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Also Known as Elvis (The Misfits)

By James Howe

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Skeezie Tookis navigates a pivotal summer of first crushes and tough choices in this conclusion to the bestselling and acclaimed quartet that began with *The Misfits*.

Skeezie Tookis, also known as Elvis, isn't looking forward to this summer in Paintbrush Falls. While his best friends Bobby, Joe, and Addie are off on exciting adventures, he's stuck at home, taking care of his sisters and working five days a week to help out his mom. True, he gets to hang out at the Candy Kitchen with the awesome HellomynameisSteffi, but he also has to contend with Kevin Hennessey's never-ending bullying. And then there's the confusing world of girls, especially hot-and-cold Becca, his maybe-crush. And the dog that he misses terribly. And the dad who left two years before, whom Skeezie is convinced is the cause of all his troubles. In the words of the King, Skeezie Tookis is All Shook Up.

Skeezie's got the leather jacket of a tough guy, but a heart of gold—and his story, the fourth and final chapter of the beloved Misfits series, is brimming with life's tough choices, love in all directions, and enough sweet potato fries to go around.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5–8—In this final book in the series, Skeezie Tookis looks back 12 years to the summer he was 13, when his mother, struggling to raise him and his two sisters alone, insists he get a job to help out. Skeezie hires on at the Candy Kitchen, favorite hangout of the Gang of Five, forming a special friendship with 19-year-old waitress Steffie, who nicknames him Elvis. Slicking back his hair and wearing his deadbeat dad's black leather motorcycle jacket are Skeezie's way of holding on to him, even as his anger over his father's desertion consumes him. When his dad turns up in Paintbrush Falls, Skeezie must face his ambivalent feelings head on: while his mother and sisters are hoping for a reconciliation, his father's plan is to seek a divorce so he can remarry and take Skeezie with him to his new life in Rochester. With his three best friends away on vacation, Skeezie is on his own as he grapples with his decision to stay or leave. Howe skillfully blends humor and pathos, effectively conveying the protagonist's conflicted feelings, even through his wisecracks, and his characterization is robust and nuanced. Skeezie narrates the story to his soon-to-be-born son, and readers learn at the outset, as they did in the conclusion of *The Misfits* (S. & S., 2001), how things turned out for the Gang of Five, but knowing doesn't lessen the impact of this compelling story. A most fitting and satisfying conclusion.—Marie Orlando, formerly at Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

From [Booklist](#)

Schuyler Skeezie Tookis is stuck in Paintbrush Falls for the summer while his three best friends, Bobby, Joe, and Addie, are off on adventures of their own. Life is hard enough working at the Candy Kitchen to help pay the bills, watching his ornery little sisters, and mixing the signals he's getting from popular Becca. Then his dad shows up after a two-year absence with big news, and Skeezie needs his friends. Howe complements the strong first-person voice with tweets, texts, and dialogue transcripts as he tackles themes of bullying, family, and independence. Skeezie's story swells with the same earnest humor and after-school-special sweetness as the other *Misfits* books. Indeed, this is a fitting final installment in the series. Each of the books has a distinct voice, reflecting the individual protagonist's personality, yet they fit together perfectly, just like the friends themselves. A framing device, as Skeezie relates his story to his soon-to-be born son, 12 years later, includes successful eventualities for the gang. Grades 5-8. --Thom Barthelmess

Review

"Skeezie's story shares the series' strengths. . . a powerful affirmation of friendship, compassion and the right to be accepted for who we are." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

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"This thoughtful conclusion to the Misfits series begins with Skeeze as an adult. . . . Once again, Howe shows uncanny understanding of adolescent concerns and vulnerabilities, painting a realistically complicated portrait of a boy's coming of age." (*Publishers Weekly*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Danielle Deguzman:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important usually. The book Also Known as Elvis (The Misfits) had been making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The guide Also Known as Elvis (The Misfits) is not only giving you far more new information but also to become your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book Also Known as Elvis (The Misfits). You never really feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

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Virginia Johnson:

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