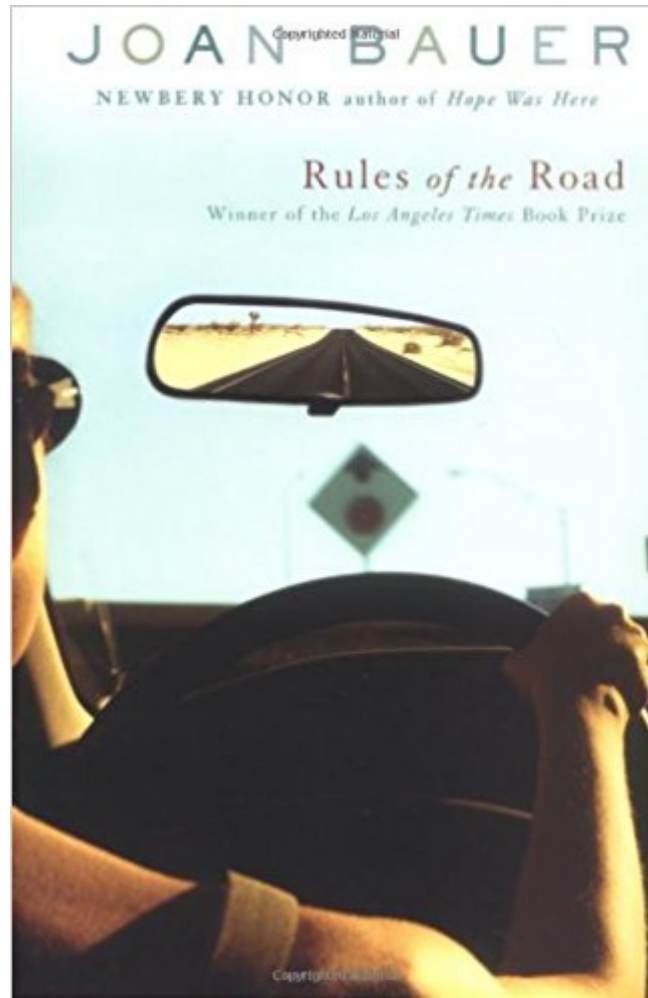




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# Rules Of The Road



## Synopsis

Meet Jenna Boller, star employee at Gladstone Shoe Store in Chicago. Standing a gawky 5'11" at 16 years old, Jenna is the kind of girl most likely to stand out in the crowd for all the wrong reasons. But that doesn't stop Madeline Gladstone, the president of Gladstone's Shoes 176 outlets in 37 states, from hiring Jenna to drive her cross country in a last ditch effort to stop Elden Gladstone from taking over his mother's company and turning a quality business into a shop-and-schlock empire. Now Jenna Boller shoe salesperson is about to become a shoe-store spy as she joins her crusty old employer for an eye-opening adventure that will teach them both the rules of the road and the rules of life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850 (What's this?)

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Speak (June 2, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014240425X

ISBN-13: 978-0142404256

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 156 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #71,438 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Funny young adult writers are a rare treasure, and Joan Bauer is one of the funniest. Critics and young readers rejoiced at her three previous novels--Squashed, Thwonk, and Sticks--and with Rules of the Road, she has written a story that is wise and touching as well as comical. Jenna Boller is too tall for a sophomore and she's not much good in school. Her sister Faith got all the looks in the family, but boy, can Jenna sell shoes! She's supremely happy at her after-school job at Gladstone's, where the big white sign over the door says "We're Not Just Selling Shoes, We're

Selling Quality." When elderly Mrs. Madeline Gladstone, the crusty president of the company, chooses Jenna as her driver on a business trip to visit other Gladstone's stores, Jenna goes reluctantly--with trepidation at driving the huge Cadillac, and at the prospect of leaving her alcoholic father behind. But on the road, Jenna learns "great road truths" such as "Never eat at a place called Mom's, because it's a safe bet Mom's been dead for years." She also proves to be indispensable (possessing an eagle eye for shoddy quality and sloppy service), and soon learns to admire and love the irascible Mrs. Gladstone as well as her old friend, "World's Best Shoe Salesman" Harry Bender. When Harry dies suddenly, Jenna realizes that she wishes he had been her father. Trouble looms in the form of a company takeover by Mrs. Gladstone's sleazy son, Elden, "Shoe Rodent," but Jenna summons courage from Harry's memory and saves the day for quality shoes. Rules of the Road is a treat that will utterly delight readers. (Age 12 and older) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bauer's novel about an earnest teenager who chauffeurs a crabby, wealthy woman has the underpinnings of a quirky Driving Miss Daisy, but the story quickly runs out of gas. Sixteen-year-old Jenna Boller has the world by the tail. She's just received her driver's license and she loves her job at Gladstone's Shoe Store. Even better, she's been tapped to drive Mrs. Madeline Gladstone, the imposing president of the shoe store chain, from Chicago to Dallas for an important shareholders meeting. During the road trip Jenna gets a chance to demonstrate her passion for shoe salesmanship at various Gladstone stores; she also learns of Elden Gladstone's plan to push his mother aside in favor of a major merger. While Jenna educates herself in the ways of big business and dealing with difficult people, she also ruminates about her alcoholic father, her ailing grandmother and her mom and sister waiting at home. She arrives back in Chicago both braver and wiser. As in Squashed, Bauer begins with an intriguing premise, weaves in unusual settings and scenarios and creates an offbeat first-person narrator to relay them. But a supporting cast of stock characters and forced dialogue may disappoint readers of her previous novels. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Buy a Joan Bauer book and you cannot go wrong. It is impossible. She puts sentences together with heart -- feeling, and you ache with characters, and laugh with them too. We love all her books. And despite having a 16 year-old who reads AP level in high school, on road trips during summer (from Michigan to Santa Fe or beyond), they make travel less mundane and offer a welcome

reprieve from the drab literature pushed to sophomores and juniors. A bonus: the content is worth discussing later -- and Joan always imparts life lessons to readers. Hope Was Here we listened to in the car via audio; this book, Rules of the Road we read together in the evening. It's a family centric book --- that delves into teen issues, adult issues too. By the way, search for Joan's website and drop her an email if you like her writing. We did and guess what? Yes, she wrote back. Whether your teen is male or female, whether you are an adult or not quite at the age of "matriculation" -- trust me, you'll enjoy Joan's books. There is something for everyone.

A witty story of self-realization. It's hard not to fall in love with the characters. Deals with tough issues such as alcoholism, recovery, divorce, enabling versus taking responsibility for oneself, and tough life choices. The protagonist's quick wit about her situation, perception of her feelings, and experiences made me laugh on nearly every page. Completely clean content in terms of sexuality/swearing/etc-- I will definitely be sharing this with my teens. Many excellent lessons inside, especially about self-worth, open and vulnerable communication, etc. Enjoy!

This is the 2nd book I have read by Joan Bauer and the 2nd one I thought terrific. Although written for teens and young adults, as a mother I also appreciated the insight and reality of these books. Life is hard but well worth fighting for. Her books deal with real issues seen from the perspective of a fallible human who learns to grow up despite - and because of - difficult circumstances.

I think Joan Bauer is becoming my favorite YA author! I love every book of hers that I have read so far, and this one is no exception. The characters are bigger than life and the storyline is wonderful. The subplots (Jenna's grandmother with Alzheimers, her alcoholic father, etc.) are woven into the main story very skillfully and add additional depth. Jenna's personal and social maturation are something to behold as she deals with her alcoholic father, relates both compassionately and honestly to the imperialistic Mrs. Gladstone, discovers her own personal strengths and integrity, etc. Highly Recommended!

I can relate due to the fact that my mom for drunk too. it's also a great story, it has joyful parts, funny parts, and THE FEELZ!!

Customer service , yes, but life lessons galore as well! A teen from a difficult family, wise beyond her years, learns how to speak up, and stand up, as she grows up in the world of the shoe industry.

Bought for my daughter as a school requirement and she likes it.

I had to read this book for school and I wasn't a big fan of it. It wasn't all that exciting and just wasn't my type of book.

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