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# Pride and Penalties

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[Annabel Gibb](#) [3]

~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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At first this looks like the archetypal contemporary 'girl book' - pink flowery cover, punningly catchy title, horrible gritty glitter stuff all over the front - and in some ways it is. However, it proves to be an engaging story with some unexpected themes.

Spider lives for rugby; her brother Will, while also a potential star at the game, prefers drama, so much so that in a rugby-mad family he risks his father's wrath by missing an important trial to take part in a show. As the story unfolds we realise that the children are dealing not only with gender stereotypes, but also a depressed controlling father and a grandmother in the early stages of Alzheimer's.

Higgins packs a lot into an easily-read book, taking the issues seriously but presenting them with a welcome lightness of touch; it is as entertaining as it is didactic. The presentation may be a mistake though. My sports mad 13-year-old son enjoyed reading this too - can't we move on from pink glitter? I want him, and boys of his age, to meet these ideas.

Running Order:

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