and knew she was the best person there, which the possible exception of Cara (even in her grief she's still fair! Oh, what a girl!). She pressures Ricky to tell her who voted against her, and why, and when he finally does (the poor guy! Imagine having to tell somebody you're in love with, that people think she's easy!), she cries out from the shock, and runs away.

Ricky gets really worried when Annie doesn't turn up for school the next couple of days, and finally skips the last lessons of a day to go to her place and check whether she's okay. The door is locked, but he intuitively knows that something is wrong, and breaks down the door, only to find her unconscious on the bathroom floor, with an empty bottle of pills in her hand. He rushes her to the hospital and calls Elizabeth (Elizabeth? Why HER?!) to tell her what happened. Elizabeth knows that this is Jessica's fault and is pissed. She drags Jessica along to the hospital, saying that even though Annie might not want her there, SHE does. Wow, never knew that Liz had a spine after all! What a time to show it.

At the hospital Ricky breaks down and cries over all the "cruel and heartless people" who caused Annie to do this. Jessica knows he's talking about her, and realizes that she deserves every word. For once Jessica actually gets to feel the consequences of her actions... if only she'd learn from them! Annie's mother arrives, crying over her 'kitten', and how this is all her fault, for not spending more time with Annie. How could she not even know that her daughter was so out of it? She breaks up with Creepy Johnny in order to spend more time with Annie. YAY for getting rid of Creepy Johnny, but I can't help but wonder what good he did in the first place. Introduce a character just for 1 page? Ah well.

The doctor comes out and tells them that Annie could be fine, but it is as if she has no will to live! Oh, the melodrama! Jessica approaches the doctor and tells him that it's all her fault, but that if it'll help Annie live, she can be on the cheerleading squad after all! Between the two of them, she and Ricky spend the entire night talking to Annie, explaining all that she has to live for, and finally Annie wakes up! Her first word being "Jessica". That would really bum me out if I were Ricky or her mother, but never mind.

After this near-death experience, Annie realizes that there's more to life than cheerleading, but that doesn't stop her from happily accepting the position as the 8th member of the squad and being touched to tears when the rest of the squad perform a cheer right outside her window: "Get well, Annie!"

No real B plot in this one, except the usual build up to book 11 - Suzanna coming to SV and one of the twins get to go to NY instead. Read the review to see what happens!

Nicole Dunton says

Annie Whitman has finally achieved her goals of getting off academic probation. All her work has finally paid off. Now she can finally try out to be a cheerleader. Which is something she wants to do more than anything. But can she do it with all of the rumors surrounding her? Can she prove she's a fully talented cheerleader or will she be shunned just because people believe things about her that aren't true?

I haven't come across a sweeter character in this series than Annie. I mean there are very close characters, but she's my favorite of them all. At least the ones I can remember. I seriously adore her and all the struggles she went through just to try to aim for her dreams. It's sad that her sweet nature was perversely made into something it wasn't.

As much as I loved this book and could probably call it one of my favorites in the series, I do have some faults in it. For one, I feel some things that were kind of brushed over could have been explained a little better. For two, I feel like we should have been given a bit more of a look into Annie's life and thoughts.

All in all, I do recommend this book. As always, I recommend the series as well. It's amazing and thought-provoking. It's also sad and humbling. This book won't be for everybody, but I'm sure that there are people out there who will enjoy this book as much as I did.

kylajaclyn says

Annie, are you OK?
So, Annie are you OK?
Are you OK, Annie?
You've been hit by, you've been struck by a smooth criminal!

If you scratch through the cover of this book, 'Wrong Kind of Girl', you find that the actual title is 'Jessica Wakefield is Jesus Christ.'

Let's break this shit down:

Annie wants to be a cheerleader more than anything in the world.

There are rumors that Annie is an easy girl - just because she has boyfriends, mind you, not because she's actually had sex.

Annie isn't aware of these rumors at all.

Jessica claims that Annie would taint the whole squad if she were made cheerleader - truthfully, she's just competition for Jess. Because of that fact, Annie must die. And, in fact, she almost does.

When Annie doesn't make final cut of the squad because Jessica rigs the vote, Annie swallows a bottle of pills in an attempt to kill herself.

Jessica is pompous enough to assume that this attempt is all HER fault and promptly starts stealing sympathy away from Annie by constant self-flagellation. Jess knows that mostly Liz will talk her down and assure her how simply WONDERFUL she is and, of course, she does.

Elizabeth is sickeningly loyal to Jessica. And it truly is sick. She brought on Annie's suicide as much as Jessica did, for Liz ALWAYS knows of her sister's schemes but never breathes a word to anyone. It took a boy who liked Annie to tell her the truth about the rumors. Also par for the course, Liz doesn't get angry at Jessica at all and the trouble she has caused.

I still can't believe I actually liked either of these girls in my youth. They make me want to vomit violently and repeatedly. Shame on you, Francine Pascal.

hannaH says

LOL

Stephanie says

This is pretty much the same plot as Power Play with some of the details changed. Oh and the ending is a lot more drama-filled.

A lot of times it's difficult to rate these books because on a literary level most of them would probably be 1-2 stars but if you read them like you'd watch a soap opera then they become more enjoyable. And I rate books based on how much I like them (as opposed to how "good" they are - while of course that can overlap there is a difference), so...

Also one thing that I've noticed that was especially prevalent here is the issue of sex (or the lack thereof) in Sweet Valley. Annie is called Easy Annie by her classmates, and she's known to go out with multiple guys in the same week, sometimes even the same night, but I'm not sure if we're supposed to think she's actually sleeping with all these guys or if she's only going on dates. I've noticed that comes up in other books too (...including some I haven't reread yet...) where it's implied that some of the characters are having sex but it's never outright stated. And it isn't even a fade to black kind of thing.

In general this is more of a SVH thing in general and not completely related to this book but I'm just mentioning it here because this is one of the more obvious examples of that.

(I've also noticed the same thing about drinking - like there's pretty much a party every other weekend yet the only time alcohol is mentioned is if a character has a bad reputation. Or at least that's how things have been so far)

Jess says

Moral of the story: cheerleading cures everything. Even crippling depression.
