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★★★★★ **I love love love April Grace!**, December 5, 2011

By [dSavannah George-Jones](#) (rural Arkansas) - [See all my reviews](#)

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This review is from: [Cliques, Hicks, and Ugly Sticks \(The Confessions of April Grace\) \(Paperback\)](#)

I absolutely adore April Grace, and this is a nice followup to her first "Confessions", [In Front of God and Everybody \(The Confessions of April Grace\)](#). April has grown up a little - she's more patient and understanding, and she's entering junior high (6th grade) in the fall of 1986 - but then things conspire to bewilder her all over again, and of course teach her more lessons.

First, one of her close friends, Lottie, starts a clique at school and is down-right mean to April and her classmates. Then, her mama starts acting sick and peculiar, worrying April to no end. And, to top it all off, the snooty St. James couple (Isabel having improved since the last book) are still living with them while their house renovations are completed. To add to the mayhem, April's grandma is in a love triangle - with truly hilarious results! Throw in a Christmas play directed by Isabel, an unexpected arrival, and April's best friend, Melissa... and you've got a wonderful, well-rounded story.

A note about the writing: the author is a wonderful, descriptive writer. She has the perfect balance of description and dialogue, and wonderful character development. You can 'see' April Grace and the farm and the school and her house and the family, and the descriptions don't bop you over the head. I love the language and turns of phrase; for instance, near the end, April Grace is praying for her mama, and says "that prayer just kept running through my mind like a long ribbon sewn together at the ends." Lovely!

A note about the faith: another reviewer said they didn't get a strong Christian message - I disagree. Again, the author doesn't bop you over the head with faith and Christianity - it is shown in the every day actions of the characters, who are kind, giving, and lead by example. This one actually has a more overt Christian message than the first book, with lots more prayers and messages of faith.

Some books just make you feel good, and this is one of them. Highly highly recommended, and you don't have to be a tween to like it!

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