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BOOK WORMS

"Confessions of a Shopaholic: A Novel"
 Sophia Kinsella
 Random House

With her credit cards at their max and her bank accounts sitting on empty, 20-something Becky Bloomwood is super trendy, possesses the season's hottest fashions, lives in a hip flat in the heart of London and is always buying her friends the most fabulous gifts.

Offered a large line of credit from a London bank soon after graduating from college, Becky realizes that shopping can be quite addictive and at times rather therapeutic.

Ironically, Bloomwood works for a financial magazine writing articles about topics that not only does she not like, but she actually doesn't really understand.

If she is down about a relationship gone badly or a Visa bill she can't pay, a great new coat, cashmere sweater, pointy-toed pair of boots and some monogrammed luggage is sure to ease her worries. Or does it?

Any woman who has irrationally purchased some fabulous shirt or new pair of shoes can relate well to Becky. Unlike Becky, however, most women usually realize they can neither afford the purchase, nor do they have anything to wear with it. In fact, it may be helpful to look up the exchange rate for dollars and pounds to comprehend just how much Becky is really spending.

Sophie Kinsella, through her fictional character Becky, will make readers want to manage their money better and help this poor girl manage hers as well.

There are 310 pages of Becky dodging lenders and becoming friends with her banker in the most hilarious of ways. "Confessions of a Shopaholic" is laugh-out-loud funny and has a delightful British twist. In short, this is a novel that will leave readers begging for more.

—Laura Young


"Getting Over It"
 Anna Maxted
 Harper Collins

"Getting over it" can be difficult for anyone including Helen Bradshaw. "Getting Over It," Anna Maxted, takes a look at the life of Helen who, by her standards, is not living a dream life. A lowly job as an assistant editor of a teen magazine, a cat with bowel troubles and a less-than-perfect love life are just the beginning of Helen's problems. When a phone call breaks the news that her father has died of a massive heart attack, it doesn't look like things could get any worse for Helen. With her father gone, things are turned upside down as her mother attempts suicide and Helen is left with the weight of the loss. But when the bad comes the good, as Helen approaches a new phase in her life as well as a chance at love.

Maxted introduces a character that is not only interesting, but also someone any woman in her 20s can relate to. Taking place in London, "Getting Over It" has the making of another "Bridget Jones' Diary," but with a darker side. Helen, just like Bridget Jones, has her quirks which give the story its humorous side. But through the death of her father and a best friend caught in an abusive love triangle "Getting Over It" can also be intriguing, as well as addictive.

"Getting Over It" is a great read with many implausible situations. Helen can't seem to get together, but that is what makes the story so believable. Helen is a young woman who just hasn't found what she is looking for in life, which is probably something any young woman can relate to.

—Kelcey Riege



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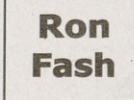


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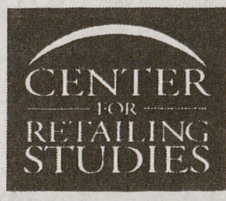
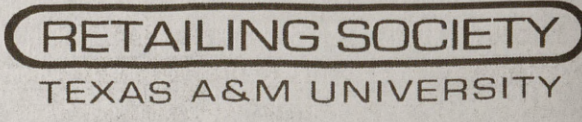
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