



Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3)

By Catherine Gilbert Murdock

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After five months of sheer absolute craziness I was going back to being plain old background D.J. In photographs of course I'm always in the background . . .

But it turns out other folks have big plans for D.J. Like her coach. College scouts. All the town hoops fans. A certain Red Bend High School junior who's keen for romance and karaoke. Not to mention Brian Nelson, who she should not be thinking about! Who she is done with, thank you very much. But who keeps showing up anyway . . .

Readers first fell in love with straight-talking D.J. Schwenk in *Dairy Queen*; they followed her ups and downs both on and off the court in *The Off Season*. Now D.J. steps out from behind the free-throw line in this third installment of the Dairy Queen series.

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Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) By Catherine Gilbert Murdock Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Product Description

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Amazon Exclusive: A Letter from Catherine Murdock



Dear Amazon Reader: The Dairy Queen series began with a dream and ends with a pizza. In late 2003, I had a dream about a girl playing football. As I'd been studying screenwriting for eight years, I immediately began to craft this idea into a script. Then, all too aware of my script failure rate, I decided to attempt a "practice novel" using everything I'd learned about character development, plotting, dialogue, and description. Today, I can offer aspiring authors this hard-earned advice: If you want to write halfway decent books, start by writing truly horrendous screenplays. I set *Dairy Queen* in Wisconsin, as I have family there and so can visualize the landscape, and I laid it out as a traditional three-act script, the only story structure I knew. I never intended to write a second book--I really love the vagueness of *Dairy Queen's* ending--but when the publisher asked if I had a sequel in me, what could I answer but "Yes"? I love *The Off Season's* ending as well, but readers (may I mention how utterly fantastic the fan mail is?) wanted more. So--boom--I found myself writing a third. All of a sudden I had a trilogy. Given what I'd learned about college sports recruiting from the first two books, it seemed only natural to examine this in *Front and Center*, while of course continuing the saga of D.J. Schwenk's love life. So many stories have as their conflict "Will the hero(ine) get the scholarship? Will s/he get the love interest?" And of course you already know the answers on page 1. To me, a much more challenging story, both to read and to write, would be "Does she *want* a scholarship? And which love interest will be it be: the dreamboat who keeps breaking her heart, or the safe, fun guy who's not quite Mr. Right?" Call me old fashioned, but I like a little mystery in my narrative. Which is why I'm also not going to tell you how the pizza fits in. But it does. Really. Sincerely, *Catherine Murdock*

(Photo © Greg Martin)

From School Library Journal

Grade 8–11—This final installment in the "Dairy Queen" trilogy kicks off with Wisconsin junior D.J. Schwenk back at school, having spent several weeks away helping big brother, Win, with his rehabilitation. She's catching up with classes and best friend Amber (also newly returned). D.J.'s excited and nervous for basketball season, which might score her a much-desired college scholarship and a less-desired position literally calling the shots on court. Her ex, Brian, is neither out of sight nor off her mind. But reluctantly famous D.J., who generally craves anonymity, wants a boyfriend who acknowledges her in public. Enter energetic friend Beaner, an attention magnet interested in actual dating. When recruitment letters pour in, talented athlete D.J. feels the weight of obligations and expectations (yet again) from well-meaning family, friends, recruiters, coaches, and from herself. Will she be ruled by fear or will she step up and make the choices, whether between colleges or guys, that'll make her happiest? The self-conscious teen is socially anxious, hyper aware, and cleverly observant. Her fans won't be disappointed, but new readers may occasionally feel out of the loop, compelled to read the prequels for a more invested experience. Fortunately, Murdock successfully integrates fresh trials and pressures, well-developed primary and likable peripheral characters, and amusing introspection into the backstory. Occasional doormat D.J. is ultimately a responsible, realistically flawed, funny, endearing, and strong heroine worth rooting for whether on the court or on the page—*Danielle Serra, Cliffside Park Public Library, NJ* END

Review

"The particulars of farm life, high school relationships, and college decisions are imparted with uncommon realism, and Murdock showcases the unexpected drama of everyday characters making mundane but essential life decisions. D.J.'s voice is intimate and compelling, her story both universal and unique, familiar and eye-opening. Here is a worthy send-off for a one-of-a-kind character."--*Horn Book*

"[D.J.'s] self-deprecating and humorous voice is still as fresh the third time around.." --*Booklist*

"Murdock successfully integrates fresh trials and pressures, well-developed primary and likable peripheral characters, and amusing introspection into the backstory. . .D.J. is ultimately a responsible, realistically flawed, funny, endearing, and strong heroine worth rooting for whether on the court or on the page."--*School Library Journal*

"Front and Center is a perfect coming of age story and a completely satisfying conclusion to the three-book series."--*Jen Robinson's Book Page blog*

"This was a great novel with a lot of humor, but also a lot of serious situations, and relatable characters that I loved reading about."--*BookDivas.com*

"A fantastic end to a terrific series...A+"--*Lauren's Crammed Bookshelf blog*

"You won't want to miss it."--*Abby the Librarian blog*

"Front and Center by Catherine Murdock is a satisfying conclusion to the Dairy Queen trilogy with a message that lasts long after you've read the last page. By emphasizing the importance of family, friendship, and support, all of which are sometimes overlooked in young adult literature, this book will motivate its reader to reach out and take risks."--*Feed Your Imagination blog*

"I haven't read the first two books in this series, but I had no problem falling in love with DJ, her family and her friends."--*KISS THE BOOK blog*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tyrone Knudson:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They have to answer that question since just their can do that will. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) to read.

Reginald Hunter:

This Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) without we recognize teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't always be worry Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even phone. This Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Janice Saucier:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In

case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Larry Munoz:

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The reserve lovers usually prefer to opt for book like comic, short story and the biggest you are novel. Now, why not hoping Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world considerably better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading addiction only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for every you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you are able to pick Front and Center (Dairy Queen Book 3) become your personal starter.

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