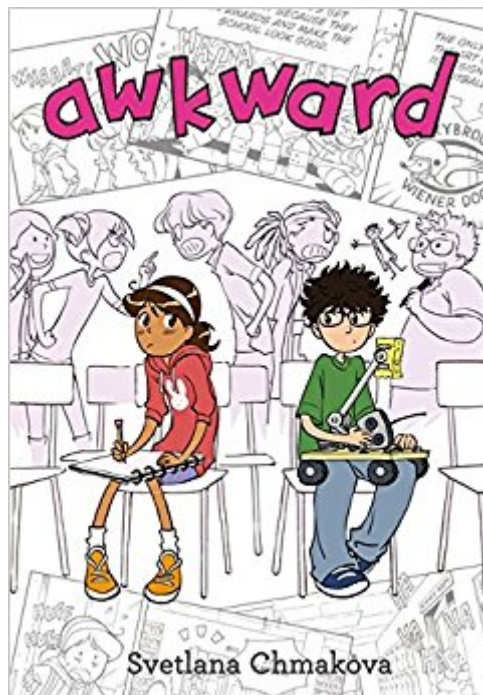


The book was found

Awkward



Synopsis

Cardinal rule #1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids. Cardinal rule #2 for surviving school: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! Falling back on rule two and surrounding herself with new friends in the art club, Peppi still can't help feeling ashamed about the way she treated Jaime. Things are already awkward enough between the two, but to make matters worse, he's a member of her own club's archrivals--the science club! And when the two clubs go to war, Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school!

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 210 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

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Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0316381307

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 213 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,069 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books](#)
> [Comics & Graphic Novels](#) #43 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up **Flawed protagonist Peppi is fantastically imperfect in this middle school graphic novel.** She is the new girl at Berrybrook Middle School and is having a hard time fitting in because of her struggles with social anxiety. The work opens with the young teen pushing away the first person who tries to help her, Jaime, and it only gets more awkward from there. A feud between Peppi's after-school art club and Jaime's science club springs up. Can the two groups stop fighting long enough to earn a spot in the school fair? Will Peppi overcome her social anxiety and apologize to

Jaime? Will any of them feel comfortable enough in their own skins to have a good school year? The story is told with a clear, believable voice. Diversity is reflected in this average middle school setting, and there are characters from a variety of ethnicities and are differently abled. Chmakova is an adept storyteller and organically incorporates messages of kindness and understanding without being preachy. The placement of the text and images were carefully considered. The illustrations and lettering are playful, bright, and fun, in keeping with the tone of the work. Readers will connect with the relatable, complex characters. VERDICT A superb graphic novel that authentically depicts the naturally awkward adolescent years. — Julie Zimmerman, Brooklyn Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Svetlana Chmakova was born and raised in Russia until the age of 16, when her family emigrated to Canada. She quickly made a name for herself with works like *Dramacon*, *Nightschool*, the manga adaptation of James Patterson's *Witch & Wizard*, and the webcomic *Chasing Rainbows*. She graduated from Sheridan College with a three-year Classical Animation Diploma. Her latest work for middle grade readers, *Awkward*, has been a runaway critical success and was named one of YALSA's 2016 Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens!

As a graphic novel librarian, I absolutely had to own this book. Not only is it written and drawn by a very talented author, but it's a great take on teen awkwardness that my patrons really need. This is destined to be on ALL the American Library Association booklists and win all sorts of awards. It's great for teens, tweens, and adults. It somehow managed to tell the story without succumbing to tropes and without talking down to the reader. It really made me feel like the author LIVED this situation and is telling us exactly how it felt, not how her editor told her to make it feel so it would sell better. Peppi is a young girl who doesn't fit anywhere except her art club. Her first day of school she embarrasses herself and ends up hurting the feelings of the nerdiest kid in school. This boy, Jamie, ends up joining the art club's arch-rival the science club. As the club's duke it out in the halls, Peppi and Jamie duke it out on the emotional level, both learning to come out of their shells and save their beloved clubs from cancellation. What else can I say? The art is beautiful. The characters are beautiful. The situation is beautiful. The humor is beautiful. Why are you still reading this when you could read the book?

I bought this book for my 11 year old daughter and she loved it. I asked her to write a review and this is what she wrote. "Awkward is awesome! I'm in sixth grade and I've just started a new school,

so I can totally relate to the beginning. I really love the story-line and the character growth between Penelope and Jamie. Also the relationship between the art club and the science club is so funny! So basically what I'm here to say is I love this book and recommend it to anyone who likes graphic novels with a bit of comedy!"

I have been a huge fan of Svetlana's stories since her "Dramacon" series because of her very unique way of treating real-life struggles with intelligence, humor and kindness, so I was really excited about "Awkward". It did not disappoint - this is a beautifully drawn and told story of growing as a person, making friends and learning from ones' mistakes as seen through the eyes of Peppi, a middle school girl, finding her place in a new environment. From awkward situations at school, to hidden problems at home and learning to say "I am sorry", it is really easy to relate to the characters and situations both for kids and adults. Loved it - a great book that is a perfect read /gift for any kid going to school (and any adult who remembers what it was like).

'Awkward' revolves around two interwoven plot points about Penelope trying to help her Art Club get a spot in the school fair and her desire to apologize to the school mate she shoved, where she gets shy and embarrassed to every time she gets the opportunity. The opening seems like it'll lead to a romance, but there are only a hints of it in the story and when present it's very subtle with some aspects of innocence involved (they're all in middle school after all). There's a great cast of characters with realistic yet cartoony aspects to them without going too deep into their respective stereotypes. The book goes into middle school drama, and with real life personal problems as well especially with a character named Maribella. With how her story arc concluded, I would like to see her getting her own series about her exploits as I found her to be an interesting character. The book is in full color and I like how the characters emote very well with their facial animations as it brings the art and world to life. This book is very character driven and brings out excellent interactions with a variety of different personalities. A very good page turner as I read all 200+ pages in one sitting. Overall very good, fun filled middle school drama story. A good read for all ages. If the author is reading this, please make a series on Maribella ;)

I loved this book I have never read a book by Svetlana Chmakova so I am going to start to read more of Svetlana Chmakova books

The story, beautifully conveyed through Chmakova's signature artistic expressiveness, is sure to be

both enthralling and thought-provoking for readers of all ages. There's a depth of story and a visual vibrancy present which is not often available for younger age-groups. "Awkward" deserves a place on any bookshelf because it's remarkably entertaining while daring to lead readers to think critically about not only their own lives, but the lives of others (and so much more).

I get a lot of books for my little sister, but she picked this one herself and loved it!

If you're thinking about buying this, then buy it. Very well written and honest, important and relatable topic for older kids/pre-teens, and long enough you don't feel ripped off. Awesome lesson. Great artwork and inspiring for any kids getting into drawing. Entertaining for adults to flip through, too (I admit I read it before wrapping for a nephew).

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