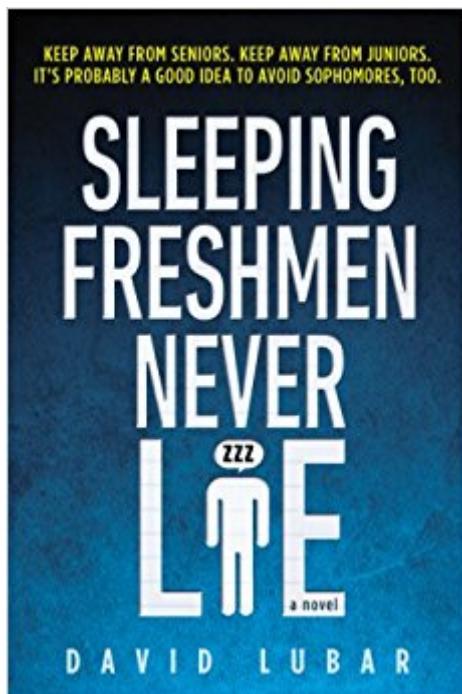


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# Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie



## **Synopsis**

Freaks and bullies, classes and crushes, this is high school. Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. In the process, Scott manages to become involved in nearly everything the school has to offer. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling's enjoyment. Read the companion novel *Sophomores and Other Oxymorons* coming August 2015

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)

Series: *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (January 18, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142407801

ISBN-13: 978-0142407806

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 192 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #26,167 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #37 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings #45 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up Scott Hudson begins his freshman year of high school as a source of income to Wesley, the school shakedown artist. The girl he's known since kindergarten has blossomed into

a goddess, but doesn't seem to know he's alive. He gets roped into writing the sports column for the school newspaper, even though he's not an athlete. On top of everything else, his mom is pregnant. As Scott maneuvers through a number of serious situations—bullying, a suicidal classmate, school dances—he still manages to be upbeat and true to himself. Overloaded with extracurricular activities and honors homework, he begins a journal filled with lists and tips for his expected sibling on how to survive freshman year. As the school year and his mom's pregnancy progress, Scott begins to find his niche at school in David Lubar's laugh-out-loud novel (Dutton, 2005). The main narration is more than capably done by Ryan MacConnell as Scott. The rest of the characters are voiced by a variety of actors, adding depth to Scott's experiences. Unobtrusive music throughout enhances the recording, including a lullaby whenever Scott writes in his journal for the baby. An excellent choice for public and school libraries. —Charli Osborne, Oxford Public Library, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Gr. 8-11. Scott Hudson chronicles the ups and downs of his eventful freshman year in high school, as he joins the newspaper, works as a stage manager for the spring play, learns a lot from his outstanding English teacher, tries to help a student who attempts suicide, is beaten up because of a girl, and goes to the spring dance. Along the way, he discovers that his mother is pregnant, and he writes a series of insightful letters to his soon-to-be sibling. By the end, Scott has outgrown his freshman insecurities, realizing that he has carved a place for himself in the high-school world. The story delivers too many messages as Scott learns one important lesson after another. Still, most readers will find plenty of amusing, accurate observations about freshman life, from the insecurities of first dates to the dangers of walking the hall between classes. Todd MorningCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

My son had to read this for English I in high school. He's a freshman and said he totally related to the book. Very funny and he relatable. My 15 year old son enjoyed the book so much he asked me to buy the second book. He likes to read but very rarely does he enjoy books that he "has" to read for school. I'd say that's a plus!!

I read this book because it is on my son's summer reading list. The main character is an intelligent and witty boy with a love of books. While writing a survival guide for his unborn sibling, he cleverly incorporates his English lessons to tell the story of his freshman year. The book addresses bullies,

homework, a suicide attempt, friends going in different directions, and making new friends. Overall, it was very good and enjoyable to read.

I bought this book for my nephew as it was required summer reading. Now this is a child that would rather do ANYTHING other than read. He finished this entire book in less than 24 hours. He LOVED it. I actually had to pry it out of his hands so he would go to sleep.

You've seen it before: boy goes to high school; boy faces upper classman bullies; boy yearns for cute girl; cute girl ignores boy; boy gets buried by inordinate work demands. And yada yada, high school without end, amen. Nevertheless, David Lubar goes where angels fear to tread, breathing new life into an old formula. And he pulls it off with minimal plot to carry his narrative, instead counting on a winsome protagonist named Scott Hudson who writes diary (though he loathes the word) entries to his as-yet unborn baby brother (yes, his mom has shocked the household by announcing she is pregnant for the first time since Scott himself was born). Characterization and humor carry the day in this book. Scott's voice is beguilingly frank and funny. He writes lists that roll off the pages like David Letterman "Top Ten" lists. He refers to his embryonic brother as "smelly" and "stomach virus." He takes a run at running for school office, winning a part in the school play, and writing Pulitzer dispatches for the school newspaper's sports section (trying not to insult the football team's 0-for-Forever pigskin player/goons). The book has its serious undercurrents, too. A suicide attempt by a fellow classmate gives Scott pause over his own behavior toward the desperate student. A girl with more hardware (studs, pins, and assorted other alloys) on her face than True Value's tool aisle burrows her way into his conscience as he continues his quest for the princess-from afar character, Julia. Old friends (Kyle, Patrick) are lost, and new friends (Wesley the Terror of J.P. Zenger High) emerge from unexpected quarters. Best of all, for my money, is the wordplay and educational tour de force provided by a series of scenes in Scott's English class with Mr. Franka. Allusions are abundant to great books, engaging poems, and all manner of word play (euphemisms, Tom Swifties, oxymorons, etc.). You'll feel like you're going to school again (or, if you're already there, like you're sitting in a GOOD teacher's class for once). School -- and a terrific little book -- is in session! Recommended, this book has appeal to boys and girls alike from Grades 7 on up.

This was one of the best books I've ever read in my entire life. It was funny, sad, and perfect. It just made me so happy. I also liked the little parts where what he learned in English changed the way

the story was told for a little. Being a freshman, I can say that this is more than accurate for the life of a high schooler

It is a great book i give it a 10 out of 10 because it is really funny and such a great book. I would recommend this to incoming freshman going into high school

A good story !

I'm a 48 year old with a son who is a Freshman in College, so why do I like this book this much? I picked it up because I've enjoyed other books by the writer, David Lubar. He writes great science fiction. This book was a great story, with a nice twist in the story telling (a journal that the main character is writing to his unborn sibling). I remember my high school days (back in the dark ages, the 70's) and Scott's adventures made me smile.

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