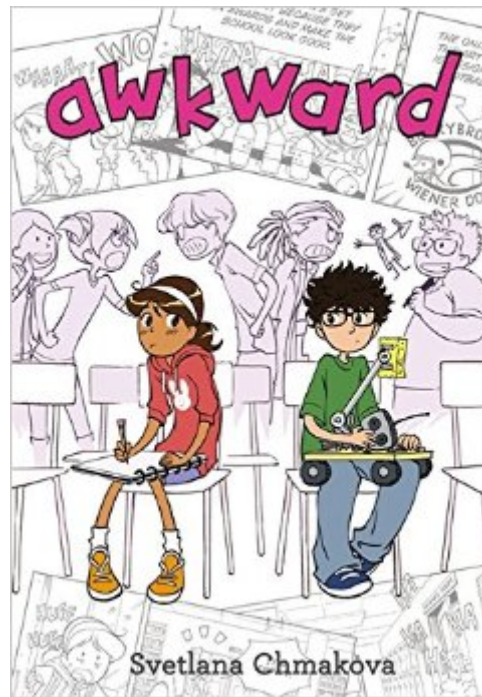


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# Awkward



## Synopsis

Cardinal rule #1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids. Cardinal rule #2 for surviving school: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! Falling back on rule two and surrounding herself with new friends in the art club, Peppi still can't help feeling ashamed about the way she treated Jaime. Things are already awkward enough between the two, but to make matters worse, he's a member of her own club's archrivals--the science club! And when the two clubs go to war, Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (118 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,254 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels](#)

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

'Awkward' revolves around two interwoven plot points about Penelope trying to help her Art Club get a spot in the school fair and her desire to apologize to the school mate she shoved, where she gets shy and embarrassed to every time she gets the opportunity. The opening seems like it'll lead to a romance, but there are only a hints of it in the story and when present it's very subtle with some aspects of innocence involved (they're all in middle school after all) There's a great cast of characters with realistic yet cartoony aspects to them without going too deep into their respective stereotypes. The book goes into middle school drama, and with real life personal problems as well

especially with a character named Maribella. With how her story arc concluded, I would like to see her getting her own series about her exploits as I found her to be an interesting character. The book is in full color and I like how the characters emote very well with their facial animations as it brings the art and world to life. This book is very character driven and brings out excellent interactions with a variety of different personalities. A very good page turner as I read all 200+ pages in one sitting. Overall very good, fun filled middle school drama story. A good read for all ages. If the author is reading this, please make a series on Maribella ;)

As a graphic novel librarian, I absolutely had to own this book. Not only is it written and drawn by a very talented author, but it's a great take on teen awkwardness that my patrons really need. This is destined to be on ALL the American Library Association booklists and win all sorts of awards. It's great for teens, tweens, and adults. It somehow managed to tell the story without succumbing to tropes and without talking down to the reader. It really made me feel like the author LIVED this situation and is telling us exactly how it felt, not how her editor told her to make it feel so it would sell better. Peppi is a young girl who doesn't fit anywhere except her art club. Her first day of school she embarrasses herself and ends up hurting the feelings of the nerdiest kid in school. This boy, Jamie, ends up joining the art club's arch-rival the science club. As the club's duke it out in the halls, Peppi and Jamie duke it out on the emotional level, both learning to come out of their shells and save their beloved clubs from cancellation. What else can I say? The art is beautiful. The characters are beautiful. The situation is beautiful. The humor is beautiful. Why are you still reading this when you could read the book?

I bought this book for my 11 year old daughter and she loved it. I asked her to write a review and this is what she wrote. "Awkward is awesome! I'm in sixth grade and I've just started a new school, so I can totally relate to the beginning. I really love the story-line and the character growth between Penelope and Jamie. Also the relationship between the art club and the science club is so funny! So basically what I'm here to say is I love this book and recommend it to anyone who likes graphic novels with a bit of comedy!"

I bought Awkward at a local bookstore but I wanted to come and write a review on [Goodreads](#) to reach the widest audience. Awkward is impressive on a lot of levels--the art itself (those facial expressions!), the diversity of the characters (there was even a Nguyen-like name!), the overall story, and even the development of the characters pushed me to immediately purchase multiple copies to pass out to

my younger siblings and cousins. I felt that the author was able to touch on a lot of emotions/subjects that many young adult books shy away from (i.e. emotional abuse, divorce, NEEDing to apologize but not having the courage to do it) without feeling like she was preaching. She also didn't give these issues special status -- divorce happens ALL the time and it could happen to our families us or to our friends' families but our lives all continue. I really couldn't recommend this book enough.

I discovered this book by accident, and I'm THRILLED that I did, because I absolutely adore Svetlana Chmakova's DramaCon manga miniseries. (Sidebar: the hubs and I were tight with a group of manga/anime fans in undergrad. We were kind of on the fringes of the group, but somehow got roped into going to an Anime Convention, which was excellent, btw, so I really identified with the whole portrayal of the convention in DramaCon.) I love that the protagonist, Peppi, (pictured on the left side of the cover) breaks all of her personal rules for social success as the new girl in school, but still manages to triumph at the end. Though she and Jaime (right) get off to a rocky start and have different interests: art--Peppi, science--Jaime, I really enjoyed how they built not just a friendship over the course of the book, but a partnership between archival school clubs (art and science). Sidenote: I didn't realize school clubs HAD archivals within their own schools. Who knew? The colors are lovely and muted. The characters are personable and fallible. The plot is quick-paced and exciting. Everything about this manga is quirky and enjoyable. I highly recommend it, especially for middle schoolers who have a strong interest in art or science, or those who are nervous about encountering a new school.

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