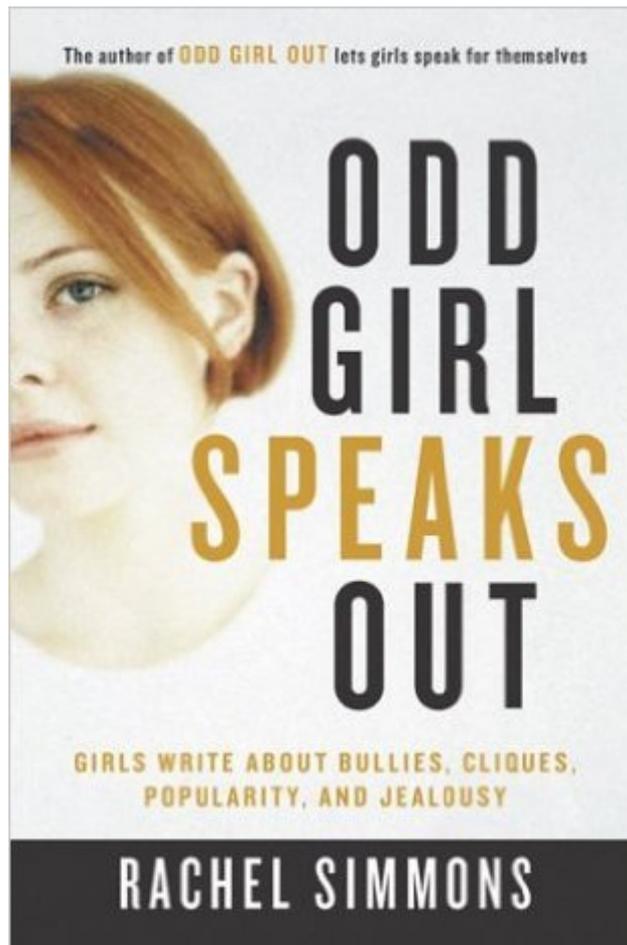


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# Odd Girl Speaks Out: Girls Write About Bullies, Cliques, Popularity, And Jealousy



## Synopsis

The national bestseller *Odd Girl Out* exposed a hidden culture of cruelty that had always been quietly endured by American girls. As Rachel Simmons toured the country, these girls found their voices and spoke to her about their pain. They wanted to talk-and they weren't the only ones. Mothers, teachers, counselors, young professional women, even fathers, came to Rachel with heart-wrenching personal stories that could no longer be kept secret. Here, Rachel creates a safe place for girls to talk, rant, sound off, and find each other. The result is a collection of wonderful accounts of the inner lives of adolescent girls. Candid and disarming, creative and expressive, and always exceptionally self-aware, these poems, songs, confessions, and essays form a journal of American girlhood. They show us how deeply cruelty flows and how strongly these girls want to change. *Odd Girl Out* helped girls find their voices; *Odd Girl Speaks Out* helps them tell their stories.

I'm always the odd girl out  
No one talks to me  
I try to be friendly and speak out  
But I'm invisible, see?  
You know, gossip is a natural thing in high school. I'm one of those girls that will do it right in front of you. I'll whisper at my friends and look at you the whole time. Then we'll all cut up laughing. You know we're talking about you. My best friend and I started being friends with this other girl. But she was fat. It was hard because she always wanted to go down the slide second and she would crush us. We didn't want to tell her she was fat, so we decided to drop her. Her mother called my mother and told her we were being mean. But we just couldn't be friends with her anymore. -from *Odd Girl Speaks Out*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When someone says to you, "Oh! They're just jealous. Give them time. They will come around, 'Do you question your sanity?'" "And, isn't this another way of telling you that you are flawed, that you should feel ashamed of yourself, and that you need to give up being who you are - or else?" "Odd Girl Speaks Out," is a wonderful book, written with 11-22 year-old girls in mind. But, every woman can get something out of this, because by age 8, and for the rest of our lives, we are socialized with these 3 unspoken rules: 1. Don't Compete; 2. Don't Outdo; and, 3. Make the guys more valuable to you, than girls could possibly be. We are also socialized to not directly confront conflict, especially with other girls. And we learn, at an early age, to base our worthiness upon hanging onto our best girlfriends, at the price of our own worthiness. I'm so glad to have read this book, because each letter, written by the 11-22 year-old contributors, reminds us that Girl Power is not about seeking legislative rights, although I wouldn't want to reverse what our foremothers have given us. Girl Power also is not about blaming men for what we haven't succinctly communicated to them. Girl Power is about facing the reality of the darker side of being girls. It is where we stop seeking targets in other women/girls, to make them look worse than we feel about ourselves. All girls are socialized to believe that power for girls is limited, and that if the other girl has it, she has taken away all the possibility for her to have power. What troubled me, though, about this book were 2 things: 1.

"Odd Girl Speaks Out" is a book of short stories by teen and preteen girls about their experiences with relationships between other girls. Opening the beginning of each section is commentary by the editor relating to what the section will be about. What's Good- 1) Certain authors make powerful statements of self realization at the end of their stories. Ex-In "Who My Friends Really Were", the author states, "No longer do I judge or label... And most importantly I want everyone to know that no matter how bad things seem, they do get better... I got better." In "I Was the One Word that Everyone Fears: Alone", the author says, "Through my experiences I became a stronger person. I learned so much about myself and about others." 2) Some authors prefer to express themselves in poetry. Their poetry tells a story just like those who write in article format but is more direct. Those who like to read stories in article format but also enjoy poetry might find this refreshing (like I did). 3) The editor offers commentary about each of the sections of the book and some of it is helpful. Ex-In a snippet about talking to a friend about a problem, she offers three tips definitely worth using: Listen, Stay with the issue, and if need be, Apologize. In a snippet about losing trust in relationships with girls, she says not to give up on girls forever. 4) Certain stories can be inspiration for performing. Ex-"Just to Make You Happy" is written in monologue form and with a few changes is

perfect for a drama performance. What's Not So Good-1) The story entitled "Friend Trouble". It feels like the whole story is the author complaining about her two friends for various reasons without offering any substance.

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