



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Wesley James Ruined My Life By Jennifer Honeybourn Reviewed by Jack Coffey

Name: Jack Coffey

Grade: 8th

Book Title: Wesley James Ruined My Life

Author: Jennifer Honeybourn

Number of Pages: 228

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 3/5

Character List:

- **Quinn:** Quinn is the main character, a girl at the end of high school who works at a medieval times restaurant. She was friends with a boy who has come back to ruin her life, so now she wants vengeance. She wants to visit London to see the places where her grandmother grew up, but will other situations get in the way of her dreams?
- **Wesley James:** Wesley is the childhood friend of Quinn's that has now moved back to Seattle to work with her in the medieval times restaurant. Every girl seems to think he is gorgeous, but Quinn thinks differently. With a nice attitude and skills with making balloon animals, it seems like his whole life is easy going. However, there may be more going on with Wesley James than people think.
- **Quinn's Father:** A Dad in his 40's who has a gambling problem and has been divorced for quite some time. Things get bad when he has to pay off loan sharks and the bill to his already run-down house. He constantly messes up his family's plans with his lies.
- **Gran (Quinn's grandmother):** An old woman with Alzheimer's who can barely remember her past or her love for Quinn and Wesley. She doesn't talk much, and Quinn has to deal with the pain of her condition.

Review:

Meet Quinn, a girl just out of high school in Seattle working at a medieval England restaurant, called Tudor Tymes, to raise money for her band's London trip. She has always dreamed of going to London to see the places where her Gran grew up. Things for Quinn get bad when the new employee is her childhood friend, Wesley James, who ruined her life years ago at his going away party. Quinn gets jealous that he is so great with everyone - he even makes balloon animals for the annoying kids at a birthday party! She wants revenge on him for ruining her life, so she plans to get him fired. She messes up his tables and his orders to make Wesley look bad. She even puts a hair in one of his plates! As it turns out, he just charms his way out of every problem.

Things get even worse when Quinn's father gambles away her money to go on the London trip, causing her to give up on him. On top of that, Quinn has to move Gran into a home. It is a tough time for her and Wesley, because they both loved

Gran a lot. Throwing away all of Grans items and clearing out her house for sale really hurts Quinn. As Wesley helps her through her problems, it starts looking like he isn't the bad guy anymore. They begin to help each other out. Wesley helps Quinn with the new Tudor Tymes food truck, and Quinn helps Wesley keep her job. After trying to get revenge, it may turn out that Quinn is falling for Wesley. Maybe the bad guys aren't what you think they are?

The biggest problem with this book is the way the characters were presented. Wesley was obviously not really the one who ruined Quinn's life because of how nice and caring he is. This makes the main character Quinn really unlikable. She keeps using people and lying throughout the whole book. Sometimes it made me mad, because if I was in her situation I would have fixed it easily, but she just makes it worse for herself. This book could have been more enjoyable if the story focused on the Dad with the gambling problem or Gran with Alzheimer's. Instead, the author decided to do a cheesy and predictable love story. At least the writing wasn't that bad, and it felt real. For these reasons, I give Wesley James Ruined My Life a 3/5.