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# How To Ruin A Summer Vacation (How To Ruin A Summer Vacation Novel)



## Synopsis

YALSA 2007 Teens Top Ten ""A breezy read."" Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Fresh, fun and fabulous! Guaranteed NOT to ruin your summer vacation! Mari Mancusi, author of Boys that Bite How To Ruin a Summer Vacation Moshav? Whats a moshav? Is it shopping mall in Hebrew? I mean, from what Jessica was telling me, Israeli stores have the latest fashions from Europe. That black dress Jessica has is really awesome. I know Id be selling out if I go to a mall with Ron (my biological father), but I keep thinking about all the great stuff I could bring back home. Unfortunately for 16-year-old Amy Nelson, moshav is not Hebrew for shopping mall. Not even close. Think goats, not Gucci. Going to Israel with her estranged Israeli father is the last thing Amy wants to do this summer. Shes got a serious grudge against her dad for showing up so rarely in her life. Now hes dragging her to a war zone to meet a family shes never known, where shell probably be drafted into the army. At the very least, shell be stuck in a house with no AC and only one bathroom for seven people all summerno best friend, no boyfriend, no shopping, no cell phone Goodbye pridehello Israel.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710L (What's this?)

Series: How to Ruin a Summer Vacation Novel (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Flux (October 8, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738709611

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #230,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies](#) #177 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences](#) #1159 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 8-10  
Amy Nelson is a stereotypical spoiled teen who has stereotypical plans for her summer vacation: shopping, friends, boyfriend. Then, out of nowhere, her long-absent father calls to inform her that the grandmother whom she has never met is ill and that Amy needs to go to Israel to meet her. Before the teen can say, But I'm not even Jewish! she is on an Israeli moshav sharing a room with a cousin who hates her for being a spoiled American, lusting after a brooding older boy on the verge of his mandatory military service, and learning more than she ever thought possible about her faith, her family, their history, and their present. The characters are stock, and the lessons Amy learns are expected, but readers are still drawn into her story. The lightness of the narrative sometimes belies the depth of the topics on which it touches, but it is true to the manner in which many American teens would encounter these issues. Best for avid readers of realistic, high school dramedy.  
Morgan Johnson-Doyle, Sierra High School, Colorado Springs, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

..," A fun read that also digs deeper into complex emotions." "Funny, sharp dialogue keeps the teen conversations fresh and true to life." "A breezy read." --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books  
"Fresh, fun and fabulous! Guaranteed NOT to ruin your summer vacation!" --Mari Mancusi, author of Boys that Bite-A breezy read.- --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books -Fresh, fun and fabulous! Guaranteed NOT to ruin your summer vacation!- --Mari Mancusi, author of Boys that Bite

Ok, before I start reviewing the book I have to say a couple of things about Israel. I live in Israel. My mom lived in the US for 20 years and moved to Israel because of my dad, therefore I read only English books and speak English better than I speak Hebrew.. Sad I know. I started reading this book knowing it will be fun reading about a book that is about Israel and America. About Israeli's and American's being together. While I was reading this book I understood that the author didn't really know many things about Israel. Understandable. But when you write a book you need to make sure you have all the right facts. So before I tell you what I thought about the book I have to clarify some things that bothered me throughout the book. First of all, in the twenty first century teenagers' names aren't usually Osnat, Ofra. It's more like: Maya, Mia, Noa, Dana, Natalie...2. I am 19, which means that I am a soldier. We, soldiers, are not, I repeat, are NOT bodyguards or work in any security company. We do not stand in airports with guns, outside of clubs (which we don't call disco- number three of the list that bothered me) checking I.D's and being called when there's a fight- That is for the police to take care of. What we REALLY do is: guard our country. Not the clubs or hotels, but the country itself! So reading about soldiers being like bodyguards just had me

wanting to explain to you all that it's not true.<sup>3</sup> We don't say disco anymore. My dad didn't even say disco when he was a teen. Just wanted to clarify things.<sup>4</sup> People don't lick one another at clubs. It's just wrong and gross! Now about the book: I, actually, really liked it. When I started reading it I thought it will be horrible, but I instantly liked it and read it in one sitting. Amy was sometimes annoying and too much to handle. I liked that she grew throughout the book. I LOVED the cute relationship between Avi (a typical guy name, even now lol) and Amy. It took some time but I'm happy it happened. I can't wait to read the second book and see what happens to Amy when she's in the US. I hope Avi will be involved. Overall it was a fun read. I found myself laughing and smiling to myself most of the time. I really recommend this book. But again, I had to explain some stuff. I give this book 4 stars.

Simone Elkeles shows her sense of humor in "How To Ruin A Summer Vacation". Amy traveling to Israel with her father whom she calls SD has you laughing right from the start. When they arrive at the Moshav, Amy meets up with guys her own age named Doo-Doo, Moron and O' dead. When her father introduces her to Doda Yucky, uncle Chaim and then her cousin O'snot, this brought on laughing so hard I started to cry. When she meets her Safta for the first time it over whelms Amy so bad that she runs out of the house crying and stops by a pig pen where she see's "no shirt guy" throwing bails of hay into the pen, and a puppy she later names "Mutt" comes up to her. Walking back towards the house she notices a bunch of big dogs barking at her and running towards her. Amy takes off in the opposite direction running as fast as she can and jumps toward the pen with her eyes closed. She ends up straddling Avi. After her Aba gets done yelling at her she goes into the bedroom where Snotty is sitting on her bed. Amy decides she is going to take a shower, but forgets clothes. With a towel wrapped around her she heads into the bedroom not looking at Snotty. Amy is embarrassed to dress in front of her, but drops her towel to put on her underwear and shorts when the door opens she thinks it is SD, but it is Snotty. With a tank top covering her chest she turns to see Avi sitting on the bed and screams which brings her father and uncle. Avi got a really good peep show. Embarrassed, Amy runs into the bathroom. And this is only in the first 55 pages. Out of the three "How To Ruin" books, this one is the funniest. I would recommend this book. Simone as usual writes a great book...

Taken from [princessbookie.com](http://princessbookie.com) My Thoughts: First off, I just want to say that I am reviewing all 3 books in this one review. The other titles in the series are How To Ruin My Teenage Life and How To Ruin Your Boyfriend's Reputation. We are introduced to Amy who lives with her mom. Her dad

has been in and out of her life throughout the years but he calls and wants Amy to go to Israel because her grandmother whom she has never meant and to learn more about his home country and her family. Amy goes and spends time there and it is nothing like what she is used too. She meets her dad's side of the family. She meets a boy. Not just any boy but a hot boy named Avi. It was love at first sight for me. I loved him and throughout all three books I fell in love more and more. Part of me felt like he was my Avi! How To Ruin My Teenage Life deals with Amy being back home in the states and she has went to live with her father in Chicago. She meets a new boy named Nathan but deep down her heart belongs to Avi but the catch is Avi is spending 3 years in the military because that is law in Israeli so how can she be with someone who is not around? But what happens when he does come around? Book 3, How To Ruin Your Boyfriend's Reputation deals with Amy ending up on Avi's boot camp. I don't want to say much more without giving away every detail of every book. But, here is the short version. I spent 24 hours reading these 3 books. Did I sleep? Not much. One of the times, my boyfriend came in the room and I was asleep on top of the book. I fell asleep reading it! Of course I got right back up and started reading it again until my eyes got tired. I went to bed for a few hours, got back up, and started reading again. These books are so addicting and I love Amy, all of Amy's friends, and Avi. I hope there is a book 4!!!! Overall: Loved the whole series! Devoured it! So good! Cover: I think all 3 covers are really adorable!

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