

Blog Reviews for
Class Collision: Fall From Grace



Readers Favorite Gold Award Winner: YA – Coming of Age

Review by the Supernatural Snark:

<http://supernaturalsnark.blogspot.com/2011/05/review-class-collision.html/>

THE STORY

David has always been privileged and wealthy, he doesn't know anything different. He's used to having servants wait on him, a doting mother to shower him in praise, and an older brother to stay hidden in the shadows while he's in the limelight. With his extravagant lifestyle has grown an attitude to match, and David often takes pleasure in tearing down those around him for no other reason than to cause them pain.

That all changes when he and his brother Alex are kidnapped, held for ransom, and brutally beaten. In a failed escape attempt, David is left behind, distracting his captors so his brother can run to safety. Presumed dead by his family, David is forced to deal with the reality of the Great Depression, and for the next several years until he's sixteen, he struggles day to day just to survive.

In the course of his search for a new job David meets Linda, the daughter of his new employer. Though she's beautiful, she has an attitude similar to the one he had when he was younger—indifferent to the thoughts and feelings of those around her and seemingly only interested in selfish pursuits. Like David however, there's more to Linda than her prickly demeanor, and in each other they find something for which they didn't know they had been searching. The cruel reality of the time in which they live begins to puncture the small bubble of happiness they're forming with one another however, and they realize they must make a decision that will irrevocably change the course of their future.

MY THOUGHTS

Don't let your first visual impression of *Class Collision* deter you from picking it up. Though outwardly this book appears a bit bland and uninteresting—its cover ultimately reminiscent of a collegiate textbook—what awaits us in between the pages is far more intriguing and engrossing than first glance might suggest. This is a powerful and compelling read, one that illustrates for us

the many types of abuse, our eyes forced brutally open as we bear witness to characters who both dispense and endure punishment with either a sharp tongue or a closed fist. *Class Collision* is a beautifully executed character study, showing us just how truly complex human nature is by putting both the protagonists and the secondary characters in difficult situations that leave us feeling a little like scientists on the other side of the glass, studiously watching enthralled as their reactions to their circumstances shock, anger, please, and confuse us simultaneously.

Both David and Linda are individuals who incite warring emotions in us, at times infuriating us to a degree where we're not sure we'll ever connect to them personally, and then slowly revealing new facets of their personalities that allow us to better understand their thoughts and actions as they begin to earn our respect. Many times in young adult fiction, characters meet another person who makes them want to change, but their progression into this new state of being is seemingly instant as they shed the old persona with ease and pull the new one on with no lingering remnants of the previous personality left in tact. Primarily with David, but certainly with Linda as well, the mental and emotional progression is believably gradual—the old habits and bothersome flaws never fade completely but instead rear up now and again even as they both attempt to remedy past mistakes, making the two of them individuals whom we see honestly and clearly without being blinded by the beauty of their fictional perfection.

Along with two perfectly imperfect main characters, we are also given a monstrous villain, for lack of a better term, in Linda's father Gordon. While venom spews from his mouth regarding his "rights" as a father and vicarious pain radiates from the places his fists make contact, an intense loathing begins to stir in our guts and travels to our lips to curl them in disgust as our only form of protest against his actions. For those who love to read stories where the characters inspire intense emotional reactions and exist in shades of gray that make it impossible to reduce them to a one-word label other than to say they are not-so-simply human, then this is the perfect read. We are left with the wide open expanse of possibility laid out before David and Linda, and I'm certainly looking forward to seeing where their drive and determination takes them next.

Review by I Swim For Oceans:

<http://www.iswimforoceans.com/2010/12/class-collision-review.html/>

Class Collision follows the story of David, born into a life of privilege, wealth, and notoriety – that is, until it's all whisked away in an instant. David is kidnapped, held captive, then left for dead...but he doesn't die. He survives and learns to live in his new life. It's tedious, but it works. Then he meets Linda. Linda is gorgeous and precocious, thinks David is penniless, and for some reason, David is completely taken with her. Can the two find love in the uncertain times of the Great Depression, or will their collective secrets tear them apart before they truly connect?

I have a fascination with the time period of the Great Depression, so when I heard the setting of *Class Collision*, I was extremely excited to give it a go. Author, Annette Mackey has created a rich coming-of-age story that asks the age-old question – can money buy you happiness? Alive

with detail and flowing prose, the story is filled to the brim with morals and values without ever feeling preachy or tedious. Rather, *Class Collision* lets love drive the plot of the story.

I'll admit I didn't know a thing about *Class Collision* when I first picked it up, but that didn't hinder the story a single bit. David plays the likeable protagonist well, and we watch his transformation from a spoiled and arrogant child into a young man of integrity and grace. Linda's transformation is slower and more defined, but every bit as poignant as David's. Their journey to ultimate self-discovery of one another fuels the plot and value of *Class Collision*, breathing life into the story. There were a few spots that were a bit *too* descriptive for my taste, but overall, the balance between characters and plot was flawless. I also have to be nit-picky and say that I really dislike the cover...that said, the story far exceeds the cover.

I was definitely pleasantly surprised by just how beautiful *Class Collision* was. I give it a very strong 4.5 out of 5, and I am definitely going to read the sequel in the Fall From Grace series, called *Phoenix Rising*. I would recommend this to both a YA and adult audience, especially for those who enjoy coming-of-age stories, contemporary fiction, and historical fiction.

Review by Fiction Folio:

<http://www.fictionfolio.com/2011/02/class-collision-by-annette-mackey.html/>

Class Collision is centered mostly around a boy named David who comes from a very wealthy family and is considered the "golden child" even though he has a terrible attitude and treats people as if they were worthless. One day, David and his brother, Alex, are kidnapped and held for ransom and their worlds are turned upside down. Not only were the boys kidnapped, they were berated, ridiculed, and mentally/physically/emotionally abused. The author pulled at your heartstrings and my heart just ached for these two boys. You felt their humiliation, their sadness, and every other emotion they felt while they were being held captive.

Alex manages to escape, while David is held for a little while longer and then eventually left for dead. David does survive, and the rest of the book focuses on him rebuilding a new life for himself and learning how to survive in a world he is not familiar with – one that is not full of wealth and privilege. This journey is what really sucked me into the story. You see David as a man, even though he is still a teenager because he has had to grow up at an alarmingly fast rate. He has never experienced a real relationship with someone other than family, so when Linda comes along, he has no idea what to do. I loved watching him grow and explore his emotions, even though he royally messed up at times due to his lack of experience. These mess-ups were endearing and made me like David even more.

Linda played such a key role in David's development and taught him more than he had ever learned in his previous sheltered life. She hurt him, disappointed him, cared for him, and eventually fell in love with him. Even though most of these emotions are not exactly fun to experience, they were imperative to David's growth as a man.

Needless to say, I cannot wait to read the next book in the series, Phoenix Rising, to see where the story heads next. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in coming-of-age stories mixed with historical fiction.

Review by Tina's Book Review:

<http://www.tinasbookreviews.com/2011/01/class-collision-by-annette-mackey.html/>

After reading about this book on Melissa's ([iswimforoceans](#)) blog and loving the synopsis and her review, I jumped at the chance to read this novel.....

Set in a time right before the early depression, two brothers completely different and born into the life of privilege have it all. Respect, private tutors, servants and a lovely family surround their daily activities. Alex is soft spoken, kind and lives in his younger brothers shadow. David is a rude, arrogant and intolerable boy, he is the apple of his mothers eye, he is sheer perfection and he belittles anyone underneath him...even his older brother cant escape David's harsh judgment. Everything for both boys change in an instant when they are kidnapped from school and held for ransom. The incident is horrible and the brothers both experience their own separate ordeals. Alex makes it home.....David does not.

Although left for dead with a serious head injury, David survives. Unbeknown to his family who think he's dead, David tries to go back home but is met with adversity after adversity. His life goes from extreme wealth and luxury to homeless, poverty stricken orphan overnight and not one person will help him. After leaving a home for boys at 14, David winds up working as a ranch hand during the Great Depression. During this time he meets Linda, the beautiful and mysterious daughter of his boss. Soon tension and chemistry begin to build between them, first creating a deep friendship which turns into a passionate love. The odds are stacked against them, he being a poor, uneducated teen and she having a father who is known to fly into drunken rages and has arranged her entire life including marriage. The situation forces the couple to do the unthinkable.....

I highly enjoyed reading *Class Collision* and loved growing with David during his development. In the beginning I couldn't stand him, due to his extreme arrogant personality, however even with his attitude I hated that no one would help him. The way adults treated him was ghastly and I kept forgetting that this was set in the Depression and how desperate and different society was back then. I loved how Mackey showcased all sides of class in her novel. The goodness and love of a rich family and the greed and arrogance of that same family. The goodness of the middle class, yet the anger and hostility of that class, the characters who were angry at the rich and had an entitlement attitude along with the true criminals. The caretakers who treated the orphans and poor awful and the working class who did what they could to make ends meet. The book had me so on edge because I was waiting for the bomb to drop, waiting for the family's discovery of David, waiting for all these people to finally realize who David was.....the story certainly weaves a tale to not make things that easy, there is no fast resolve. Reading the last fifty pages I knew David and Linda's journey was just beginning and I cannot wait to see where the sequel takes these characters.

Class Collision is recommended to mature teens and adults. Contains: Violence, abuse- including domestic, class warfare, romance, mild sensuality, kidnapping, life on a ranch and alcohol abuse.

Review by Reader's Favorite:

<http://readersfavorite.com/cat-71.htm?review=3724/>

I found "Class Collision" by Annette Mackey to be engrossing and satisfying. The characters, specifically David, are realistic and well-developed. A great deal is learned about the characters from their relationships with each other and how they interact. David's point of view really made the book easy and enjoyable to read.

The book begins with the family enjoying breakfast on atypical day. Maybe not atypical day for most readers as mother is giving the servants their orders for the day, but the whole scene is so realistic that the reader is pulled into the room with the family. David is a boy living a life of luxury. He is adored by his mother, tortures the household servants and is a leader to his older brother Alex. One day life changes when Alex and David are kidnapped and held for ransom. David is not in control, and his life drastically changes. Once David meets Linda his life is changed once However, she does not know who David is.

This book is jam-packed with the things that make a book enjoyable to read - likable characters, relationships, emotions, conflict, mystery, and romance. The ending will leave you wanting more as you will be drawn into the characters' lives.

Review by Reader View Kids:

<http://readerviewskids.com/ReviewMackeyClassCollision.html/>

When I received "Class Collision," I was slightly apprehensive about reading it. Although the online summary made it look very interesting and exciting, I knew that I did not enjoy reading anything that was set during the time of the Great depression, like "Class Collision" is. Even though I did not like reading things from this time period, I am very glad that I read "Class Collision." Not only did it surprise me with how well it held my attention, it was written in such a way that I absolutely could not put it down, no matter how hard I tried!

This book begins with a family sitting down to eat breakfast. At first they seem like a normal, family but then you realize that they are of the rich elite, living in a large mansion with servants and butlers, maids and governesses, and many, many acres of land around them. David is the apple of his mother's eye. He is the precious son. Then, the unthinkable happens and David gets kidnapped. He is held for ransom, and for the first time in his life, he is not in control of what is happening to him. He is left for dead. Later, he meets Linda and his life is changed once again. He does everything in his power to get Linda, but all she sees him as is a drifter, someone who may not be worth her time. What she doesn't know is that David is worth billions.

I feel as though this book is a great read for anyone who wants to read a book that has everything

in it! It's full of romance, adventure, excitement, and danger. After I finished reading this book, I passed it onto my neighbor for her to read. She read it in about three hours and was then banging on my door to talk to me about how amazing she thought this book was. My neighbor is thirty-seven, so not only is this book enjoyable for teenagers, but also for adults! I would definitely recommend "Class Collision" to anyone and everyone!

Review by Midwest Book Review, Helen's shelf:

http://www.midwestbookreview.com/mbw/dec_10.htm#helen/

Fates can have fun with us all. "Class Collision" is a unique love story of Linda and Davie. Linda finds David, a battered and beaten man who seems to have nothing to his name. But David's story reveals that he has far richer callings and history, but Linda may never know such things, and may only find the truth as a pleasant little surprise. "Class Collision" is a fun read with a bit of a fable thrown in, recommended.

Reader reviews:

Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Class-Collision-Fall-Grace-ebook/dp/B0042P54XW/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top/

5.0 out of 5 stars **Couldn't Put It Down!**, April 30, 2011

By

Twinkie - See all my reviews

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Kindle Edition)

After I downloaded "Class Collision," I started reading and simply couldn't put it down! I am not a huge novel reader at all. So, the fact that this book kept my attention and actually had me excited to come back to it was a big surprise!

Perhaps the biggest delight was that this book is clean. I usually steer clear of romantic novels of any kind because they are usually too descriptive for my taste. But, "Class Collision" had just enough to keep it interesting but not make me have to quit reading.

As stated, there are some editing glitches, but who cares! The story line is terrific. =)

I can't wait to read the sequel!

5.0 out of 5 stars **kept my interest**, February 9, 2011

By

Margaret Williams (Roosevelt, UT, US) - See all my reviews

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Paperback)

The book is obviously written to a younger audience, and I am in my 80's. Nevertheless, I found that it held my attention through all of the story. I loved the setting in the depression era. That's when I grew up so that part of it was endearing to me. I especially liked the way the author described the emotional feelings of her characters. It felt real. I look forward to the sequel with great anticipation.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Not the usual historical fiction - much better!**, September 8, 2011

By

Rosemary Nelson Cantrell "Rosi" (Atlanta, GA) - See all my reviews
(REAL NAME)

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Paperback)

I like historical fiction, but some stories are definitely better than others. This is a good one. It is set in the time of the depression. At the beginning, we see the life of a wealthy family, with two boys who are very different. The family dynamics right there is worth a good long discussion.

Then the boys are kidnapped and everything changes. The rest of the story focuses mostly on David and the struggles he endures in the years following the kidnapping, when his family thinks he is dead. There was a little too much violence for my taste, but it certainly did make the point that David had fallen to as low a point as possible. As he begins his climb back, he works at a ranch, falls in love with the daughter, struggles with his own emotional turmoil, deals with more violence, and finally the two of them run off.

There is too much to describe, but the book pulled me in from the beginning and never let me go. The down side is that this is the first of a two part story and now I am anxious to get the second part. There are more questions than answers and I want to find them. I hope that part two reveals a little more about his family, especially the brother who escaped, and the struggles that they have gone through.

This is a good book and I would recommend it. I received a free copy of the book in exchange for writing a review. Fortunately, the book was good enough on its own that I could offer an honest opinion.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Unique**, August 19, 2011

By

Joni "jonbon_14" (Ohio) - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase([What's this?](#))

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Kindle Edition)

I have always loved historical fiction, but most novels that fall into the category are very predictable; Class Collision is not. From the very beginning I was captured by the protagonist David. In the beginning he was such a brat and so unlikable, but as the story progressed I found myself wanting to read more and more, and enjoying the character. It is a romance, don't worry it's not sickly sweet with love scenes, but it is still very action packed. Revolving around the Great Depression and WWII Class Collision: Fall from Grace and Class Collision Phoenix Rising are both great historic novels.

Side Note: It really is like one book, but yes you do have to buy both, which is my only criticism.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Excellent story--can't wait to read book 2!**, May 16, 2011

By

Melmomof2 "Georgia Peach" (GA, USA) - See all my reviews

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Kindle Edition)

Excellent compelling story of a boy that grows into a man all the while learning who he really was and getting through many a hardship. Can't wait to read finale!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Waiting for the next one**, May 11, 2011

By

Leta - See all my reviews

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Paperback)

While I normally would not purchase a novel like Class Collision: Fall From Grace, I did obtain the book to read and enjoyed it very much.

Some who read it may not understand how things were in the time of the depression era. No

welfare programs, no unemployment programs and the very lack of jobs. Orphanages were not the best place to live as in some the children were not treated very well. Men could almost treat their wife and children any way they wanted without anyone saying anything about it. Sometimes we are in the state of presentism, life then is not like it is now and the author handles this very well.

The story does not end in this book and I await the sequel. I hope that we see more books from this author.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Magnificent character development.**, January 17, 2011

By

[MayJacque - See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

I was caught up with the characters of this story within the first few pages. The intensity of the personalities of each character grew with the turn of each page. I found myself reading at a fast pace so I could be involved with the next experience that would surface. The story line became an emotion. I felt, angry, joy, sadness, despair, excitement, hate, fear, happiness, sympathy, and so many other feelings. The characters become family and I wanted the best for them. Every free moment was taken up with reading more of this story. Without looking at the end I tried to imagine what would take place next in the lives of the characters. With regret the ending brought me to a feeling of exuberance only to learn that I must wait for the sequel. Look for me in line as soon as the sequel is available. Ms. Mackey is a don't miss author.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Satisfying teen romance novel with a bit of history!**, January 9, 2011

By

[Caty Jameson - See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

I absolutely adored this book Class Collision: Fall from Grace by Annette Mackey! The title says it all, at first I was a little uncertain about this novel because of the cover, but then I read it for myself and boy am I glad that I did. The relationships between each character are really strong and I liked how Mackey had her characters gradually develop throughout the novel. Linda and Davids romance was my favorite part of the book, it left me wanting more, to find out what happens next. I can't wait for the next book in this exciting new series!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Very entertaining**, December 5, 2010

By

[GraphicGeek](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

It was hard to put it down- you become so involved in the lives of the characters. I am ready for the sequel!

5.0 out of 5 stars **A Great Book!**, December 1, 2010

By

[Monkeysitter](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

Amazon Verified Purchase([What's this?](#))

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

I really enjoyed this wonderful book! It took me a few chapters to get into the story but once I was hooked I was hooked and ended up staying up really late to finish it.

Can't wait for the sequel!

5.0 out of 5 stars **Wonderful escapism**, October 16, 2010

By

[Robin Landry "Robin Landry, Author of "Wh..." \(Seatac, WA United States\)](#) - [See all my reviews](#)
([TOP 1000 REVIEWER](#)) ([VINE VOICE](#)) ([REAL NAME](#))

Amazon Verified Purchase([What's this?](#))

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

To call Class Collision and romance novel is the same as calling Jodi Picoult's work chic-lit. It's far more than just a good love story. Annette Mackey's debut novel has unforgettable characters

who come to life on the page through their complex emotions and growth throughout the book.

We humans are complicated creatures and it's hard to capture all that with simple words, but Mackey manages to introduce us to seemingly simple, one dimensional characters who once outside their comfort zone, dig deep to find parts of themselves that would have gone unrealized had it not been for the hardships they are made to endure.

David, the main character, is a brilliant, talented, spoiled ten year-old from a wealthy, privileged and loving family, who is kidnapped along with his older brother and held for ransom. This seemingly simple plot grows into an in depth look into the human psyche, and how much it can endure and adapt itself to. I usually find this sort of character depth in a psychological thriller, not a book that might be termed chic-lit or romance novel. What a treat to find both types of books in one.

Annette Mackey has more in common with Jodi Picoult than she does Danielle Steele. This is such an impressive debut. It's wonderful to have discovered another author to follow as she hones her skills as a writer. At the end of *Class Collision*, we're told that the story continues in Mackey's next novel. I only hope she's a fast writer because I can't wait to see what happens to both David, and Linda the girl he loves.

5.0 out of 5 stars **GREAT BOOK!**, September 23, 2010

By

[Celia Anderson](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

Amazon Verified Purchase([What's this?](#))

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

I very much enjoyed this book. Ms Mackey writes in a very scintillating manner and knows how to spin a good story. I was thoroughly engrossed from beginning to end.

5.0 out of 5 stars **A read that you will never want to put down!**, September 21, 2010

By

[basslizzard](#) - [See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

This book is so greatly developed, the characters, the plot, everything. Definitely one of my all time favorites! I carried it with me wherever I went, and stayed up until it was finished! It is so great!! The way its written its as if you are the characters, and are doing and seeing everything that they are seeing, one of the best reader-to-character stories I have ever read! There is so much emotion, conflict, romance, very heartfelt! Love this book! I cannot wait for the sequel!! :)

5.0 out of 5 stars **I was OBSESSED with this book!**, September 11, 2010

By

[Cami - See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Paperback\)](#)

I was so OBSESSED with this book and absolutely loved it!!!!!! Ms. Mackey brilliantly plotted this book and I was up to the wee hours of the night because I couldn't put it down. After reading it, it made me want to hug my children and be more grateful for my life. Ms. Mackey can certainly weave an intriguing story and I can hardly wait until the sequel is done!!!!!"

5.0 out of 5 stars **Unforgettable**, December 14, 2011

By

[Merchris - See all my reviews](#)

This review is from: [Class Collision: Fall From Grace \(Kindle Edition\)](#)

I recieved a free copy of this book to review, and boy am I glad I did. I probably wouldn't have picked this out by myself, so I feel fortunate that it came my way. David leads a life of luxury and ease in a time when others are suffering and trying to make ends meet. He thinks everyone is beneath him and that he is entitled to everything. All of that changes when his brother and him become kidnapped. The course of David's life changes and he has to learn new ways to survive both physically and emotionally. You can really feel the raw emotion that is wrapped up in David and initially when you read the book you know that he's the kind of kid you would hate, but after his experiences, you feel compassion and heartache for all that he's been through. This book has a second part that apparently continues the story and to be honest, I'm so interested in what happens next that I will probably purchase that book to see how this all ends. This was a really great story that spans about 10yrs and really brings to the pages real human emotion.

5.0 out of 5 stars **GREAT BOOK FOR BOOK CLUBS**, April 21, 2011

By

Jayer - See all my reviews

Amazon Verified Purchase(What's this?)

This review is from: Class Collision: Fall From Grace (Kindle Edition)

Excellent Book! This book indirectly asks questions like the following: 1. What is the value of a person? 2. How does society value people? 3. Does money equal happiness? 4. Can we be happy and poor? 5. Does love conquer all?

A very realistic approach that is credible and believable. This book holds back no punches on the difficulty of life, especially being alone during the Great Depression. It also shows how life improves when we share it with someone we love.

This book is part one of two parts. You must also read Class Collision Phoenix Rising.

More reviews:

Barnes and Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/class-collision-annette-mackey/1100102592?ean=2940012745613&format=nook-book/>

Goodreads: <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9394162-class-collision/>