



***First Time* by Meg Tilly**

Orca Soundings, Orca Book Publishers, 2008

9781551439440 (paperback)

*Age Range: 12+

Grade Range: Gr. 8 to 12

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Haley and Lynn are best friends. When Lynn meets Chad, a player several years older, Haley feels left out. She tries to be happy for her friend, but when her mother's new boyfriend starts making unwanted advances, Haley finds she has no one to tell. Not wanting to upset her mother's happiness and finding that Lynn is drifting away, Haley has to face her tormentor alone and face up to some very hard truths.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Realistic dialogue and situations characterize this novel. Struggling readers will appreciate the quick pacing and the low reading/high interest level." – *School Library Journal*

"Mature readers will sympathize with Haley's difficult situation." – *The Horn Book Guide*

"Truly excellent tale...the voice and persona of Haley capture what is so worth cherishing in an adolescent." – *Resource Links*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Quick Picks, **Short-listed, 2009**
- Golden Eagle Children's Choice, **Nominated, 2009**
- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, **Commended, 2010**

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RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

First Time, along with 672 other books, were removed from the classroom shelves in Orange County, Florida “for fear they might violate state law and rules on ‘sexual conduct’. Some might be returned to shelves after further review.”

See all 673 books here: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/12/20/read-it-yourself-all-673-books-removed-from-orange-classrooms/>

“This is yet another disastrous consequence of Florida’s disastrous education policies,” said Kasey Meehan, program director for PEN America’s Freedom to Read program. “Hundreds of books have now been removed from Orange County shelves under [HB 1069](#), and we continue to be alarmed by the magnitude and scale of censorship following the implementation of this law.”

<https://pen.org/books-banned-orange-county-florida/>

*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.