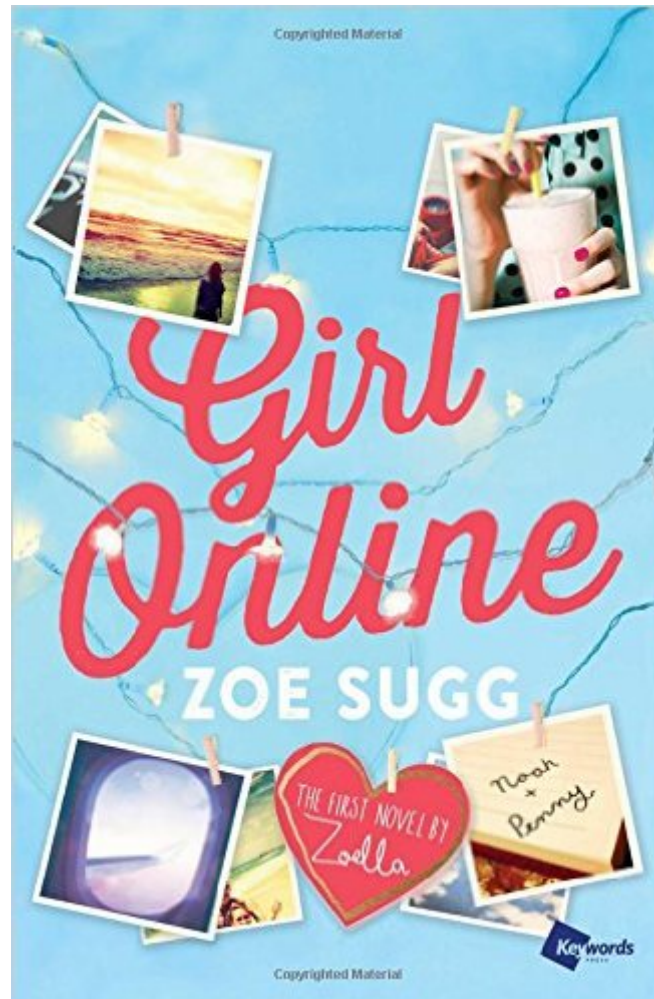


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# Girl Online: The First Novel By Zoella (Girl Online Book)



## Synopsis

From YouTube sensation Zoella comes a debut coming-of-age novel that perfectly captures what it means to grow up and fall in love in today's digital world. *Girl Online* is the first book to be published by Keywords Press, an imprint under Simon & Schuster dedicated to today's digital stars. I have this dream that, secretly, all teenage girls feel exactly like me. And maybe one day, when we realize that we all feel the same, we can all stop pretending we're something we're not. That would be awesome. But until that day, I'm going to keep it real on this blog and keep it unreal in real life. Penny has a secret. Under the alias GirlOnline, Penny blogs her hidden feelings about friendship, boys, high school drama, her quirky family, and the panic attacks that have begun to take over her life. When things go from bad to worse at school, her parents accept an opportunity to whisk the family away for Christmas at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. There, she meets Noah, a gorgeous, guitar-strumming American. Suddenly Penny is falling in love and capturing every moment she spends with Brooklyn Boy on her blog. But Noah has a secret, too, one that threatens to ruin Penny's cover and her closest friendship forever. Award-winning and influential YouTube vlogger Zoe Sugg delivers a heartfelt coming-of-age novel that perfectly captures the highs and lows of first love, friendship, and growing up in the digital age.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720 (What's this?)

Series: *Girl Online Book* (Book 1)

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Atria/Keywords Press (November 25, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1476797455

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 364 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,836 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #44 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex #70 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

If we're being honest, I truly feel this book doesn't even deserve one star for its target audience being young adult. It's meant to be a fluffy romance read, which I am typically a fan of, but this story didn't even get close to hitting the mark. I have enjoyed watching Zoe Sugg's vlogs going on three years now and had high standards for "Girl Online", as Zoe had stated writing was a passion of hers. I picked it up for ten bucks (a serious steal for hardcover!) and eagerly awaited for the package to arrive. Due to the summary, I was expecting a story in the vein of Kody Keplinger meets Sarah Dessen -- a quick teen romance read with an underlying message and a touch of drama. Instead, I received a book that felt more suited for a middle schooler. Disappointed and unable to read past the first chapter due to the childish writing, I tried to return the book to . While I was refunded for my purchase, I was told to not return the item. Apparently, it will occasionally cost them more money to get an item back than to just leave it with the customer. I ended up skimming through -- not reading beginning to end, as I already had a bad taste in my mouth from the first chapter. I decided to skip through pages in order to understand the plot and characters. Usually I try to be transparent in reviewing books, and if I dislike one I typically say it was an unpleasant or unenjoyable read. However, "Girl Online" is a special case as I will simply say to you -- I hated it. Of course the main character, Penny, has a famous, attractive boy after her who just happens to (\*SPOILER ALERT\*) be in a fabricated relationship with another female singer, for the sake of their careers -- doesn't that happen everyday? The entire story reads like a poorly thought out fantasy of the author. The target audience for this book shouldn't be set above fourteen, just skimming through it proves that. It's bursting at the seams with cliches, bland writing, and cardboard characters. In other words, I am heavily disappointed with this book and wouldn't recommend it, no matter the author's situation. If you were considering purchasing this book as a present for anyone, or even for yourself, I highly recommend you look to other authors within the YA genre such as: For 14 & Up: Rainbow Rowell - "Fangirl" Jenny Han - "The Summer I Turned Pretty" For 12 & Up: Sandy Hall - "A Little Something Different" Lisi Harrison - "Pretenders"

There are many words that I'd use to describe Girl Online, my favorite ones being Cliche, Predictable, Disappointing, and downright awful. When I found out that Zoe was writing a book, I was ecstatic. I have so much respect for her and everything she has done in her life. I think she is a great role model and a wonderful online personality. As an author, though, I am very disappointed. I

bought this book despite the cliché sounding synopsis because I figured Zoe would give a unique take on the classic love story. I, however, was very let down. I am at my wits end when it comes to reading books about a teenage girl who is clumsy and shy with few friends. How many more books can there be about girls who aren't "pretty" yet all seem to have conventionally attractive features (I.E. a slender frame, curly/shiny hair, freckles)? And don't even get me started on the perfect-yet-edgy musician boy who finds her beautiful and helps her see her inner beauty. I could have gotten past this totally cliché plot line if it had not been for the dreadful writing. Again, I have so much respect for Zoe and love reading her blog, but I did not see any of the same talented writing that I've seen on her blog translated into this book. To be honest, I have read fan fiction with better writing and character development. The lack of character development I attribute to the cliché plot, but the rest of the writing was just disappointing. There is no difference in the dialogue of the girls and the boys in the novel. I don't know about you, but I do not talk the same way that an 18 year old boy talks. Good thing she has "Noah whispers, Noah asks, Noah begins, Noah says, etc" after EVERY LINE OF DIALOGUE because otherwise, I wouldn't know who is speaking. The following is an excerpt of text that I think exemplifies the poor writing throughout this book. "He's so close I can see a tiny fleck of ink on the side of his face. His hand closes tighter around mine and this automatically pulls me even closer, until our faces are just centimeters apart. 'He's going to kiss me! Is he going to kiss me? What should I do?' I close my eyes to try to block out any panicky thoughts. And then I feel his lips on mine - as light as a feather - and I feel myself kissing him back. Somehow, miraculously, I seem to know what to do." (Girl Online, Zoe Sugg, pg 198). And, if that isn't enough to upset you, she gives away the ending to The Fault in our Stars. If I were John Green, I would be less than pleased that such a poor excuse for a novel tries to piggy back on the prestige of his great one. I do not recommend this book to anyone, and I doubt I will be purchasing her other ones.

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