



## Goodbye, Amanda the Good

By Susan Shreve

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Amanda Bates, older sister of Joshua T. Bates, has always been a "good girl," gotten good grades, and played by the rules. But now that she's in junior high, Amanda is discovering that those rules have changed. Her friends have all gone to other schools, her body's changing, her moods are up and down . . . she doesn't even recognize herself! Amanda decides that her only chance to fit in is to join "the Club," so she dyes her hair purple, changes her name to Cheetah, cuts school, and starts dating an older boy with a shady past. It's as if she's two different people: the one doing all these things she knows are wrong and the one watching them happen--and before long, she's going to have to choose between them.

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## Goodbye, Amanda the Good By Susan Shreve Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

"Perceptive and sympathetic, Shreve's savvy novel focuses on a seventh-grader (Joshua T. Bates's older sister) suffering the first throes of adolescent angst," wrote PW in a starred review. "Readers will recognize their feelings and problems on every page." Ages 10-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8-Amanda Bates, older sister of Joshua from Shreve's earlier books (all Knopf), has turned 13, and overnight everything about her life seems wrong-clothes, hair, friends, and parents. She feels adrift in seventh grade, not part of any group, completely different from the girl she was in elementary school. When she attracts the notice of Slade, ninth-grade hunk with a reputation for bad behavior, classmates who belong to "The Club" suddenly become interested in her. These girls dress in black, change their names, disdain authority, smoke, and shoplift. They are fascinatingly different and Amanda longs to join them. As she becomes acquainted with Slade, she finds that most of the rumors about him are just that, and underneath it all is a pretty decent kid who wants to be her friend. And joining the Club quickly loses its attraction when Amanda participates in a shoplifting incident, cuts school, and has to lie to the principal. Shreve captures her protagonist's utter bewilderment and anxiety in this appealing novel. Amanda doesn't understand herself or her actions any better than her parents do, but like most girls her age, she resists their advice. Only Joshua can still communicate with her and their relationship is a sweet addition to the book. A thoughtful and realistic look at becoming a teenager.

*Terrie Dorio, Santa Monica Public Library, CA*

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From Kirkus Reviews

PLB 0-679-99241-3 In Shreve's funny version of a junior high identity crisis, a good girl goes bad, but redeems herself before any real crimes have been committed. When Amanda gets to junior high, she's pretty much on her own. All of her old friends have either moved or are in other schools, and there aren't any new friends on the horizon. Amanda tries to dye her hair black, digs out her mother's old black clothes, a pair of clunky shoes, and dark lipstick, and sets out shock anyone looking on. At first it seems as if her efforts are paying off; she has already attracted the attention of the ninth-grade bad boy, Slade, and Fern, who wants Amanda to join her club. Amanda can't wait to be a member, but must first accompany Fern on a shoplifting mission. It turns out that the only person Amanda shocks is herself, and she takes stock of all the other strikes against her bad grades, annoyed parents and teachers, the disgust of her little brother. Shreve is not forging new ground, but she provides a wonderful look at the rebels and wannabes inhabiting every junior high school on the planet, and creates in Slade a bad boy/romantic interest that will have readers rooting. The angst of starting out friendless in a new school is written across most pages, and other Amandas out there who find this refreshingly real. (Fiction. 10-13) -- *Copyright ©2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Dominique Fletcher:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make all of them survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a publication your ability to survive increases then having a chance to stay than other is high. For you who want to start reading any book, we give you this specific Goodbye, Amanda the Good book as a starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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