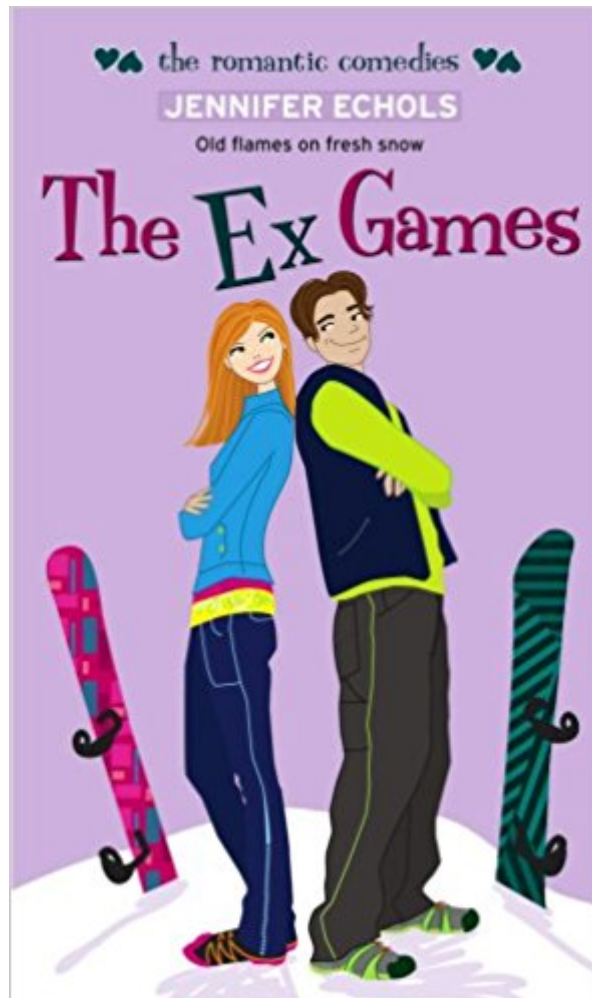




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The Ex Games (Romantic Comedies (Mass Market))



Synopsis

Brace yourself for the battle of the exes. . . . Hayden and Nick used to be a hot item, but their brief affair ended with a highly publicized breakup. Now the two are "just friends" excluding the occasional flirtation. When Hayden wins the girls' division of a local snowboarding competition, Nick is unimpressed, claiming that Hayden wouldn't have a chance against a guy. Hayden calls Nick's bluff and challenges him to a head-to-head boarding contest. Their mutual friends quickly take sides, the girls on Hayden's and the boys on Nick's, making for an all-out battle of the sexes. This friendly competition is bound to get heated - and they might end up igniting some old flames. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jennifer Echols is the author of romantic dramas for MTV and romantic comedies for Pulse. She currently lives in Birmingham. Visit her on the web at www.jennifer-echols.com.

seat belt seat belt (st belt) n. 1. a trick in which a snowboarder reaches across the body and grabs the board while getting air 2. what Hayden needs to fasten, because Nick is about to take her for a ride At the groan of a door opening, I looked up from my chemistry notebook. I'd been diagramming molecules so I wouldn't have any homework to actually take home. But as I stared at the white paper, it had dissolved into a snowy slalom course. The hydrogen

and oxygen atoms had transformed into gates for me to snowboard between. My red pen had traced my path, curving back and forth, swish, swish, swish, down the page. I could almost feel the icy wind on my cheeks and smell the pine trees. I couldn't wait to get out of school and head for the mountain. Until I saw it was Nick coming out the door of Ms. Abernathy's room and into the hall. At six feet tall, he filled the doorway with his model-perfect looks and cocky attitude. He flicked his dark hair out of his eyes with his pinkie, looked down at me, and grinned brilliantly. My first thought was, Oh no: fuel for the fire. About a month ago, one of my best friends had hooked up with one of Nick's best friends. Then, a few weeks ago, my other best friend and Nick's other best friend had gotten together. It was fate. Nick and I were next, right? Wrong. Everybody in our class remembered that Nick and I had been a couple four years ago, in seventh grade. They gleefully recalled our breakup and the resulting brouhaha. They watched us now for our entertainment value, dying to know whether we'd go out again. Unfortunately for them, they needed to stick to DVDs and Wii to fill up their spare time. Nick and I weren't going to happen. My second thought was, Ah, those deep brown eyes. Maybe snowboarding could wait a little longer, after all. "Fancy meeting you here, Hoyden." He closed the door behind him, too hard. He must have gotten in trouble for talking again, and Ms. Abernathy had sent him out in the hall. Join the club. From my seat against the cement block wall of our high school's science wing, I gazed up at him way, way up, because I was on the floor and tried my best to glare. The first time he'd called me Hoyden, years ago, I'd sneaked a peek in the dictionary to look up what it meant: a noisy girl. Not exactly flattering. Not exactly a lie, either. But I couldn't let him know I felt flattered that he'd taken the time to look up a word in the dictionary to insult me with. Because that would make me insane, desperate, and in unrequited love. He slapped his forehead. "Oh, I'm sorry, I meant Hayden. I get confused." He had a way of saying oh so innocently, like he had no idea he'd insulted me. Sometimes new girls bought his act, at least for their first few weeks at our school. They were taken by the idea of hooking up with Nick Krieger, who occasionally was featured in teen heartthrob magazines as the heir to the Krieger Meats and Meat Products fortune. And Nick obliged these girls at least for a few dates, until he dumped them. I knew his pattern all too well. When I'd first moved to Snowfall, Colorado, I had been one of those girls. He'd made me feel like a princess for a whole month. No, better like a cool, hip teenage girl who dated! The fantasy culminated with one deep kiss shared in the back row of the movie theater with half our English class watching us. It didn't end well, thus the aforementioned brouhaha. I blinked the stars out of my eyes.

“Fancy seeing you here, Ex.” He gave me his smile of sexy confidence, dropped his backpack, and sank to the floor beside me. “What do you think of Davis and Liz?” My heart had absolutely no reason to skip a beat. He was not asking me out. He was asking me my opinion of my friend Liz and his friend Davis as a couple. That did not necessarily mean he was heeding public opinion that he and I were next to get together. Liz and Davis were a legitimate topic of gossip. I managed to say breezily, “Oh, they’ll get along great until they discuss where to go on a date. Then he’ll insist they go where she wants to go. She’ll insist they go where he wants to go. They’ll end up sitting in her driveway all night, fighting to the death over who can be more thoughtful and polite.” Nick chuckled, a low rumble in his chest. Because he’d sat down so close to me and our arms were touching, sort of, under layers and layers of clothing, I felt the vibration of his voice. But again, my heart had no reason to repeat, no reason to skip two beats, or possibly three, just because I’d made Nick laugh. He made everybody feel this good about their stupid jokes, from the most popular girl in our class down to the chick with straight hair and bottle glasses who wore long denim skirts with her Nikes. “And what’s up with Gavin and Chloe?” he asked next. “Chloe and Gavin are an accident waiting to happen.” I couldn’t understand this mismatch between the class president and the class bad boy, and it was a relief finally to voice my concerns, even if it was to Nick. “They’re both too strong-willed to make it together long. You watch. They’re adorable together now, but before long they’ll have an argument that makes our tween-love Armageddon look like a happy childhood memory.” Suddenly it occurred to me that I’d said way too much, and Nick would likely repeat this unflattering characterization to Gavin, who would take it right back to Chloe. I really did hold this opinion of Chloe and Gavin’s chances at true love, but I’d never intended to share it! I lost my inhibitions when I looked into Nick’s dark eyes, damn him. I slid my arm around him conspiratorially—not as titillating as it sounds, because his parka was very puffy—and cooed, “But that’s just between you and me. I know how good you are at keeping secrets.” He pursed his lips and gazed at me reproachfully for throwing our seventh-grade history in his face, times two. Back then he’d brought our tween-love Armageddon on himself by letting our whole class in on his secret while he kept me in the dark. Not that I was bitter. But instead of jabbing back at me, he slipped his arm around me, too. And I was not wearing a puffy parka, only a couple of T-shirts, both of which had ridden up a little in the back. I knew this without looking because I felt the heat of his fingers on my bare skin, above the waistband of my jeans. My face probably turned a few shades redder than my

hair. “Now, Hoyden,” he reprimanded me, “Valentine’s Day is a week from tomorrow. We don’t want to ruin that special day for Gavin and Chloe or Davis and Liz. We should put aside our differences for the sake of the kids.” I couldn’t help bursting into unladylike laughter. I expected him to remove his hand from my hip in revulsion at my outburst, but he kept it there. I knew he was only toying with me, I knew this, but I sure did enjoy it. If the principal had walked by just then and sensed what I was thinking, I would have gotten detention. “Four years is a long time for us to be separated,” he crooned. “We’ve both had a chance to think about what we really want from our relationship.” This was true. Over the four years since we’d been together, I’d come to the heartbreaking realization that no boy in my school was as hot as Nick, nobody was as much fun, and nobody was nearly as much of an ass. For instance, he’d generated fire-crotch comments about me as I passed his table in the lunchroom yesterday. Remember when another heir called a certain red-haired actress a fire-crotch on camera? No? Well, I remember. Redheads across America sucked in a collective gasp, because we knew. The jokes boys made to us about Raggedy Ann, the Wendy’s girl, and Pippi Longstocking would finally stop, as we’d always hoped, only to be replaced by something infinitely worse. So when I heard fire-crotch whispered in the lunchroom, I assumed it was meant for me. Nick was the first suspect I glanced at. His mouth was closed as he listened to the conversation at the lunch table. However, when there was commentary around school about me, Nick was always in the vicinity. He might not have made the comment, but I knew in my heart he was responsible. Now I chose not to relay my thoughts on our four-year-long trial separation, lest he take his warm hand off my hip. Instead, I played along. “Are you saying you didn’t sign the papers, so our divorce was never finalized?” “I’m saying maybe we should call off the court proceedings and try a reconciliation.” A strand of his dark hair came untucked from behind his ear, and he jerked his head back to swing the hair out of his eyes. Oooh, I loved it when he did that! I had something of a Nick problem. His hair fell right back into his eyes. Sometimes when this happened, he followed up the head jerk with the pinkie flick, but not this time. He watched me, waiting for me to say something. Oops. I’d forgotten I was staring at him in awe. A reconciliation? Probably he was just teasing me, as usual. But what if this was his veiled way of asking me on a date? What if he was feeling me out to see whether I wanted to go with him before he asked me directly? This was how Nick worked. He had to win. He never took a bet that wasn’t a sure thing. And if he’d been listening to everyone in class prodding him to ask me out, the timing was perfect, if I did say so myself. He was between girlfriends (not that I

kept up with his dating status)...

The Ex Games is a young adult romantic comedy. It's about Hayden and her ex boyfriend Nick, challenging each other to a snow boarding competition, to see if a girl can really beat a boy at snow boarding. However things start to get out of control when it's not just Nick and Hayden and there friends going to be showing up to the competition. Somehow every one all over town has heard about it, and will be showing it. It turns out to be this huge deal, but Hayden has a problem, she's afraid of heights since she broke her leg more than four years ago. I enjoyed this book a lot, it was very entertaining, and funny. But the fact that Nick and Hayden keep having these same "arguments" and doing the same thing to each other repeatedly got very annoying. It really made my opinion drop of the book because of this. Otherwise it was a very well written book, with an interesting plot, and lots of high school drama, and girl vs. boy competition! I give this book a 3 out of 5 stars. It would have been a lot better if certain things in the book weren't constantly being repeated.

I Loved this book. I'm one of those readers that love a strong female lead, and this book had it. When you read the book you get the feeling that the two main characters still have feelings for one another. The female lead is quite funny as she is stubborn and because of the fact that she is stubborn she tends to maybe do stupid things or say stupid things that put her into quite awkward situations, though these situations are quite funny or in some cases steamy. The male lead is your typical american jock. He's cocky and arrogant and absolutely adorable. You fall in love with him straight away and you just kind of end up rooting for him and cursing the main female during the book. The thing I think I loved most about this book is that it wasn't one of those "teen" books that were kind of childish, I think the author gave it a more realistic and mature approach. I didn't feel as if I was reading a children's romance it felt like a teen romance. What I also like was that the heroine had some "issues" that were effecting or let's say damaging her chances of achieving her dream and during the book you read and go through what she goes through and the obstacles that hinder her and help her to achieve her dream. But even though there is a very nice back story or better yet inspirational story to the book, it is still a teen romance and it is one of the best non sci-fi teen romance's that I have read.

I am from Belgium en here is my opinion for this book. I am very happy to read books in English because they translate here in Belgium Some books but not So good. sometimes there are words

missing or something like that. I like to read them from here and here I go try to give my opinion about it. I am saying that my spelling is not so good. Sorry for this But I do my best to help. I thought this was a good book. And was quickly read. There was not really anything just a nice end so I slept Well There was a little action, love, romance, And a happy end So a lovely book for me

While I agree with previous reviewer's that this book was cute, I just found myself flipping through it to "get to the good parts". There were flashes of darn close to excellent though. The verbal sparring at the beginning was amusing, and while it was clear from even that point that Hayden and Nick would end up together, Jennifer Echols did a pretty good job of creating the sort of romantic friction that make a couple likable from the start. The main problem for me was that I quickly grew weary of Hayden's flightiness and Nick's constant "flicking back his hair with his pinkie"...really? I even found myself rolling my eyes at some parts of the book. I can't help but think maybe this was originally a shorter story and the author had to flesh it out to make it longer. Because while the initial misunderstanding that snowballed was handled quite deftly, when it was resolved and Hayden and Nick reconcile, five minutes later another misunderstanding pops up that seems completely out of place and they're angry at each other again and you're left saying "Wha? Where did that come from?" It grew tiresome to see them flirt, maybe kiss, then one of them gets mad storms off and two pages later it's like nothing happened. Drama queens the both of them. Overall, it was a satisfying bit of literary candy floss. Light, sweet and enjoyable while it lasted, but you don't really savor it so much as just mindless nibble it.

My Thoughts: I love the Simon Romantic Comedies! I know some of you aren't fond of the cartoon covers but I adore these books! They are sooo cute! We meet Hayden aka Hoyden and Nick. Hayden and Nick used to date in 7th grade! Some embarrassing events happened, they broke up and have been at each other's throats ever since. They both think they are so good at snowboarding and somehow get wrapped up in a challenge, a battle of the sexes. I loved this book. I didn't know if they were going to beat up one another or start making out! The tension between them is HOT! I could see myself falling for Nick. He acts all cool and thinks he's all that, but really he's just a sweet guy who has the hots for Hayden but can't tell her because he just wants to come off as cool. So instead he picks on her constantly! This book is fun and so far the best Simon Romantic Comedie I've read so far! Overall: Great! One of my favs! Loved it! Cover: Very cute! I don't mind the cartoon characters. Once you start reading the comedies you'll want to read them all!! What I'd Give It: 5/5 Cupcakes Taken From Princess Bookie

I read this book a couple of years ago over my summer break from school. It was a nice backyard read and still find myself wanting to read this book every now and then.

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