



### **Friction** by E.R. Frank

ISBN: 9781481448109 (Paperback)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2015

\*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

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**This stunning novel by E.R. Frank explores what happens when the truth is worse than the rumor.**

Twelve-year-old Alex loves her small alternative school. She hangs out with her best friend, Tim, every day, and Simon is the coolest teacher—he's even starting a soccer team just for them. And then Stacey comes to town. With her tongue ring and air of confidence, Stacey immediately shakes things up in the classroom. Alex is drawn to her at first, but when Stacey starts rumors that something is going on between Alex and Simon, trouble brews. As the class and Tim begin to believe Stacey's rumors, Alex starts to doubt what is really true herself.

## **REVIEWS AND PRAISE**

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"Frank has a keen awareness of the subtle power and politics of middle-school groups, and she weaves messages about good and bad touching seamlessly into the text. Like *America* (2002), but for a younger audience, this gripping, unsettling novel is filled with fully realized characters who are faced with unspeakable abuse and adult betrayals."—[Booklist](#)

"FRICTION is a novel seemingly created for the spoken word, a perfect medium for teenaged confidences about life's biggest questions and cruelest realities. E.R. Frank knows teens, and Jessalyn Gilsig knows exactly how they should sound. This is a winning combination for any audience." —[Kirkus](#)

"Rather than coloring innocence and guilt in black and white, the author invites readers to explore the large gray area between truth and falsehood. Sure to spark heated discussions, this provocative novel is a reminder that words spoken carelessly can have lasting, painful repercussions." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

## **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

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- ALA Best Books For Young Adults
- *Kirkus* Editor's Choice

**Updated 3.25.26**

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Tampa Bay Times: An Interview with E.R. Frank](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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- [Up In Flames Essay by E.R. Frank](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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“If you read any challenged titles and feel your child isn’t ready for them, you have every right to forbid her those books. But if you *ban* books, you’re forbidding other people’s children from reading them, too,” –E.R. Frank

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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