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6 Dates To Disaster (Bird Face) (Volume 3)



Synopsis

When Wendy's family faces financial hardship, she must find a way to see Mrs. V and Sam again—but will she lose David forever in the process? For her mom's birthday, Wendy finds an old jewelry box at a flea market—the perfect gift for someone who loves salvaged junk. But inside the box is a cryptic note that appears to have been written recently. Wendy's curiosity leads her on a search with boyfriend David at her side, eager to help. Who wrote the note, and did the intended recipient ever see it? But when Wendy's stepfather loses his job, she needs more personal and urgent help—the financial kind. The family's plan to visit Alaska on vacation is headed down the sewer like a hard Louisiana rain. How will Wendy ever see Mrs. V or Sam again? An opportunity arrives in the form of tutoring Melissa, one of the Sticks, and Wendy's money problems appear to be solved. Until the arrangement takes a turn that gets Wendy into trouble like never before. In the final months of ninth grade, she might lose everything she counted on for the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is another winner for Cynthia Toney in the Bird Face series. I love the way Ms Toney writes for teens and young adults in a manner that let's them know how special and valuable they are. She also touches on life experiences we all face and must deal with, and she does so in such a way as to allow young people to make up their own minds as to what the right choices are. I actually met Cynthia through animal rescue at our local shelter when she was living here in Mississippi so I know

her love and compassion are true. I have thoroughly enjoyed this series and look forward to the next installment.

Cynthia Toney adds more excitement to the saga of Wendy's life in this third book in her Bird Face Series. We meet again with all the old characters and friends, and some new ones. Wendy is learning what it's like to live in a blended family and to be in a relationship with David. She's also missing Mrs. V and Sam and desperately trying to make money to visit them in Alaska. Things are looking up in her new life, but as usual, the good times don't last and real life kicks in. And just when it looks like things could not be worse, they suddenly are. How does Wendy deal with it all? In usual Wendy fashion. *6 Dates to Disaster* reminds us that there are consequences to all our actions. It reminds us that true friendships never die. And it reminds us that life is not always fair. If you're a fan of the first two books in this series, you will like this story too. It's a fun book, lined with the usual suspense, and spiced with a taste of Cajun.

The series seems to gradually mature with the main character Wendy. Bird Face book 3 did not disappoint, just be aware (****spoiler alert!!!*****) this one is not (yet?) set in Alaska. I can't wait for the next one!!!

The third installment of the Bird Face series by Cynthia Toney is another winner for young teens. As Wendy attempts to earn money to fund her Alaska summer trip to visit Mrs. V. (and Sam), she finds herself in over her head tutoring classmates. As the demands of her job spiral out of control, everything she cares about could be jeopardized - running track, school, summer plans, and most worrisome - her deepening relationship with boyfriend David. An old friendship is revived with Jennifer, who's also in over her head. And then there's a little mystery involving a note hidden in an old jewelry box. *6 Dates to Disaster* (and the first two books in the series) allow teens to see the ramifications of the small but important choices they make that affect their relationships - with their parents, siblings, friends, and members of the opposite sex. Add a little Cajun spice, and you have the recipe for a great read. (I received an advance copy from the author, whom I'm acquainted with via online writers' groups. Opinions expressed are my own.)

Life can be horribly unfair, especially if you are a teen. Or so you may think. Sometimes parents can be right, but not all adult decisions seem just and reasonable. Unfortunately, adults usually have the last word. Cynthia Toney weaves new story lines into Wendy Robichaud's complicated life.

Wendy doesn't always start in a good place. She can be selfish, unforgiving, and greedy. However, as in the earlier books of the Bird Face Series, deep down inside, Wendy loves widely and deeply. Her romantic love of David Griffin flourishes into something far beyond physical attraction. Her friendship with her stepsister Alice and her distant cousin Gayle deepen into tender generosity. Her concern for Mrs. Villaturo, who moved from their old neighborhood, drives Wendy to exhaustion as she tries to earn her way to Alaska to visit Mrs. V. and her grandson, Sam.

Wendy's former best friend, Jennifer, returns to her life, and Wendy realizes how much Jennifer still means to her. Wendy even grows closer, mainly through adversity, to her mother and stepfather as their new family gels together. Wendy grew up in poverty. Salvaging and recycling (are) in (her) blood. Her mother had furnished their tiny house with discards and flea market finds. Penny-pinching comes naturally to mother and daughter. When Cathy Robichaud married Daniel Rend in the previous book, Wendy not only gained Alice, her stepsister, and Adam, her stepbrother, but she moved to a larger house and entered a world of greater affluence. When Daniel loses his job, Wendy shifts back to frugal mode and prepares to earn her way to Alaska. Although shunned by the Sticks, her wealthy and fashionably anorexic classmates, Wendy is good enough to tutor one of them, Melissa, on the sly. For pay. What would people think if a Stick girl was seen with Bird Face? But word spreads among Melissa's friends of Wendy's abilities. Wendy exhausts herself taking money in the service of the wealthy illiterate. What could possibly go wrong? Everything! Wendy suffers humiliation and rejection, but she thrives. She learns to trust, forgive, and share in ways that challenge her readers to grow up and step up. By the last page of *6 Dates to Disaster*, Wendy stands taller and stronger in spite of the blows life has dealt. *6 Dates to Disaster* calls out loudly for a sequel. There's a continent of material from which to draw and many new adventures to fill the life of Louisiana's Wendy Robichaud. As with the previous Bird Face novels, Cynthia Toney personalizes Wendy's story with discussion questions and resources on relevant topics. Readers will find ways to open discussion about honesty, dating, underage drinking, communication with parents, American Sign Language, and finding a mentor. The previous volumes in the Bird Face series include *8 Notes to a Nobody* and *10 Steps to Girlfriend Status*. Cynthia Toney and I belong to the Catholic Writers Guild Fiction Critique Group. She provided me with a pre-publication copy of *6 Dates to Disaster* for use in this review.

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