



How It's Done

By Christine Kole MacLean

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How It's Done By Christine Kole MacLean

Selected for the Book Sense Autumn 2006 Children's Pick List!

It's not like there's a "find yourself" kit or road signs that say "This way to being your own person." If you're lucky, maybe there's someone who can help you, like a fat lady on the beach might yell "Keep going! You can do it!" if you're a lousy swimmer and in way over your head. The funny thing is, that person is never who you think it's going to be. It's never who you want it to be.

"*How It's Done* is a richly woven tale of a young woman who discovers what it really means to be an adult. This story, told with honesty and heart, held me in my seat to the very end. I have discovered a new favorite writer in Christine MacLean."

?**Han Nolan**, National Book Award winner and author of *Send Me Down a Miracle* and *Dancing on the Edge*

"Compelling, realistic... Once you start reading, you won't stop."

?**Will Weaver**, author of *Full Service*, a 2005 Horn Book Fanfare winner

"MacLean writes about what can happen once all the rules get broken. I was hooked and could not stop turning pages."

?**Laurie Faria Stolarz**, bestselling author of the Blue is for Nightmares series

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How It's Done By Christine Kole MacLean Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—Grace Passedge, 18, was raised in a strict fundamentalist Christian family, with a righteous father and a mother hesitant to make waves. When he refuses to let her attend the senior party, bans her from reading romance novels, and makes her promise to remain a virgin until marriage, the teen rebels. While accompanying her friend Liv to a lecture at a local college, Grace meets a dashing, worldly professor who sweeps her off her feet and leads her into breaking her father's rules. She soon finds herself engaged to Michael, suspecting she might be pregnant as she plans her wedding, and wondering if she is doing the right thing by marrying someone with whom she has so little in common except good sex. When Liv betrays their friendship, and a new boy catches her eye, Grace is forced to make some important decisions about friends, family, and romantic relationships. Although it is difficult to envision the age difference between Grace and Michael, the characters are basically well drawn and believable. Readers will see early on that Grace is bound on a collision course, not because her father says her choices are wrong but because they go against her personal convictions. Unlike Jody in Valerie Hobbs's *Letting Go of Bobby James, or How I Found My Self of Steam* (Farrar, 2004), Grace acknowledges the truth in the nick of time. She grows through her experiences, leaving the impression that she will be a stronger and better person.—Diane P. Tuccillo, *City of Mesa Library, AZ*

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Review

..." will strike a chord with many teens."

"MacLean delivers a gently redemptive, compelling story of a young woman who wants to grow up too fast."

"Convincing characters and eloquent, hard-hitting first-person narration make this novel a gut-wrenching look at growing up and finding yourself."

"MacLean's writing moves the action swiftly enough for reluctant readers, and girls, who like Grace, relish romantic reads, will keep this book circulating."

From the Back Cover

Brought up in a fundamentalist home, eighteen-year-old Grace feels trapped in a suburban Alcatraz by her overbearing father and her timid mother. An affair with a college professor—a man of the world who's more likely to quote Shelley than scripture—seems like a great escape. But freedom brings with it unanticipated complications and Grace discovers that being involved with an older man is not all chardonnay and poetry.

How It's Done is an unflinching story of love and freedom and the price you pay for both.

How It's Done is a richly woven tale of a young woman who discovers what it really means to be an adult. This story, told with honesty and heart, held me in my seat to the very end. I have discovered a new favorite writer in Christine MacLean. -Han Nolan, National Book Award winner and author of *Send Me Down a Miracle* and *Dancing on the Edge*

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Christine Kole MacLean grew up on a farm in West Michigan, where, as the youngest of six children, she excelled at getting out of chores. Later, thinking it would be easier than digging ditches, she became a writer. (Most of the time, it is, she says, and it's never given me blisters.) She remains a writer because it's the only job in which daydreaming and telling lies somehow reveal truths rather than obscure them. She writes and tells lies from her home near Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Erhart:

Now a day those who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Studying a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information mainly this How It's Done book since this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Jon Estrada:

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