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# The Art of Lainey

By Paula Stokes



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Perfect for fans of Stephanie Perkins, Sarah Dessen, and Susane Colasanti, *The Art of Lainey* tells the story of how, with the help of *The Art of War*, Lainey plots the perfect plan to get her boyfriend back. But is getting him back really what she wants?

Soccer star Lainey Mitchell is gearing up to spend an epic summer with her amazing boyfriend, Jason, when he suddenly breaks up with her—no reasons, no warnings, and in public no less! Lainey is more than crushed, but with help from her friend Bianca, she resolves to do whatever it takes to get Jason back.

And that's when Lainey and Bianca stumble across a copy of *The Art of War*. With just one glance, the girls are sure they can use the book to lure Jason back into Lainey's arms. So Lainey channels her inner warlord, recruiting spies to gather intel and persuading her coworker Micah to pose as her new boyfriend to make Jason jealous.

After a few "dates," it looks like her plan is going to work! But now her relationship with Micah is starting to feel like more than just a game. Can fighting for what she wants help Lainey figure out what she really needs?



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## The Art of Lainey By Paula Stokes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #179841 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-05-20
- Released on: 2014-05-20
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—In a plot that serves as a modern mashup of classic teen movies, soccer prodigy Lainey is dumped by her "perfect" boyfriend at her family's coffee shop. Lainey and her friend use their summer reading, *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu, to hatch a plan to win Lainey's boyfriend back. When the plan calls for misdirection, Lainey needs a fake boyfriend. She and Micah, a prickly bad boy co-worker at the coffee shop, make a pact to pretend to date in order to make their exes jealous, and every reader can guess what happens by the end of the summer. The characters are straight from central casting (the shallow jock, the supermodel mean girl, the hippie mother who reads tea leaves), which is unfortunate, given the book's message to look beyond the exterior. The protagonist also lacks depth, which makes it difficult for readers to root for her. Despite the dearth of complexity in the characters, Stokes does a good job with the sports subplots as well as the familial relationships. Lainey is a driven athlete who focuses on her passion, which is a refreshing change of pace from many other heroines in the romantic realistic fiction genre. Lainey's family is supportive and candid, and Micah's sister is a good reality check for both main characters.—Susannah Goldstein, Convent of the Sacred Heart, New York City

From [Booklist](#)

Lainey is crushed when her longtime boyfriend, Jason, abruptly dumps her. However, her best friend, Bianca, steps in with a copy of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* and tells her to "level the playing field." Preppy, sunny, soccer-playing, reality-TV-watching Lainey conspires with her coworker Micah, who is also pining for an ex-girlfriend, and they pose as a new couple. Micah, however, loves punk rock, wears a mohawk, carries a switchblade, and is into everything Lainey is not. The mismatched pair conspire to appear blissfully happy in public in order to win back their respective exes, using tips from Sun Tzu. Along the way, though, they struggle with new feelings that develop during their campaigns on the battlefield of love. Stokes' writing is as breezy as Lainey herself, and although readers will predict the ending relatively quickly, it won't stop them from enjoying Lainey and Micah's misadventures. Recommend this to fans of other lighthearted teen romances set against coffee shop backgrounds, such as *The Espressoologist*, by Kristina Springer (2009), and *Getting Over Garrett Delaney*, by Abby McDonald (2012). Grades 9-12. --Erin Downey Howerton

## Review

Refreshingly honest, sweet and romantic...Perfect for fans of Stephanie Perkins, but with an edge." -RT Book Reviews

"A satisfying and sweet story." -Publishers Weekly

"Love. Drama. Subterfuge. This one has it all." -Teen Vogue

"I love, love loved *The Art of Lainey*! A must-read for anyone who's ever been dumped--and wanted him back." -Mandy Hubbard, author of *You Wish* and *Fool Me Twice*

"This book has it all: romance, friendship, humor, and a highly relatable story. I couldn't stop reliving my own breakups while reading this book, and I think every reader will see a piece of themselves in what Lainey experiences."

-Victoria Scott, author of *The Collector* and *Fire & Flood*

"Romantic, witty, and surprisingly deep...a mesmerizing journey of self discovery, of navigating that slippery line between what one wants and what one really needs."

-Rachel Harris, author of *The Fine Art of Pretending*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Eleanor Hayes:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is definitely The Art of Lainey.

#### **Jose Callender:**

The Art of Lainey can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing The Art of Lainey although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

#### **Coleman Jones:**

As a student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that studying is not important, boring along with can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this period of time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this The Art of Lainey can make you feel more interested to read.

#### **Linda Howard:**

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the book The Art of Lainey to make your own reading is interesting. Your skill of reading skill is developing when you including reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the idea about book and studying especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve The Art of Lainey can to be your friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of this time.

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