



Surviving High School: A Novel

By Lele Pons, Melissa de la Cruz

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As featured in *People Magazine*, *Seventeen*, *Tiger Beat* and *Glitter!*

Vine superstar Lele Pons—“one of the coolest girls on the web” (*Teen Vogue*)—teams up with #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz (*The Isle of the Lost*) in this charming debut novel about the ups and downs of high school that’s as laugh-out-loud addictive as Lele’s popular videos.

Ten million followers and I still sit alone at lunch. Lele is a bullseye target at her new school in Miami until, overnight, her digital fame catapults the girl with cheerleader looks, a seriously silly personality, and a self-deprecating funny bone into the popular crowd. Now she’s facing a whole new set of challenges—the relentless drama, the ruthless cliques, the unexpected internet celebrity—all while trying to keep her grades up and make her parents proud.

Filled with the zany enthusiasm that has made Lele into Vine’s most viewed star, this charming novel is proof that high school is a trip. From crushing your crushes (what’s up with that hot transfer student Alexei??) to throwing Insta-fake parties with your BFFs and moaning over homework (GAH) with your frenemies, high school is a rollercoaster of exhilarating highs and totally embarrassing lows. Leave it to Lele to reassure us that falling flat on your face is definitely not the end of the world. Fans of *Mean Girls* will love this fun and heartwarming fish-out-of-water story.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up-Vine star Pons, known for her six-second videos on the social media app, writes a semiautobiographical novel that only fans will love. Lele is new to a Miami high school where she does not fit in at first; she's goofy and awkward. Once her brand-new fame as a Vine star thrusts her into the popularity echelons of the social scene, Lele must grapple with faux friends and a new crush in between raves and celebrity parties. This frivolous book is not, as promised, about surviving high school but more about surviving short-lived fame at a young age. Lele, however, comes across as arrogant and unlikable; case in point: "My life is dope and I do dope things. People think I'm cool and want to be around me; I attract crowds like moths to a flame, I am in demand." Due to prolific cursing and sexual situations, this is best for mature teens. VERDICT Dangle this ego-filled carrot in front of reluctant readers and avid fans of the Latina social media guru.-Amanda C. Buschmann, Atascocita Middle School, Humble, TXα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

About the Author

Lele Pons

Lele Pons was born in Caracas and moved with her family to Miami when she was five years old. She grew from five thousand local followers to over ten million by November 2015 and is the creator of the popular "Do it for the Vine!" tagline. She has been nominated for three Teen Choice Awards, a People's Choice Award, and a Streamy Award and has been featured in *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *Teen Vogue*, *Time*, and more. In 2015, she was invited to the White House to create Vines to support the First Lady's campaign for disadvantaged kids to go to college. Lele graduated from high school in 2015 and moved from Miami to L.A.

Melissa de la Cruz

Melissa de la Cruz is the #1 bestselling author of books for readers of all ages, including the *Witches of East End*, *Blue Bloods*, and *Descendants* series.

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Surviving High School

PROLOGUE

To my lovely and beautiful readers. Before I tell you the story of how I vowed to survive high school, I'd like to talk about something near and dear to my heart.

See, every human being (and most animals, I find) have their own unique essence, an essence comprised of deeply rooted qualities that make them who they are. Ancient Greek philosophers would refer to this as the "soul"—but I am not an ancient Greek philosopher, I am a teenage girl, and so I will call it Lele-ness. Of course, you wouldn't call it Lele-ness, you would call it Sara-ness or Jason-ness, or whatever your name might be.

My point is: I believe that YOU-ness is something very special, no matter who you are, and it ought to be celebrated. So I shall now tell you how I came to be truly Lele, a person I love for better or for worse.

Of course, part of your essence comes into this world with you at birth, but it's really what happens next that starts to shape you into you. I was born in Caracas, a major city in Venezuela, but quickly moved to the countryside where I—get this—lived in a barn. I mean, can you even? Picture this: baby Lele running barefoot through cornfields miles and miles away from civilization. I didn't have dogs or cats as pets, instead I had baby tigers and monkeys as close friends. My whole childhood I knew nothing of shopping malls or (gasp!) the internet. For entertainment I had only nature—bird-watching and berry picking and, best of all, stargazing.

For as long as I can remember, language has been a struggle for me. Words didn't come to me as a child, so I used my body to communicate. It felt so much more natural to express myself that way. I felt comfortable drawing out my thoughts and feelings, instead of verbalizing them, so I'd often draw out storyboards—sometimes eight pages long—to explain to my parents or teachers what it was that I wanted. Everyone has their strengths and their weaknesses: for me, artwork and movement were strengths, while speaking to others using words was a weakness.

Now take all of that and add immigrating to the United States, and you have a potential disaster on your hands. I knew nothing about American culture, and my differences paralyzed me with anxiety. For comfort and peace of mind, I turned to entertainment. I found I was embraced by my peers for being physically dramatic and, well, funny. I found that I knew how to make people laugh, and so I held on to that as a life raft in the sea of the most confusing and alienating time in my life.

I believe it was my wild upbringing plus my verbal disadvantages that led me to be the performer and one-of-a-kind weirdo with a heart of gold that I am today. It's not always easy being Lele, but every morning when I wake up I say, "Bring it on," and that attitude is what has taken me on this incredible journey.

I encourage you to think about the life events and circumstances that have made you truly YOU, and to celebrate every single part of yourself—the strong, the weak, the good, the bad, and the ugly—because each part contributes to making you special and AMAZING. Trust me.

So that is the story of how I developed my Lele essence. What follows is the story of how I survived my first year at Miami High and how I got to share my message with almost ten million followers. I hope you enjoy it!

XO Lele

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Reva Morison:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book Surviving High School: A Novel seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The book Surviving High School: A Novel is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship using the book Surviving High School: A Novel. You never feel lose

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