

Cut from the Same Cloth (Sew Zoey Book 14)

By Chloe Taylor



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Cut from the Same Cloth (Sew Zoey Book 14) By Chloe Taylor Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

SEW ZOEY

Ready to Wear

Author: Chloe Taylor

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Category: Fiction

Most novels about fashion end up being more about little divas than about the clothing; this is an exception. This story celebrates the rewards of personal creativity and risks of self-expression. Zoey, an eighth-grader who loves to design new outfits, decides to start a fashion blog the summer before her middle school abolishes the rule requiring school uniforms. The stress of creating an outfit for the first day of school is alleviated by using her deceased mother's sewing machine. Like the way she pieces together an outfit, Zoey assembles a valuable group of friends to support this endeavor. Some people, like her trusted best friends, Kate and Priti, know her inside and out. New friends, like Libby, provide a bit of embellishment. Others, like Jan from the notions store, and the new principal, Esther Austen, bring to the table the structure, wisdom and encouragement Zoey needs. The storyline follows a mildly dramatic arc, as Zoey is asked to design a prom dress for a fundraiser. When the unthinkable happens, Zoey must figure out a solution—quick! Can she do it?

This book will appeal to a middle-grade crowd that isn't into vampires and dystopias, as well as to those who create art with their hands. (Fiction. 8-12) (Kirkus Reviews)

"An aspiring fashion designer is the affable heroine of this first book in the Sew Zoey series. . . . In a smoothly written story of overcoming challenges with ingenuity and style, Taylor shows a knack for characterization and dialogue, and her detailed descriptions of Zoey's designs will entice young fashionistas." (Publishers Weekly)

"Most novels about fashion end up being more about little divas than about the clothing; this is an exception. This story celebrates the rewards of personal creativity and risks of self-expression. . . . This book will appeal to a middle-grade crowd that isn't into vampires and dystopias, as well as to those who create art with their hands." (Kirkus Reviews)

Zoey Webber is a funky fashionista stuck in a gray-polyester-uniform world. She spends her days drawing the clothes she would love to wear but doesn't know how to make. She is thrilled when her friend Priti calls with the news that their school not only has a new principal, but that they now no longer have to wear uniforms. A shopping trip for back-to-school clothes leads to a realization: to get the look she desires, she will have to make the clothes herself. Once Zoey's friends see her sketchbook, they convince her to start a

fashion design blog and learn how to sew; before long, *Sew Zoey*, as the blog is called, has thousands of followers, which helps her gain confidence as both a designer and a seamstress. The first book in a delightful new series, this will appeal to any girl finding her own style. Zoey is a bubbly and vivacious character who doesn't let insecurities take command. Ultimately, she learns that life and middle school are much like sewing: when something doesn't fit correctly, rip it out and start again. Illustrations unseen. (Booklist)

"Zoey Webber is a funky fashionista stuck in a gray-polyester-uniform world. The first book in a delightful new series, this will appeal to any girl finding her own style. Zoey is a bubbly and vivacious character who doesn't let insecurities take command." (Booklist)

When her middle school announces that it is getting rid of uniforms, future fashion designer Zoey can't wait to show off her own style. While shopping with her friends, she discovers that the clothes in the stores just don't have that Zoey factor. With a little inspiration from her aunt and her friends, she decides to try creating her own wardrobe and blogging about it on "Sew Zoey." When her principal finds out, she gives Zoey the chance of a lifetime to be the only student designer in the school's charity fashion show. Her dress, however, gets ruined just days before the event and she has a huge social studies paper due the same day with no chance of extensions. Can Zoey pull off the opportunity of a lifetime or will she have to pull out of the show? Although the book is moderately paced, the characters are enjoyable and well developed, and the plot is humorous and entertaining. The black-and-white drawings that open each chapter add a bit of fashion flair. With a touching ending that will leave readers with a warm, fuzzy feeling, this novel will appeal to young fashionistas.—Kira Moody, Whitmore Public Library, Salt Lake City, UT (School Library Journal)

"The characters are enjoyable and well developed, and the plot is humorous and entertaining. The black-and-white drawings that open each chapter add a bit of fashion flair. With a touching ending that will leave readers with a warm, fuzzy feeling, this novel will appeal to young fashionistas." (School Library Journal)

Zoey is back and still sewing and blogging in the second book in this upbeat series. Her blog is gaining readership, and she is designing and wearing her own creations—but not all is going swimmingly. A misunderstanding with her oldest friend and an amateur design contest consume Zoey's time and attention, and trying to talk about why there was the problem with her oldest friend leads to a rift with her newest friend. When she comes to the conclusion that she has to patch her friendships in the same way she patches her torn jeans, determined and creative Zoey reweaves both friendships and makes them stronger. (Booklist)

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About the Author

Chloe Taylor learned to sew when she was a little girl. She loved watching her Grandmother Louise turn a scrap of blue fabric into a simple-but-fabulous dress, nightgown, or even a bathing suit in an instant. It was magical! Now that she's grown up, she still loves fashion: It's like art that you can wear. Chloe has written more than thirty books for children and lives, writes, and window shops in New York City.

Nancy Zhang is an illustrator and an art and fashion lover with a passion for all beautiful things. She has published her work in the art books *L'Oiseau Rouge* and *Street Impressions* and in various fashion magazines and on websites. Visit her at Nancy-Zhang.com. She lives in Berlin, Germany.

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Cut from the Same Cloth



CHAPTER 1

Secret Socie-TEA!

Hello, readers! I've been doing this blogging thing for a while now, and I've gotten sew used to telling you guys everything! But occasionally something happens that's too personal for me to post about. And then I feel funny not telling you, because your comments are always helpful and positive and remind me that one of the biggest perks of being a tween fashion designer is having fans who care!

What I'm trying to say is: I got some news that I want to keep a secret for now. It doesn't even have anything to do with fashion—it just relates to me. (That's a “punny” clue, BTW!) However, I'm planning to tell my three very best friends today, and I thought, why not make it an occasion? So we're meeting for tea and scones, and I plan to dress the part, in a full-skirted floral dress with a vintage fedora I got at the thrift store (since I don't have a proper hat for tea)! Wish me luck!



Zoey Webber stood outside her favorite café, Tea Time, staring through the glass door. Her older brother, Marcus, had dropped her off, promising to be back in a little more than an hour. She knew she had to go in, but once she did, she'd have to tell her secret, and she didn't know how her friends were going to react. She still didn't even know how she felt about the news!

Taking a deep breath, she pulled open the door and strode to the back, where her best friends, Kate Mackey, Libby Flynn, and Priti Holbrooke, were already seated at a table. Kate was in her customary postsoccer practice warm-ups, Libby looked effortlessly chic in skinny jeans and a ballet-neck top, and Priti—

Zoey stopped in her tracks. “Priti!” she shrieked. “Look at you!”

Priti stood up and did a twirl, giving all of them a chance to take in her purple, gold, and turquoise outfit, and sequined headband. It was very typical of the way Priti used to dress, before she'd gone into an all-black clothing phase after her parents' divorce.

“Do you like it?” Priti asked, her cheeks flushed from twirling.

“No, I love it,” Zoey answered, giving her a hug. For some reason, seeing that her sunny and sparkly friend was back to wearing sunny and sparkly clothes made Zoey feel like all was right in the world again. “Priti, I love you no matter what, but I've missed your rainbow colors.”

“Me too,” Kate said, “and you guys know I hardly even notice clothes!”

“You always look nice, Priti,” Libby said diplomatically. “But you look more like you now.”

Priti laughed and sat down, pulling out the chair next to her for Zoey. “Thanks, guys,” Priti said. “I don't know what happened. I just woke up this morning, and I thought, Okay, enough with the black clothes already! So I opened up one of the boxes under my bed with all of my brighter stuff, and it was like seeing old friends. Plus, I've tripled my wardrobe!”

Just then a waiter came by to take their orders. Soon, there were scones and personal teapots for each of the girls.

“To Priti!” Kate said, raising her teacup.

They all clinked cups. Zoey took a sip of her oolong tea. She was spreading clotted cream on a scone when she realized all three of her friends were staring at her.

“What is it? My hat?” she asked, assuming that’s what they were looking at.

“It is cute,” said Libby. “But, um, didn’t you have something huge to tell us?”

Zoey blinked. She couldn’t believe it. She’d forgotten the whole reason they’d come for tea because of Priti’s bright colors and sequins!

“Oops!” Zoey laughed. “?‘The power of distraction,’ as my dad would say.” She paused, and Kate, Priti, and Libby continued to watch her intently. Now that the moment had arrived, Zoey wasn’t sure she was ready to share the news.

“Is it about Ezra?” Priti asked breathlessly. The girls knew that Zoey and Libby’s friend Ezra had been texting and hanging out. Zoey wasn’t sure if she and Ezra were just friends or something more. “Did he kiss you?”

Flustered, Zoey stammered, “Um, n-no. Nothing like that. It’s not about my love life or lack of one. . . . It’s about someone else’s.”

“Someone else’s?” Kate asked. “Whose?”

“My dad’s,” Zoey said. Her friends’ eyes grew large, and Zoey continued, “I finally found out who he’s been secretly dating, and not letting me meet, and who wouldn’t come to Aunt Lulu’s baby shower. And you can’t tell anyone.”

“And . . .” Libby prodded her. “You’re torturing us!”

Zoey felt her ears get hot. It was still so strange to say it out loud! She leaned in to whisper, “It’s Ms. Austen.”

The jaws of her friends dropped open. Luckily, none of them had been chewing anything.

“What? You’re kidding,” Priti said. “Ms. Austen, our school principal?”

Zoey nodded.

“Your dad is dating our principal,” repeated Libby. “Wow.”

Seeing the shock on her friends’ faces was incredibly helpful. Ever since she’d found out, Zoey had been in a state of semi-shock herself. After all, she had a somewhat special friendship with Esther Austen, who’d always been so supportive of Zoey’s blog and had made it possible for Zoey and her friend Sean Waschikowski to start the Fashion Fun Club, among other things. Realizing that Ms. Austen had been

secretly dating Zoey's father for a while now just made everything feel complicated.

Finally, Kate spoke up. "I guess it makes sense," she said slowly. "I mean, your dad and Ms. Austen probably talked when you had to miss school for fashion-related stuff, and she's so nice. . . ."

Yes, that was how Zoey's dad had explained it. It just happened, he'd said.

"And she's got great taste in clothes," Libby added.

"Yes," said Zoey. "And that's another weird thing."

Zoey went on to explain that lately, Ms. Austen had been showing up at the house in increasingly casual clothes. Like the past Sunday, when she'd come over early to join the Webbers for their regular Sunday pancake breakfast—the secret ingredients were bacon and blackberries—and had worn workout clothes with her hair in a messy bun and no makeup on.

"I mean I barely recognized her!" Zoey said.

"That must be so weird," Kate said. "Like when you run into a teacher at the grocery store."

"Hold on! Is our principal going to be your stepmom?" Priti asked.

Zoey shrugged. "I don't know, but I think it's getting serious."

"It could be worse," Kate mused. "I mean, at least you really like Ms. Austen. We all do. And you have the fashion stuff in common."

"True," Zoey replied, finishing her scone. "And you know, I am glad my dad's happy again. He's been alone for so many years since my mom passed away. But at the same time, I'm kind of annoyed to share him with her and vice versa. I know that sounds selfish."

"It sounds normal," Libby said. "You haven't known for very long, right?"

Zoey shook her head. Her dad and Ms. Austen had told her and Marcus a few months ago, but Zoey didn't want to tell anyone at first.

"It's going to get much easier," Priti said firmly. "And hey, you're kind of lucky. I wish my parents would date people I liked as much as Ms. Austen!"

As always, talking to her friends made Zoey feel better, but she still needed to vent. "Sometimes I just want everything to stay the same, forever!"

Priti patted her arm. "Hey, Zo, change is good. If everything stayed the same, I wouldn't be wearing sequins today!"



When Marcus came to get Zoey, she hugged her friends good-bye. She had to get home to work on a science fair project that was due in a few days.

“Hey, Zo! Did you guys have fun?” Marcus asked.

Zoey smiled. Even though her brother was a few years older, he paid a lot of attention to her and gave her rides. She knew some brothers wouldn’t bother to be so nice to a little sister.

“We did,” Zoey replied. “And I told them about Dad and Ms. Austen.”

“You did?” he asked. “Won’t it get around school?”

Zoey shook her head. “No way,” she said. “They won’t tell anyone. And I needed to be reminded that it’s not the worst thing ever.”

Marcus laughed. “Of course it isn’t, Zoey. It’s kind of perfect. And you know, principals are allowed to be happy, too.”

“Easy for you to say,” Zoey replied. “She’s not your principal.”

“True,” Marcus answered. “But she won’t be yours for that much longer. Anyway, I’m just glad Dad chose someone we get along with.”

He was right, of course, but Zoey also thought it was probably normal to struggle with the whole thing. She tried to distract herself by checking her phone for e-mails. She had just opened the mail app when they turned onto their street.

As they pulled into the driveway, Zoey saw a familiar name in her e-mail in-box: Rashida Clarke, from her favorite TV show, Fashion Showdown. As she read the message, all her worries faded away:

Dear Zoey:

How are you? It’s been too long! I’m writing to tell you that due to a delayed start on our next season of Fashion Showdown, we’ve decided to do a last minute mini-season, just for teens! It’ll be called Fashion Showdown Junior, and we want you to be a contestant!

It starts ASAP, and the best part is that each episode will take place in a different fashion-forward city around the globe (we start in Paris, then Milan, Tokyo, and Shanghai!), culminating in a runway show in NYC! We’ll do all the filming in two trips of about six or seven days each. We hope you’ll join us! Have your dad get in touch, and we’ll fill him in on all the details.

Fashionably yours,

Rashida Clarke

Zoey dropped her phone into her lap. Fashion Showdown Junior? World travel?

“Uh, Zoey?” Marcus asked. “Are you coming inside?”

Zoey looked up and realized they were home and she was sitting in the parked car with her seat belt on. Marcus had already gotten out of the car and was looking at her like she was on another planet. And she was.

“Oh! We’re home! Sorry, Marcus,” she said. “I have huge news. Where’s Dad?”

Zoey and Marcus found their dad in the kitchen . . . with Ms. Austen. Zoey’s face briefly fell. She wanted to tell her dad and brother alone and hadn’t planned on Ms. Austen being there. It just felt . . . awkward.

Breathing deeply, she said, “Dad, Marcus, Ms. Austen—I have amazing news.”

When she told them about the e-mail, Ms. Austen’s face lit up immediately.

“Zoey! You’re going to be a contestant? I love that show, you know. I’ve watched it religiously ever since you were a guest judge.” Then Ms. Austen came over and hugged her, and Zoey couldn’t help feeling warmed by how enthusiastic she was.

Her dad, however, looked a bit shell-shocked. “Missing two weeks of school? Traveling all over the world? I can’t take that much time off of work. I don’t see how this could possibly—”

Ms. Austen put a hand on Mr. Webber’s shoulder, cutting him off. “Hang on. We’ll figure all that out, I promise. And I’m sure Zoey can do school assignments from the road or catch up when she returns. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Zoey felt immensely grateful to Ms. Austen. Her dad had let her take a few trips to New York with her aunt Lulu, but to get his permission to travel internationally would be nothing short of a miracle.

Her dad took a deep breath. Then he put his arm around Zoey’s shoulders. “I’m excited for you, Zoey—I am. I just needed a minute to panic. Let’s e-mail Rashida right now and set up a time to talk. And in the meantime, Essie and I are making fajitas, so someone please set the table.”

Marcus and Zoey went to get silverware and placemats. As they did, Marcus asked her, “Do you think you’ll get to meet a bunch of supermodels on the show? Put in a good word for your big bro?”

Zoey laughed. She was glad he seemed to be recovering after his breakup with Allie Lovallo.

“Will do,” she said. “But aren’t supermodels sometimes six feet tall? I’ll have to stand on a ladder to do fittings! And I don’t even know if I can go yet.”

But she couldn’t help feeling hopeful. Her dad’s answer wasn’t a firm no, so there was the possibility it could be a real yes. And it was thanks to Ms. Austen.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeff Sanchez:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Cut from the Same Cloth (Sew Zoey Book 14). Try to stumble through book Cut from the Same Cloth (Sew Zoey Book 14) as your friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know almost

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Mae Marks:

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Eddie McCoy:

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