



My Life as a Joke (The My Life series)

By Janet Tashjian

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Derek Fallon discovers all the angst that comes with being twelve?he just wants to feel grown up, but life gets in the way with a series of mishaps that make him look like a baby. He passes out during a worm dissection in science class, falls flat on his face in gym class and gets a fat lip that causes him to lisp all day, and his plans for a monster-truck party turn into a bouncy house disaster. Why isn't being in middle school as great as Derek imagined? Thankfully, with a little help from his friends?and, ironically, a Toys for Tots fundraiser?things seem like they could start shaping up at last.

***My Life as a Joke* by Janet and Jake Tashjian is a Christy Ottaviano Book**

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My Life as a Joke (The My Life series) By Janet Tashjian Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–8—Twelve-year-old Derek Fallon resolves to take life more seriously, but of course, things never go Derek's way, resulting in many humorous situations. An exciting frog dissection lesson goes horribly wrong as Derek sends his frog flying through the air and onto the teacher, and he winds up fainting in front of the class. After trying to show off on a rope in gym class, he smacks the floor with his face and busts his lip so badly that it causes him to be unable to correctly pronounce the words in a speech he has to give. He is laughed out of the auditorium after a mangled rendition of the national anthem. Having volunteered to help in a toy drive, he is assigned to collect dolls, resulting in more ridicule as he gathers Barbies and baby dolls. One of the dolls contributed is one he recognizes as a collector's item. He and his friends, Matt and Umberto, hatch a plan to sell the doll on eBay for some easy money. Of course, it doesn't go as planned, and Derek is faced with refunding the money after it is already spent. Readers will connect with likable Derek and his efforts to improve himself that don't ever go right. Adding to the fast-paced chapters are his vocabulary journal illustrations, which showcase his take on life. It's sure to be a hit with fans of the previous installments.—Laura Fields Eason, Henry F. Moss Middle School, Bowling Green, KY

From [Booklist](#)

Derek Fallon, the hyper nonreader, returns, and, at 12, he wants to act more grown-up. His efforts don't quite work out, until he volunteers to help with donations for the Toys for Tots drive. After arriving late to a meeting, he is appointed the task of collecting dolls. When he learns that one of those dolls, Baby Karen, is a collectible, Derek conveniently forgets to put it in the donation box—and then figures out how to put it on eBay. What seems like a great idea—a \$200-plus idea—all goes awry: expenses eat into the profits; the remaining profits are spent too quickly; and the buyer wants her money back when it turns out Baby Karen isn't quite as advertised. As in previous books, author Tashjian's son, Jake, provides the cartoons, which serve as a dictionary for the book's more sophisticated words. At times laugh-out-loud funny, this is a strong addition to a popular series, nicely formatted for ease of reading. Its solid lesson, wrapped in high jinks, gives kids something to think about while they giggle. Grades 4-7. --Ilene Cooper

Review

“Readers will connect with likable Derek and his efforts to improve himself that don't ever go right . . . It's sure to be a hit with fans of the previous installments.” *School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelly Watson:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Looking at a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specifically this My Life as a Joke (The My Life series) book because book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Charlotte Ramsey:

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Kimberly Hogan:

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