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Be More Chill



Synopsis

Jeremy Heere is your average high school dork. Day after day, he stares at beautiful Christine, the girl he can never have, and dryly notes the small humiliations that come his way. Until the day he learns about the "squip." A pill-sized supercomputer that you swallow, the squip is guaranteed to bring you whatever you most desire in life. By instructing him on everything from what to wear, to how to talk and walk, the squip transforms Jeremy from Supergeek to superchic.

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Customer Reviews

In a novel that could be described as a kinder, gentler version of M.T. Anderson's *Feed*, young author Ned Vizzini draws on the very recent recollections of his years at Stuyvesant High School to create a witty commentary on the annoying realities of teen social life. Jeremy Heere is convinced that people are born Cool: "See, because being Cool is obviously the most important thing on earth…It's more important than getting a job, or having a girlfriend, or political power, or money, because all those things are predicated by Coolness." And he hasn't got it. Every day he yearns hopelessly for beautiful Christine. Then, one day he gets a squip--a tiny quantum supercomputer that looks like a little gray capsule and when swallowed becomes a voice in his head instructing him in the ways of Cool. Soon, every girl he admires is his--including Christine. But when the squip turns malevolent in its merciless pursuit of the goal, Jeremy begins to realize that Cool is not as cool as he thought it was. (ages 14 up) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 9 Up – This wacky, irreverent novel stars an uncouth, smart, nerdy, but sympathetic antihero, Jeremy Heere. The teen actually keeps Humiliations Sheets on which he tallies the number and types of affronts that he encounters in his daily life at his New Jersey high school and finds solace in the evenings viewing Internet porn. When the girl he secretly loves is cast opposite him in a school play, he decides to find a way to break the mold he's built around himself so that she will understand and reciprocate his admiration. Buying an extreme bit of illegal nanotechnology in the back room of a Payless shoe store, Jeremy swallows the "squip," which embeds itself in his brain and advises him on all the cool things to say and do to impress Christine. Vizzini has devised a hilarious alternate reality, very close to the one available to Jeremy's real peers – Eminem is a pop-culture presence (although he has recently died in this world). The squip malfunctions when Jeremy takes Ecstasy (not only miscuing Jeremy but also defaulting to Spanish), and so on. There are genuine and serious issues of morality folded into this story, including Jeremy's dilemma of how to make himself both attractive and sincere in Christine's perception. Like Janet Tashjian's *The Gospel According to Larry* (Holt, 2001), this novel has substance as well as flash, and lots of appeal to bright teens. Although it is literary and funny, the blatant sexual themes and use of profanity may limit its acceptability in schools.

Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA
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This is a great book if your looking for some light reading. I learned about it through the soundtracks of the play on YouTube and learned it was a book since I'm not in a place plays often happen I chose this option which I feel holds attention and detail better from what I've heard if the play. This story will have you both rooting for the character, hating him for his voices, and then loving him all over again. It explains how hard it is to be a teenager in a society so filled with judgement and anxiety and fears holding you back and what some will do to over come that.

This book had a slow start (only for about 2-3 chapters, in which I cringed a few times... chalk it up to realistic awkward teen problems), but became progressively more funny and relatable as I read on. By the end of the book, you've got love for almost all the characters, and, if nothing else, a sore gut from laughing. An endearing book, I recommend to readers looking for a light, comical read.

My son loved the boo! We hope they still had the Play

The book was a bit bent, which I really hate when receiving a book but that doesn't mean I can't adore the book! I was inspired to read this after buying the Musical's soundtrack, and I read it whenever I can! This is a must-buy for any teenagers looking for a good read.

My friend's son flew through this book in a day and created a great video report on it. I had to bribe him to read over the summer I truly enjoyed this book!!!

This book is great for teens, it's funny but has emotional parts too. I know a lot of people read it because of the musical but, I highly recommend it!

It's creative and unique. Keeps you entertained. Quick read that is worth the time. It's both sweet and sour, like the best candy.

I discovered Ned Vizzini's books at a Borders about four years ago. There it was, my first book written by Ned, 'It's Kind of a Funny Story', getting lost among the other books, not being seen, maybe even forgotten. It sounded right, it seemed right, it felt right, to take it with me, so I did. It wasn't casual since I go through depressions every so often, so it hit the spot, very beautifully and entertainingly. After that I always wanted to get more of his books, he was always in my mind, until I got this one a few years later. A bit later I discovered -just recently- that he decided to leave this world for good in December. Trust me when I say I was devastated, as I, like other people, saw a light in him, hope. That said, I enjoyed this book very much, I actually found it short of pages, I wanted it to go on, have further explanation, be more elaborate, but it's understandable since it was one of his first. It's not as deep as the one mentioned previously but it's still his, and I treasure it now more than ever. It's funny, raw and straight to the point, and I love that...

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