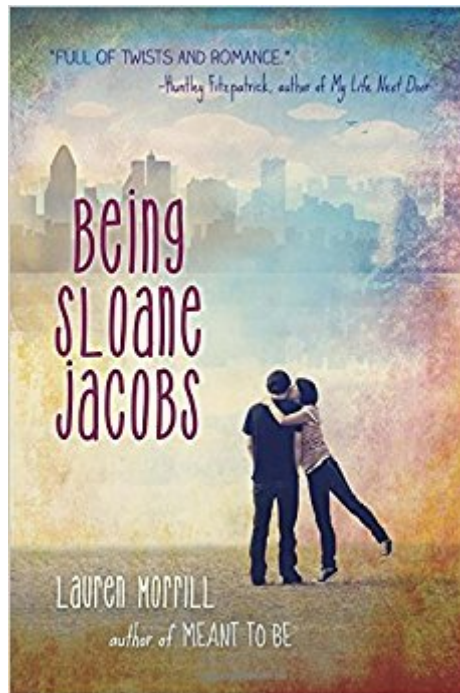




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Being Sloane Jacobs



Synopsis

Switching places with someone else has never been more fun than in this novel about following your dreams— and finding your heart from the author of *Meant to Be*— that Huntley Fitzpatrick, author of *My Life Next Door*, calls it “unforgettable” and “full of twists and romance.” Meet Sloane Emily Jacobs: a seriously stressed-out figure skater who choked during junior nationals. Now meet Sloane Devon Jacobs, a spunky ice hockey player who’s been suspended from her team for too many aggressive hip checks. The two girls are on their way to skating camps in Montreal when a luggage mix-up causes them to meet. Pretty soon, the Sloanes realize that this is the opportunity they’ve been waiting for: the chance to escape their lives and switch places for the summer. But it didn’t occur to Sloane E. that she might meet a hockey hottie; and Sloane D. never expected to run into a familiar (and very good-looking) face from home. It’s not long before the Sloanes discover that convincing people you’re someone else might be more difficult than being yourself. “A twist on the identity-swap that’s both cozily familiar and fresh . . . sweetly uplifting.”—*Publishers Weekly* “Enjoyable.”—*Kirkus Reviews* “Sweet and satisfying.”—*Booklist* “Super cute, super hilarious and a totally fun read. I’m a big fan of the ‘two people switch places and fool everyone around them’ plot line (see: *The Parent Trap*), and *Being Sloane Jacobs* pulled it off awesomely.”—*HelloGiggles.com*

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Experiences

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up – Sloane Emily Jacobs is an Olympics-bound figure skater, but a fall shakes her self-confidence and the faith her wealthy, political parents have in her. The teen heads to an elite training camp to try to redeem herself and get away from her father-whom she recently discovered is having an affair. Sloane Devon Jacobs is a hockey player whose athletic career is put in jeopardy when her anger issues start to affect her performance on the ice. The girl's mother has recently been admitted to a rehab facility and her father isn't thriving at the single-dad thing. Her hockey coach orders her to attend a hockey camp to work through her temper problems. On their way to their different destinations, the two Sloane Jacobs meet because of a luggage mix-up at a Montreal hotel. Frustrated and disgruntled with their respective sports, they decide to switch places and try out each other's life. As with most "switching places" stories, the protagonists learn a lot about themselves as they live in someone else's skates. Woven through the story are threads about family, friendship, identity, and romance. Their ruse is discovered and the Sloanes are forced to switch back. While not the most original plot-and certainly one filled with unlikely coincidences-this coming-of-age novel is fairly well written and sports good character development, especially in the talented doppelgangers. – Liz Zylstra, County of Prince Edward Public Library, Picton, Ontario --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With the gravity that adolescence bears down, what a glorious and uplifting relief it would be to be someone else, if only for a summer. How lucky, then, for Sloane Emily Jacobs, elite figure skater and daughter of a senator, and Sloane Devon Jacobs, scholarship-bound hockey player with a mother in rehab, when they literally bump into each other on the eve of registration for their summer skating camps in Montreal. Their summer escapades are told in alternating first-person chapters complete with family dramas and budding romances. Rather than skating on the surface of a time-honored plot twist, Morrill portrays each Sloane with the grit to cross-train in a new skating sport, the perseverance to withstand the competitors' bullying and high jinks, the honesty to be true to new friends or at least struggle in the challenge, and the grace to respect each other's futures. As the Sloanes' Prince and the Pauper/Parent Trap switcheroo unravels, they come together with friends and families for a sweet and satisfying resolution. Grades 7-12. --Gail Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I realized as soon as I started reading *Meant to Be* that Lauren has a talent for fresh contemporary tales. I very much enjoyed *Meant to Be*, and I think *Being Sloane Jacobs* is even better. This fun story mixes the crazy identity swap hijinks of *Parent Trap* with the grit of athletic characters and a

sassy style that's all Lauren. One of the reasons I rate BSJ so highly is that it's not your regular contemporary romance. Don't get me wrong; there are some cute boys and several tummy-butterfly-inducing scenes, but it's not the highlight of the novel. Instead, this is a novel that focuses on tough girls figuring out what they want AND going after it. Sloane Emily and Sloane Devon shine as double protagonists, each with a distinct voice and an individual set of problems and motivations, but they also prove that even very different teenage girls can still find common ground. Both SE and SD have major parent drama going on and both are shipped away for the summer so that their parents don't have to deal with them. Although it's pretty implausible that two teenage girls would ever actually be able to switch lives as (seemingly) easily as the Sloanes do, it really isn't surprising that they try, considering how disjointed they feel from their normal lives. The Sloanes are searching for something, anything to break the weirdness going on around them, but also, they're searching for their real identities. Is Sloane Emily simply the ice princess? The political darling? Is Sloan Devon just the rough-and-tumble bad girl on ice? The tough girl? By switching places, not only do the readers get to witness the girls in silly situations, but the girls discover themselves by doing things vastly different from what they're used to. It's incredibly entertaining and also pretty inspiring. I also like the guys, although they are minor characters. The boys are important for two reasons, and honestly, neither is romance (but again, the romance is so, so cute! See above-mentioned butterflies!). 1. Both Nando and Matt provide requisite body switch oopsie moments, which prompts the important discussions about trust and you're-not-who-I-thought-you-were (LITERALLY) moments, and 2. the guys provide additional examples of the many ways in which a person can change, even in a very short amount of time. Everybody has a past, and all four of these characters (SD, SE, Nando, and Matt) are trying in some way to move on from things in theirs. I really like the way Lauren writes them all almost as foils to one another, but again, she also focuses on the ways in which they're similar. It speaks volumes to her character development that she carries this not only through her main characters, but also to the love interests and minor characters as well. Basically, *Being Sloane Jacobs* is a novel that will have you laughing the whole time you're reading. It's so much fun, and even if you aren't a sports superfan like I am, you'll enjoy all the sporty shenanigans on and off the ice. At the same time, you'll find a deeper connection with the characters and be able to sympathize with the Real Life demons chasing after them. Lauren's writing is strong, both witty and emotional, and her characters are utterly likeable and lifelike. It's clear she has improved so much from her debut to her second, and that only makes me more excited to see what she does for book #3, which I will definitely be reading.

This was a fun YA novel. It's been awhile since I read it but this switching places novel did not disappoint. Rating: PG to PG-13

I'm a 56 year old retired school teacher and a romantic at heart. I cannot seem to kick the habit of searching out teen novels to find those that I think students would enjoy reading. Well, *Being Sloane Jacobs* is one of those novels. It has teen friendship, realistic teen family issues, teen challenges, sports, teen romance, and a happy, feel - good ending. It touched me almost right away, and I couldn't stop reading until I finished the entire book. Great read!! Great job Lauren Morrill.

I'm 23 years old and still love these books. Even though the main character is in High School I feel like the situations and feelings they are dealing with are still very real in my own life. The plot line of the book is very interesting and always keeps you guessing. The writing is brilliant and I love her first book '*Meant to Be*' I cannot wait to read more.

Being Sloane Jacobs is a well-written story about two young women with their own demons who want to escape their lives so when the opportunity presents itself, they jump on it. I loved this story from the beginning to the end.

It was a pretty fast read. I enjoyed the characters and how they all interacted. I'm not sure how believable it was but it was still really good.

BEING SLOANE JACOBS is my first novel by Morrill and I have to admit I loved it. I know many of my friends praised her first novel, *MEANT TO BE*, so I may have to check it out soon because of how much I enjoyed this book. This novel starts off allowing us to get to know the back-story of both of the Sloane Jacobs. They both have lost their skating mojo in their respective sports and are sent to skate camps in Montreal for different reasons. There they legitimately run into each other and hatch a plan straight out of the *Parent Trap*. No, they're not related, but they both know how to skate and they happen to look alike. Plus, the same name makes it easy, no? Sloane Devon gives up her hockey skates to switch with the figure-skating Sloane Emily and the hilariousness ensues. I have to say that it was beautiful to watch both girls grow through their newly respective sports. The scenes that took place on the ice were wonderfully descriptive and I often found myself re-reading them because of this. Seeing Sloane Emily hip-check a bully twice her size while Sloane Devon learned

how to put trust in a partner while being yelled at by her Russia coach, Katinka, exemplified amazing character growth. This was something that Morrill did beautifully. Morrill's side characters were amazing as well. When it came to Sloane Devon's time at figure-skating camp, I often found myself looking forward to scenes with Andy--a sassy figure skater who never ceased to put a smile on my face. Such strong characterization, however, is not evident in characters like Ivy who are entirely one-dimensional and your typical textbook bully. For the most part, all characters managed to wow me with their depth, though. I also really enjoyed the slight romance found in both girl's lives. By no means was the romance a dominating plot point, but they provided very nice sub-plots. Both of the guys in the girls lives differentiated greatly, but they were genuine. The romance was slow-moving and believable and all around happy-making. Who could ask for a better type of connection? The extremely personal aspects of both girls lives were amazing as well. I don't want to get into the details because they are yours to discover, but they are both escaping some really troubling times at home. When all of this comes to a climax at the very end of the novel, you can't help but flip the pages lightning fast. The ending was beyond perfect. I wouldn't have asked for it to be any different, except I could live with it never-ending because I loved these girls so much. They were not only hilarious, but very easy to connect to. A small frustration with this novel was the fact that it was slightly dated. At one point, Sloane Emily points out that Sloane Devon's hockey bag smells so bad it must not have been cleaned since Justin Timberlake was putting out albums. First of all, I highly doubt that. Secondly, Justin Timberlake has now released a really successful album so your argument is invalid, Sloane. There was also a mention of the Bieber haircut when it was in style, which was quite a while ago. Pop culture references like this often had me shaking my head. I don't think such mentions should be in books unless they are still up to date. Just a personal pet peeve brought to light, here. I highly recommend checking this book out! It's super adorable and full of laughs. In fact, I laughed so hard that a second glass of water was necessary while reading. Morrill can definitely bring a smile to your face. With that said, the entire novel was entirely implausible. Girls just don't change their entire athletics knowledge in a mere four weeks. But, if you can get past that, this novel takes you on a hilarious journey sprinkled with love, self-growth, learning to trust, and a barrel of laughs. It's perfect for absolutely anyone looking for a book to put a smile on their face and is also a great way to ring in the New Year!

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