

Catch a Falling Star

By Kim Culbertson

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Catch a Falling Star By Kim Culbertson

A deliciously charming novel about finding yourself ... and falling in love along the way.

Nothing ever happens in Little, CA. Which is just the way Carter Moon likes it. But when Hollywood arrives to film a movie starring former child star turned PR mess Adam Jakes, everything changes. Carter's town becomes a giant glittery set and, much to her annoyance, everyone is starry-eyed for Adam. Carter seems to be the only girl not falling all over herself to get a glimpse of him. Which apparently makes her perfect for the secret offer of a lifetime: playing the role of Adam's girlfriend while he's in town, to improve his public image, in exchange for a hefty paycheck. Her family really needs the money and so Carters agrees. But it turns out Adam isn't at all who she thought he was. As they grow closer, their relationship walks a blurry line between what's real and what's fake, and Carter must open her eyes to the scariest of unexplored worlds - her future. Can Carter figure out what she wants out of life AND get the guy? Or are there no Hollywood endings in real life?

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Catch a Falling Star By Kim Culbertson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #163005 in Books
- Published on: 2015-04-28
- Released on: 2015-04-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.90" h x .70" w x 5.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Gr 9 Up—When a Hollywood movie production invades the sleepy town of Little, California, Carter Moon is one of the rare local girls who is not entranced by the movie's troubled teenage star, Adam Jakes. Distracted by her concern for her brother, who suffers from a gambling habit, Carter is content to avoid the mayhem and limit her interaction with the world of glitz and glamour to making sandwiches and drinks for the production company from the comfort of her parents' small café. The protagonist also enjoys teaching a dance class at the local retirement home and stargazing with her two best friends. Her plans to maintain this simple lifestyle are disrupted by a pressing financial need to guarantee her brother's safety and recovery. Presented with a secret, lucrative deal to pose as Adam Jakes's wholesome, small-town girlfriend, Carter suddenly has a solution to her family's money issues. Unbeknownst to anyone other than her parents and Adam's manager, the teen follows the scripted three-week relationship but winds up learning that she may have more in common with Adam than she thought. While the development of a genuine relationship may be expected, readers will enjoy every minute of Carter and Adam's revelatory moments and conflicts. The narrator's struggles with decisions about leaving home and the next steps after high school will resonate with many teens. The resolution is realistically open-ended but also satisfies those thirsting for a fairy tale ending.—Lynn Rashid, Marriotts Ridge High School, Marriottsville, MD

From Booklist
Culbertson freshens up a well-worn setup in this surprisingly sensitive romance between a small-town girl who hates the spotlight and a Hollywood heartthrob in a downward spiral. Seventeen-year-old Carter loves her hometown of Little, California, and has no plans to leave, despite her promise as a dancer. She is happy working in her family’s diner, teaching dance at the senior center, and looking out for her brother, whose gambling addiction has cost their family much. Unlike her starstruck friend Chloe, Carter is indifferent to the movie being filmed in Little and its ridiculously beautiful star, Adam Jakes, who is as famous for his bad-boy antics as his acting. Adam is interested in her, however—or his manager is. He wants to hire Carter to pose as Adam’s girlfriend to help clean up his image, and with her brother’s gambling debt looming, she accepts. It’s not hard to imagine what happens next, but Culbertson excels at crafting sympathetic, believable characters and situations, eschewing reality-show-style drama in favor of a light touch and an emotionally satisfying resolution. Grades 8-11. --Krista Hutley

Review

Praise for *Catch a Falling Star* :

"Culbertson writes with sensitivity and sympathy, crafting an entertaining but perceptive character study." – *Kirkus*

"Culbertson is a capable writer, and she gives Carter a good heart that shines through in the way Carter handles her friendships and that also catches Adam's eye." – *Publishers Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alice Hill:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Catch a Falling Star. Try to face the book Catch a Falling Star as your close friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Ann Bland:

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Cynthia Caron:

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