



My Big Nose and Other Natural Disasters

By Sydney Salter

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It's the end of junior year, and summer is about to begin. The Summer of Passion, to be exact, when Jory Michaels plans to explore all the possibilities of the future—and, with any luck, score a boyfriend in the process. But Jory has a problem. A big problem. A curvy, honking, bumpy, problem in the form of her Super Schnozz, the one thing standing between Jory and happiness. And now, with the Summer of Passion stretched before her like an open road, she's determined for Super Schnozz to disappear. Jory takes a job delivering wedding cakes to save up for a nose job at the end of the summer; she even keeps a book filled with magazine cutouts of perfect noses to show the doctor. But nothing is ever easy for accident-prone Jory—and before she knows it, her Summer of Passion falls apart faster than the delivery van she crashes. In this hilarious and heartbreakng novel, Sydney Salter delivers a story about broadening your horizons, accepting yourself, and finding love right under your nose.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—It's the summer before senior year and Jory is obsessing over two things: her giant nose and hottie Tyler Briggs. Believing that she can't have Tyler and a "Super Schnozz," she takes a job delivering cakes to save money for surgery. During a delivery, she meets Gideon, a guy with big brown eyes and an equally big nose. She's attracted to him, but is worried about what dating him will do to her social status. To complicate matters, Jory and her friend Megan compete for Tyler's attentions while Jory's mother, in an effort to be thin, forces her family to join her in crazy fad diets. As the pressure mounts, the teen, who begins to date Gideon, desperately looks to guys for validation and naively believes that a perfect nose will beget a perfect life. Readers will identify with her insecurities, but might be turned off by her melodrama. The humor is forced and the character development superficial. Salter literally writes off the unattainable Tyler just as his story line gets interesting. Teens looking for a character with a big nose and an even bigger sense of humor should read Emily Franklin's *At Face Value* (Flux, 2008), which features a modern-day Cyrano de Bergerac. *My Big Nose* is strictly an additional purchase.—*Kimberly Garnick Giarratano, Rockaway Township Public Library, NJ*

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From Booklist

The summer before senior year is Jory's last chance to transform herself and leave behind her mediocre grades, unrequited crushes, and especially her ugly nose. Intent on earning money for a nose job, she finds a job delivering wedding cakes near her home in Reno, Nevada, even though she can barely handle a stick shift, never mind parallel parking. In her wry, spirited voice, Jory reveals her jealousy of her girlfriends, mistakes at work, conflict with her appearance-obsessed mom, muddles with various boys (including one who turns out to be gay), and, always, her anguish over her proboscis. Obsession is boring and repetitive, and this first novel is too long in descriptions of Jory's mess-ups and the message-heavy resolutions, as she learns to see the best in herself and finds the perfect boyfriend. But the contemporary dialogue is rapid and funny, and teens will enjoy Jory's comic self-deprecation and the way she gets the signals wrong, both while driving and on dates. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"[T]he contemporary dialogue is rapid and funny, and teens will enjoy Jory's comic self-deprecation and the way she gets the signals wrong, both while driving and on dates."—*Booklist*

"Complex, likable, believable characters and a fresh, appealing fictional voice pull together this very agreeable summer romance."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"The tougher side of catching a boyfriend is depicted with humor and understanding in this first novel. . . . Simultaneously painful and hilarious. Salter captures the awkwardness of adolescence while driving home a message about self-acceptance."—*Publishers Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Johnny Mosier:

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