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# Messy



## Synopsis

Sometimes life gets Messy. When sixteen-year-old Brooke Berlin catches a taste of fame and her movie-star father's attention, she decides it's time to take her career to the next level--by launching a blog that will position her as a Hollywood "It Girl" who tells it like it is. But between schoolwork, shopping, and spray-tan appointments, she hardly has the time to write it herself...Enter green-haired outsider Max McCormack, an aspiring author with a terrible after-school job pushing faux meat on the macrobiotic masses. Max loathes the celebrity scene almost as much as she dislikes Brooke, but wooed by an impressive salary, Max reluctantly agrees to play Brooke's ghost-blogger -- and the site takes off. How long will their lie last? Can the girls work together to stay on top, or will the truth come out and ruin everything they've built? Along with an entourage of fame-hungry starlets, scruffy rocker wannabes, and sushi-scarfing socialites, the case of Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan's dazzling debut, *Spoiled*, are back for another adventure in Tinseltown.

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Poppy; Reprint edition (July 2, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316098280

ISBN-13: 978-0316098281

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #234,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Film](#) #772 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women](#) #3785 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues](#)

## Customer Reviews

First Impressions: The authors first book, *Spoiled*, will never make it to the top of my all-time favorite books, but I read it late last summer and it was a fun summer-time read. That's basically what I was looking for when I picked up my copy of *Messy*. It is summer and I'm out of school until August and I wanted to read a book that didn't require me to think too much. First 50 Pages: I thought that *Messy* was a sequel to *Spoiled*, but not so much. I would classify it as a companion novel and I don't really think that you need to read *Spoiled* in order to enjoy this book. I would also say that *Messy* and *Spoiled* are more fun to read than anything else. They aren't terribly long and either would make for

a nice afternoon at the beach. When I finished *Messy* I definitely think I liked it more than *Spoiled*, probably because it had a new narrator. I was never crazy about one of the old narrators, Molly, and she doesn't have such a huge role in this book.

**Characters & Plot:** Like I stated before, this book is just plain fun to read. The plot is very light and easy-going and it doesn't require much thought. This time around, *Messy* is narrated by Brooke and Max, who is Molly's best friend. Brooke is slightly obnoxious and she craves attention. Max is much more likable, but both have big dreams of making it into the spotlight. That is basically what this book is about; the race for fame and fortune. The funny thing is, is that neither girl really likes one another, yet they end up working together in this book for the pursuit of their dreams. Max however, is the true main character. She is snarky and hilarious at times and is willing to do just about anything to get the money to move to New York City, even if it means she has to put up with Brooke. Brooke has a blog and she needs a writer and of course, Max takes up the job, which comes with a few fun surprises. I definitely loved Max and she kind of reminded me of myself when I was around her age, even her obsession with moving to NYC (which I actually did!).

**Final Thoughts:** Again, this was a fun book. It had some great character dialog and it moved at a good pace. It's nothing fancy or life-changing but it kept me entertained for a few hours. I would definitely recommend it to teens who are looking for a good summertime book to read!

*Messy* is a juicy, hilarious young adult novel that will appeal to anyone who's ever wished for a body double (or blogger double). *Cocks* and *Morgan* follow up *Spoiled* with a little taste of what it's like being Brooke Berlin, daughter of Hollywood superstar Brick Berlin, who wants a little taste of fame for herself and knows just the way to do it: blogging! She hires green-haired Max McCormack, friend of her half-sister Molly, who is more than happy to escape her horrible job at vegetarian restaurant Fu'd. Enter crushes, both dim-witted and witty, and the sparks fly as Max finds herself succeeding at the career she mosts wants, writing, but having to embody the voice of spoiled Brooke. I raced through *Messy* and didn't want it to end. Brick Berlin is once again masterfully oblivious, and Brooke's mean girl trying to take over the world persona is alternately ridiculous and charming. If you haven't read *Spoiled*, I recommend reading it first, although you don't have to to appreciate *Messy*. Bloggers, you'll surely see at least a little bit of yourself in Brooke's and Max's joy in seeing their words being read, and horror when they've been taken the wrong way. Bring this book, and lots of sunscreen, to the beach!

*Messy* is a fun follow up to the *Fug Girls'* *Spoiled*, and continues on with Brooke Berlin and her

half-sister Molly. But while Spoiled was mainly about Brooke and Molly, this one's about Brooke and her secret "blogographer," Max, Molly's best friend. It's a great YA novel, that's also a quick, fun, and very current read for not so YAs as well. Great lessons about character, honesty and friendship are sneakily inserted into a very entertaining story of young starlets and life in Hollywood. Honestly, I was hesitant to read Spoiled, because I'm way past YA age, but it was on sale, and I love the Fug Girls, so I got it. Then once I read it, I liked it so much, I had to read Messy too. Truly, lots of fun.

Second books can often suffer from sequel-itis, causing them to not live up to the first. This is not the case with MESSY. I'm not saying it's better than SPOILED, which I also loved, but having Max as an aspiring writer dealing all the creative fits and starts and frustrations and excitement really hit home for me in how completely accurate it is. As much as I liked that SPOILED stayed within and fully explored the confines of the elite Los Angeles high school where celebrity spawn seek to spawn celebrity, I was fascinated that MESSY took us onto sets and into auditions. MESSY is utterly delightful as summer, fall, winter, or spring read. Dare we hope for a third installment, Fug Girls?

I really enjoyed 'Spoiled' but I REALLY enjoyed 'Messy'. It's a super clever follow up, and refreshing to see more character development and snarky Hollywood inside life that every teen dreams of being part of. I hope there's a TV series, or 3rd book - or more from the authors. I read it in two sittings over one weekend because I wanted to know what happens next -- and that's a RARE find. 5 stars!

I bought this book because I had read Spoiled, and liked it well enough to keep reading about the crazy lives of Hollywood teenagers. I found I could not put Messy down, and thought it was better written than the first book.

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