



## The Taming of the Drew

By Stephanie Kate Strohm

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Cass McKay has been called stubborn, temperamental, difficult, and that word that rhymes with “witch” more times than she cares to count. But that’s all about to pay off. She has finally landed the role she was born to play—Kate, in *The Taming of the Shrew*—in the summer apprentice program of a renowned Shakespeare theater company in the forests of Vermont.

But Cass can barely lace up her corset before her troubles begin. Her leading man, Drew, is a complete troll, and he’s going to ruin Cass’s summer. Even worse, Cass’s bunkmate Amy has somehow fallen head over heels for Drew. Cass can’t let Amy throw herself at a total jerk, so she comes up with a genius plan to give Drew the personality makeover he so desperately needs: they’ll tame Drew just as Petruchio tames Kate! But as Shakespeare’s classic plays out offstage, Cass finds it harder and harder to resist falling for Drew herself.

The best kind of entertainment, *The Taming of the Drew* is smart, funny, fresh, and original. You’re going to love this badass heroine and her friends. You might even end up liking Drew, too.

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## The Taming of the Drew By Stephanie Kate Strohm Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up-Following her parents' contentious divorce, recent high school graduate Cass doesn't believe in relationships. She does, however, believe in the theater and is eager to begin an internship playing Kate in a summer production of *The Taming of the Shrew* in Vermont. Unfortunately, she and her leading man, Drew, take an instant dislike to each other. In the spirit of the play, Cass sets out to torment Drew, as much for her own amusement as to help mold him into the perfect new boyfriend for her lovelorn friend and castmate, Amy. Over the next two weeks, revulsion blooms predictably into romance as Cass and Drew get to know each other, both onstage and offstage. Befitting her character, Cass's narrative voice has a flair for the dramatic, and the story is steeped in Shakespearean quotes and references. At times, however, the plot seems a bit contrived, and a subplot involving a nearby group of pro skateboarders-and a rival love interest for Cass-feels unnecessary. The characters are largely one-dimensional, and the tidy resolution wraps up the central conflicts almost hastily. VERDICT This is a breezy, if predictable, summer rom-com that will especially please burgeoning actors and theater aficionados.-Lauren Strohecker, McKinley Elementary School, Abington School District, PA(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

## Review

"I loved this madcap story! Cass is overdramatic, opinionated, and scheming -- just like every drama queen should be. Stephanie Kate Strohm writes characters you fall in love with even as they make questionable choices, and keeps the swoon factor amped up deliciously. One need not be a theatre geek to fall in love with this summer stock romance." --Amy Spalding, author of *Kissing Ted Callahan (and Other Guys)*

"What do Shakespeare, *Clueless*, and *Punk'd* have in common? This novel. Cass, a Springsteen-loving white actress from New Jersey, just landed her pre-college dream job playing the lead in *Taming of the Shrew* at Vermont's premier outdoor Shakespeare theater, which comes with the added bonus of escaping the aftermath of her parents' tumultuous divorce. Much as *10 Things I Hate About You* does on film, Strohm's latest novel (*Confederates Don't Wear Couture*, 2013, etc.) deftly fuses Shakespeare's play about the battle of the sexes with pop culture and romantic comedy. Since the aforementioned play is actually performed onstage here rather than merely referenced, readers become audience members, drawn into the beauty of the Bard's language and the zaniness of backstage drama. A car accident becomes a meet-cute with a sarcastic and infuriating New Yorker, who turns out to be Drew, her leading man in the upcoming production. To teach him a lesson, Cass decides to "tame" Drew by playing pranks on him, much as his character does to hers. While the plot outcome is to be expected, a novel of this sort is more about the journey than the destination, and Cass and Drew's repartee makes the journey well worth taking. What this breezy novel captures particularly well is the joy of theater, which lets you "lose yourself in someone else's life." While the cast is not notably diverse, it does include many recognizable theater types. Lighthearted and fluffy, this is both a wonderful immersion in Shakespeare and a great beach book." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Befitting her character, Cass's narrative voice has a flair for the dramatic, and the story is steeped in Shakespearean quotes and references. VERDICT: This is a breezy, if predictable, summer rom-com that will especially please burgeoning actors and theater aficionados." -- *School Library Journal*

"The happy ending is satisfying, as are the moments when Cass and Drew start to see beneath their prickly exteriors." -- *Publishers Weekly*

“A Shakespeare tale that you won’t want Cliff Notes for! Shrewdly funny, smart, and romantic. The perfect vacation read!” -- Jen Calonita, award-winning author of the *My Secrets of My Hollywood Life* series

“Theater geeks and those who love them will adore *The Taming of the Drew*. It’s hilarious and romantic, and it needs to go in your beach bag immediately!” -- Lauren Morrill, author of *Meant to Be*

“Strohm’s characters are well developed with witty dialogue, and the banter is laugh-out-loud funny. The story is laden with pop-culture references. Realistic language and situations are great for high school students looking for a contemporary read with romance and humor.” -- *VOYA*

“The Taming of the Drew is a quick and entertaining read. This romance novel is perfect for older teens who are in between the teen and new adult genre. Strohm’s writing is witty and relatable. This book is a great balance of comedy, romance, and drama. 4Q, 3P.” -- Gwen Amborski, *Teen Reviewer, VOYA*

“Can Shakespeare help a modern girl when it comes to relationships? When Cass begins her summer internship with a reputable Shakespeare theater company, she immediately clashes with her costar Drew. He is an obnoxious know-it-all who thinks he is too good for the rest of the cast. Incredibly, her roommate becomes smitten with Drew, and Cass knows she has to intervene. What if their play, *The Taming of the Shrew*, is actually a guidebook? What if they use all the Bard’s tricks to tame Drew and make him the perfect guy? And if they do, can Cass keep herself from falling for Drew as well? Cass and Drew’s back-and-forth is clever, and the theater camp is full of eccentric characters and hilarious drama. Readers who enjoy theater and witty banter will devour this modern-day take on Shakespeare’s battle of the sexes.” --*Booklist*

About the Author

**Stephanie Kate Strohm** is the author of *Pilgrims Don’t Wear Pink*, *Confederates Don’t Wear Couture*, and *It’s Not Me, It’s You*. She graduated with a dual degree in theater and history and has acted her way around the United States, performing in more than twenty-five states. She currently lives and works in Chicago, Illinois.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Peggy Nunes:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled *The Taming of the Drew*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have other opinion?

**Andrew Comer:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled *The Taming of the Drew* your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The *The Taming of the Drew* giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful

information for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Rodney Bell:**

Beside this specific The Taming of the Drew in your phone, it can give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or details. The information and the knowledge you may got here is fresh from the oven so don't become worry if you feel like an aged people live in narrow community. It is good thing to have The Taming of the Drew because this book offers to you personally readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you don't get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, including treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss that? Find this book as well as read it from currently!

**Roberta Haile:**

Is it a person who having spare time after that spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Taming of the Drew can be the reply, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

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