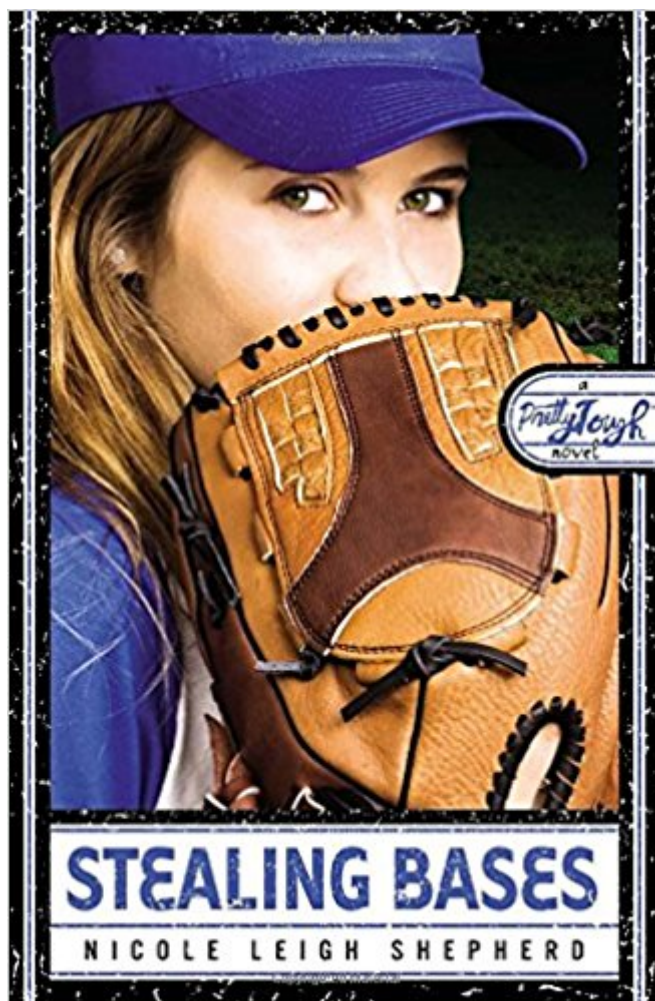


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# Stealing Bases: A PrettyTOUGH Novel



## Synopsis

Reformed mean girl Kylie Collins desperately wants to put the craziness of basketball season behind her. (And with it, her cheater ex, Zachary Murphy.) Maybe she'll finally be able to silence her snarky streak and concentrate on her lifelong dreamâbeing recruited for Division One softball. But when Kylie arrives at her first softball practice of the season, she comes face-to-face with her worst nightmare: Amber McDonald, the best pitcher in the state. Now, Kylie's forced to warm the bench as Amber wows crowds again and again. With all the drama happening out on the softball diamond, Kylie finds herself drawn back to bad habitsâsabotaging people and hanging out with a certain Zachary Murphy. . . .

## Book Information

Series: PrettyTough (Book 4)

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Best Sellers Rank: #464,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #425 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #945 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Nicole Leigh Shepherd is the author of the PrettyTough novels. She loves sports and believes in empowering and motivating young women to embrace theirâathleticism while encouraging them to lead active, healthy lifestyles.

This book is now one of my favorites. I liked how the end of the book started to introduce the solutions to all of her problems. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves softball.

The book was very good with a few spelling errors. Other than that I am in love with this book.

nice

I love this series my friends think I CRAZY I wouldn't put it down after I read this book after head games of course. I wonder if Kylie just didn't know what to think. I don't play softball I want to pitch but I couldn't control my arm. If my passion was taken away. My parents aren't together so I can imagine how she kind of feels but I can't imagine doing that

I just love this sports stories!! I really enjoyed this one cause it wasn't what I expected. Instead it throws several curve balls at me that I was dodging left and right. I really enjoyed the author, Ms. Mikulski shedding some light on Kylie, a character I read about in Head Games. One thing I enjoyed in this book is the main character, Kylie. I really like it when I read about a character in one book then that character gets their own book. I loved getting to know Kylie and finally seeing things from her point of view. Kylie is not at all what I was expecting. In the last book Kylie was fierce and mean. But I like that the reader saw Kylie for who she really is. She is so much more than an athlete. The plot of this book has very simple elements, it is all it needs to be great! There is so much drama, family problems, boyfriend problems, that it keeps you entertained all the way till the very last page. What I especially loved about this book was that there was no love interest. Just Kylie finding herself and finally letting go. Sometimes we hold on to things for too long without knowing what it is doing to us. Kylie has to recognize that in order for her to move on, to live a better free life, she had to let some things go. I just love it when a character sees the light and comes into who she is meant to be...just Kylie. Once again, Ms. Mikulski just did a fantastic job on writing this series. I enjoyed reading each one and enjoy getting in the feel of the characters. I love learning about sport and the passion the characters have for it. I can't wait to read the next book. This is a series I hooked on and can't get enough of!

As I've mentioned before, I am not usually a big "sports" reader, but Keri Mikulski won me over with Head Games and Stealing Bases sealed the deal. I am definitely a fan of the Pretty Tough series! Kylie was a returning character from Head Games, but this time around she was the narrator. Through Taylor's eyes in Head Games, Kylie had always seemed like a selfish and mean person, so I'm glad I got to know her side of the story in Stealing Bases. While it did take me a little while to warm up to Kylie, by the end of the book I did like her and felt for all she was going through. Kylie

had a lot on her plate and her softball dreams are being shattered by the arrival of new star pitcher, Amber McDonald. I understood why Kylie was upset, she had always been the pitcher and now Amber had taken her spot, but at times she acted a little too immature. As I said before, going into this, I wasn't sure what I was going to think of *Stealing Bases* simply because I didn't like Kylie before. Getting to know her in this book did change my opinion of her though, and she really was trying to amend her mean ways. There were quite a few characters from the last book that reappeared in this one as well. Taylor even had a small role. I liked getting to see some of my favorite characters from *Head Games*, even when they only played a minor part in Kylie's story. The plot of *Stealing Bases* was fresh and held my interest. I enjoyed learning about all the different plays in softball and how the team worked together. Kylie was faced with some tough choices during the course of the novel and learned a lot about both herself and those around her. Another character that was reintroduced in *Stealing Bases* was Zachary Murphy. He had an intriguing role in this book and Kylie had to make a decision about him once and for all. While Kylie put on a brave front, she was dealing with a lot of issues back home. Her parents had recently divorced and she was living at a family friend's pool house with her dad. I admired Kylie for staying strong during the ordeal and it made her a more realistic character. Keri Mikulski always does a great job making her teenage characters realistic and believable, as well as all their experiences. I am a big fan of contemporary YA and Keri Mikulski does not disappoint. There were quite a few entertaining and important twists in the story that kept me reading and I enjoyed getting to know all the different characters and learn even more about softball. *Stealing Bases* isn't overly "sporty" either- it combines just the right amount of sports, romance, drama, and friendships. The girls even visit Pinkberry- I adore frozen yogurt! All in all, *Stealing Bases* was an entertaining and realistic addition to the *Pretty Tough* series. Kylie was a character that had to grow on me, but in the end I did like her. Keri Mikulski has an eye for writing books that will appeal to a variety of readers and *Stealing Bases* is no exception. I'm eager for the release of *Making Waves* (coming in 2012)! Overall: 4 out of 5 stars

*Stealing Bases* was a book I had quite high expectations for - while it didn't quite live up to every expectation I had for it after reading *Head Games*, it was still a stellar read that I absolutely devoured. I loved getting inside the heads of some of the characters from *Head Games* that had played a little more of an outfield role. I thought Kylie was a great narrator, I loved getting to know her more as a character. I don't know why it is, but every Missy I meet in a book I really don't like and she turns out to be a very not nice word, I was happy to see Missy redeem herself a bit after being nasty - which made me smile a lot. The plot was a bit predictable, but I still loved seeing how

everything panned out. The writing was marvelous. Mikulski really has a way with words. I did not want to put this one down. I kept trying to sneak in more pages whenever I could. Stealing Bases is a worthy read. Keri Mikulski pitches a great story filled with wonderful writing. The story will hit you fast and doesn't slow down until the end. I am very curious to see what will be next for Keri Mikulski, whatever it is, I will be reading.

This book was G... Although there was a lot of proofreading mistakes I caught.. Other than that the book was great. I am pitcher/ shortstop so this book makes me want to try even harder for a division 1 scholarship for softball!

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