



***Stealing Parker* by Miranda Kenneally**

Sourcebooks Fire, Sourcebooks, 2012

9781402271878: (Trade Paperback)

*Age Range: 13-17 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 8 Up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Who's the real Parker Shelton? Dutiful daughter? Shameless slut? All-star athlete? Even she can't be sure.

Parker Shelton pretty much has the perfect life. She's on her way to becoming valedictorian at Hundred Oaks High, she's made the all-star softball team, and she has plenty of friends. Then her mother's scandal rocks their small town and suddenly no one will talk to her.

Now Parker wants a new life.

So she quits softball. Drops twenty pounds. And she figures why kiss one guy when she can kiss three. Or four. Why limit herself to high school boys when the majorly cute new baseball coach seems especially flirty?

But how far is too far before she loses herself completely?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Readers of this teen novel will appreciate its realistic and witty dialogue as they navigate its tightly packed plot."
—[Kirkus Reviews](#)

"[One] of the season's most highly anticipated titles." —[Los Angeles Times](#)

"The teen [character] finds herself in tough situations not because she is foolish or a victim but because of complicated interpersonal, familial, social, and religious reasons, inviting readers to empathize with and not judge her and her peers. Kenneally's respect for her characters is clear, making both *Catching Jordan* and *Stealing Parker* positive additions to the teen romance genre." —[School Library Journal](#)

"Kenneally's sophomore effort knocks it out of the park with character development, clever dialogue and a pace that will keep any reader interested." —*Shelf Awareness*

"This breezy read may speak to sports fans, reluctant readers, and girls who like forbidden love mixed with happy endings." —[Booklist](#)

"Kenneally (*Catching Jordan*) writes with heart, earnestly tackling such challenges as being a teen with a gay parent and being unsure of one's faith. Parker's insecurities, her desire to be loved, and her uncertainty about

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how far to take her steamy but illegal relationship are realistic. Not only will readers want to see Parker find true love, they'll also hope she learns to love herself." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

"A good choice for initiating discussion about premature judgement, bullying, and sexual choice and acceptance." —*Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)*

"A realistic portrait of a teen who, feeling abandoned by her family and betrayed by her church, searches for love in forbidden places. Another engrossing romance from Miranda Kenneally with a hero who will melt your heart." —Jennifer Echols, National Award-Winning author of *Such a Rush*

"I really love the voice of the book. It gives the book a body and instead of feeling like I have been sucked into a new world, I feel like the book has become a person. I felt I was walking right next to Parker through the whole story." —Jen Casady, Children's Book Buyer, Pudd'nHead Books

"Stealing Parker is fresh, fearless, and totally romantic. Kenneally hits another grand slam!" -Sarah Ockler, bestselling author of *Twenty Boy Summer* and *Bittersweet*

"Kenneally has hit a home run! She uses a deft hand to deal with big issues: a complex sexual dynamic, a volatile family situation and a crisis of faith. Solidly developed and lovable characters, a complex plot and some humor make this a great read. With all the romance-based YA out there, Kenneally definitely stands apart." —*RT Book Reviews*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2012 Junior Library Guild Selection (JLG)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Stealing Parker Discussion Guide](#)
- [JeanBookNerd: Miranda Kenneally Author Interview](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [PEN America: More than 1,600 books banned in Escambia County, Florida](#)
- [Miami New Times: Updated List: Every Known Florida School District Book Ban, July 2021-June 2024, banned in Duval County School District](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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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