



A Tale of Two Besties (Hello Giggles)

Sophia Rossi , Zooey Deschanel (Foreword)

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Harper: I love you so much that I am going to sneak out of detention to pay that guy from Craigslist \$100 to cut off all your hair for my secret collection.

Lily: I love you so much I'm going to destroy everyone in your life that matters and force you to depend and love only me.

Harper: That sounds beautiful. I love you.

Not even the threat of different high schools could throw this BFFship off-course, even if Lily begs her parents not to send her to the "dreaded Pathways," a special school for creative types, while effortlessly-popular Harper attends Beverly High with the rest of their class.

But in a city where fitting in means standing out and there's nothing more uncool than being cool, it's the naturally charismatic Harper--with her blond hair and perfect bone structure--who finds herself fighting the tide of American Apparel'd teens who rule the school. Meanwhile, it's the perpetually "gawkward" Lily--who accessories every ensemble with a pair of tattered fairy wings--who finds herself flying alongside the queen bees of Pathways. Can BFF-ship survive the tidal wave of HS drama, or does growing up mean leaving some friends behind?

A Tale of Two Besties (Hello Giggles) Details

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Author : Sophia Rossi , Zooey Deschanel (Foreword)

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From Reader Review A Tale of Two Besties (Hello Giggles) for online ebook

Daiane says

I was chosen to be one of the FIRST TO READ this great eARC book!

This book was great! Really glad to be chosen to be able to read this book before others! All I have to say is that it was worth reading and spending my time on this book! I will definitely be sharing and recommending others especially younger audiences to pick up this book. I like how realistic this book is to real life and how it touches upon things that have/can happen in our lives. I thought this book was going to be a lighthearted read but it actually touched upon deep things that led it to be a great book. The characters were sweet and there wasn't a thing I hate about them. I am really glad to have enjoyed this book and read it ahead to share the love of this book! Although it's not my favorite FAVORITE, I would say this book is decent and better than others!

Melissa says

A YA coming of age tale of two BFF's

This is the story of Harper and Lily. They are both rich girls, but mirror image, carbon copy, snobby "mean girls" they are not. Harper is your typical looking California girl, she's sweet and pretty self assured, and comfortable in her own skin, despite having a know-it-all motivational speaker for a mom. Then there's Lily, who's free spirited parents move to California where the girls meet. Lily shows up on her first day at her new school, which Harper is a native of, wearing a pair of fairy wings, hair that flops into her eyes, and appears to be having a running near-silent, but not quite, running monologue to herself. The "regular girls" at the school are aghast that such a creature exists but Harper is drawn to the strange girl. That is the day that changed both of their lives for the better. That is the day they met their BFF. The two become inseparable until Lily's parents decide that instead of going to regular high school, she will be attending a school called Pathways for talented and "free spirited" people. Lily begs and pleads not to be separated from Harper, but her parents stand firm. Being separated, the girls learn things about themselves, in high school, Harper isn't quite as high on the social totem pole as she was pre-high school, and Lily who thought she would never have anyone to talk to without Harper learns that she has a voice all her own. I wish that's all they learned. Unfortunately the girls also learn about peer pressure and bullying and that people are definitely not always what they seem. In fact the two besties experience a pretty big rift. Will they overcome their problems and restore their friendship? How will they end up dealing with their new school dynamics. I enjoyed reading this book. The author did very well telling the story from dual points of view.

I received this book free from first to read in exchange for an honest review.

?? says

The reason I didn't finish this book is because Harper and Lilly did not seem like girls that really were 14. They seemed like 6th graders that thought they were 8th graders.

Kristen Beverly says

I'd say this is a 3.5 rounded up to 4. It's a fun and cute novel about two best friends who end up going to different schools and growing apart. The best part is that it's pretty clean, too, so it's safe to recommend to young teens.

Parneet Sekhon says

Didn't really like it. I wasn't expecting a lot from it, but it could have been so much better because the story had potential.

Review to come soon on blog.
-The Enchanted Book

Amber Garabrandt says

I received a copy of this book to read from First To Read. I loved the book which is filled with lots of love and great characters. the message, that bullying and peer pressure can come in many forms is a good one. it was a touching, intriguing look into these two girls. my only issue is that the blurb makes it seem far more lighthearted than I feel like it is.

merireads says

(ACTUAL RATING: 3.5 ROUNDED TO A 4)

Overall, I thought this book was a sweet story about friendship and starting high school. It was a quick read that was charming and very relatable to my own friendships. The plot wasn't very exciting; there were a few points when I burned out and took a break. That was my only real problem with this book, though. I liked it and would recommend it to tween/teen girls, especially ones with a best friend of their own.

Sorry that this was so short--I didn't have much to say about this book, plus I'm very tired right now and don't feel like writing a giant review.

M.G. Camacho says

eISBN: 9781595148056
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Genre: YA

Part 1: From the book cover

Best friends. BFFs. Soul twinsies. Whatever you want to call them, Harper and Lily were born to be besties. With high school just around the corner, casual-cool Cali girl Harper and awkward, always-costumed Lily make sure to text each other every day about their bond:

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Inspired by the HelloGiggles community of likeminded best friends, founded by IRL besties Zooey Deschanel and Sophia Rossi, and set in a hilarious insider's version of Los Angeles, *A Tale of Two Besties* will make you giggle and cry...and then tell you how cute you look with runny mascara.

"It's like my twins stepped out of the eighties and dropped down into today. Deliciously funny with heart." – Francine Pascal, bestselling author and creator of the Sweet Valley High series

Part 2: Recommendation

Having the perspective of both Lily and Harper made me not hate nor did it not make me favor one over the other. Based on the synopsis, I was thinking I have to mentally prepare myself for all the teen drama in this book. Thankfully, I didn't need to. The writing is effortless and the pace is relatively smooth. The characters and the problems they're facing is quite realistic. I absolutely adore books that make me feel the emotions of the characters and this book made me feel alright. I was in tears by the time Lily and Harper finally cleared the air and made up. At first, I thought Nicole was this nice, cool girl but I ended up disliking Nicole the more I encountered her character in the book and I definitely agreed with Harper that Nicole is just a different kind of bully but a bully all the same. And of course, I always enjoy the part where everyone finally stands up to the bully and moved on with their merry lives, leaving Nicole shrieking and alone.

Overall, I enjoyed this book and anyone who loves a good contemporary YA novel should definitely get their hands on this one.

Disclaimer: As a member of Penguin's First To Read Program, I received this galley in exchange for an honest review.

TJL says

Five stars to the first YA book I've ever read that has unabashedly, openly acknowledged that a feminist vegan SJW can be every bit the mean-girl that the stereotypical cheerleader can be.

My God. I... It's just, feminism is such a popular theme in YA today and it is so damn *rare* to find an author who's willing to create openly feminist characters who they ACKNOWLEDGE are horrible people. I mean, the simple fact that Nicole is described as- here it is (emphasis mine)-

Nicole is a junior and a nu-hippie and says she can do my birth chart if I find out what moon sign I was born under. She's got a nose ring and is a vegan and "plus-sized and proud", according to her, but she isn't really all that big. **She's a feminist and refuses to listen to music or see movies with actresses who don't acknowledge that feminism means equal rights for everyone, because that kind of stance shows that they don't actually even know what feminism is.**

I... I mean, you want to talk about *subversive*? Nicole is a bully. A self-righteous, cult-leader-esque kind of bully. Attaching that belief-system to someone like Nicole is *saying* something, especially given that Harper calls it out later in the book, saying that Nicole needs to silence everyone who becomes a threat to her power.

I know it's weird for me to harp on this, but you have to understand: I read a lot of YA fiction. The "In" thing is to praise feminism and have your characters pay homage to feminist ideals (usually little quips to the effect of "How come *girls* aren't allowed to EVER EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS?!?" and parroting grossly misinformed information about rape and abuse.) To have a book that has a feminist character who is BLATANTLY called out for their bad behavior is amazing.

And I don't think I have to say that Nicole is not just a character. She's that tumblr feminist who lectures girls about how they "should" be calling themselves feminists, because obviously the only reason they don't already is because they're being abused by their boyfriends or trying to get attention from men. Women, Feminists like Nicole exist. And to finally, *finally* find a book that displays the kind of behavior I see on Tumblr on a regular basis- whether it's feminism, veganism, or general SJW behavior- and call it out for the self-serving, self-righteous, sociopathic bullying that it is- that's just- I don't have *words* for how happy that makes me.

In general, the story was excellent. Great characters, all very well-fleshed out, and I just loved it. The fact that the author chose for the mean girl and the clique to come from a very non-stereotypical place was excellent as well.

Justine says

I received an ARC copy of this book free from Goodreads First Reads in exchange for an honest review.

The minute I saw this book up for grabs I was sold.... Hello a foreword by Zooey Deschanel, yes please. This was a younger read, almost middle grade but it was a coming of age so it would fit for really any age. It was a really cute read that was easy to get through but it also had some good reasons for the readers. I feel like these characters were easy to relate too because most people go through some sort of identity crisis at some point of growing up. Readers could also relate to the fighting between friends, I know I have had my fair share of best friend fights/ spats. But I like that the book keeps you hopeful that you will survive all of the above and move on from it and hopefully become a better person because of it.

I would recommend this novel to any avid readers, those looking to find themselves and those who need a good coming of age.

Jenny Thompson says

Reading a Tale of Two Besties was a bizarre experience. It had its ups and downs. It took me a while to become interested in either of the two protagonists. There were a variety of reasons. In the end though, I think it just boiled down to the fact that the author clearly intended the girls' experiences to be universal, but they just weren't. It was a bit "poor little rich girl." I also may be biased because Rossi takes a swing at Perks of Being a Wallflower. I mean, really? Those characters may also be rich teenagers, but at least they deal with real problems. They aren't just some painfully selfish girls who forget that a friendship is built on give and take, not just take, take, take.

I thought that giving us dual perspectives was a great choice for this book, but it was unfortunate that their inner voices were so similar. Occasionally I would forget which one was narrating and get confused.

That said, I do think Rossi did some cool things with this book. I am all for more coming of age stories about women and female friendship. It made my heart sing that this book had so many female characters even if (and maybe even because) some of them were bullies or had some internalized misogyny issues to work out. I also appreciated her point that bigots sometimes use the language of tolerance and acceptance to be crappy people, and that a culture rooted in nonconformity is still basically just all about conforming in a different way. I may have punched the air with joy when someone finally asked what was so wrong with being normal anyway? It was a beautiful moment.

I have never read an advanced reader copy before (Thanks, First to Read!), so I was unprepared for some of the glitches. The book includes images of texts between the two girls, and none of the texts appeared in my ebook. In fact, around them there were also sometimes whole paragraphs missing, and because the last chapter/epilogue (presumably) occurs in text message format, the last 14 pages of the book were blank. There were also numerous spelling and grammar errors which I assume will be edited out before the book goes to print. The Forward was also not included. None of these things will hopefully affect readers of the final version of the book, but I thought I ought to mention them as they may have colored my perception of the novel.

Nereyda (Nick & Nereyda's Infinite Booklist) says

This was a book that wasn't on my radar at all, which is a shame. I got this unsolicited review copy and thought it sounded really cute. I have this really weird obsession with books about friendships. I love reading about good friendships, but love reading about friendships going through a hard time too. This book was a

bit of both. Since my TBR is sky high, I ended up getting an audio copy of this one to listen to instead. This was super adorable, but I also really liked the story, the characters and the message. Yes, this is a bit on the younger side, I believe the characters are 14 and about to start high school. But I personally believe that a good book is a good book, regardless of the age group it was intended for (I still would consider this YA, just a younger YA).

Harper and Lily are the best of friends. Their friendship is a little bit intense, but I loved how close they were. When find out that they will both be going to different schools, neither are worried because they know their friendship could survive it. That's not as true as they thought. From the beginning of the new school year, things are off to a bad start. Harper was always the popular one, she was pretty and was one of those really nice girls who was friends with everyone. Making friends was easy for her. Lily on the other hand has always been a little bit different. The self-proclaimed 'gawkward' girl who wears fairy wings with every outfit and has always been less sociable and is perfectly happy being friends with Harper's friends. Only now at the new school, Harper is the social outcast and is having a hard time making any friends. While Lily's awkwardness is now becoming the hot thing at her new school.

Lily's new classmates immediately take a liking to her personality and her wings. Lily isn't sure what to do with the new attention she's been getting, especially when she's invited to be a part of the exclusive 'Namaste' club where everyone must wear wings like Lily. With their lives going in a complete 360, they both struggle with their new lives. Lily is too busy to even listen to Harper's problems, and Harper is having a hard time understanding why Lily even likes her new friends and is dealing with more than a bit of jealousy. Both these girls go through some ups and downs in this book and I loved how realistic everything was handled. This book focusing mostly on Lily and Harper's friendship, and while there is some boy crushing, it's not a romance. I couldn't help but listening to this one straight through and thought it was a cute and realistic story about the ups and downs of friendship.

Audiobook Comments: This audiobook felt very professionally done. Sometimes, I listen to an audiobook and I can tell when some parts are recorded after because the volume and tone is just off. I've heard over 200 audiobooks so it might just be something I just notice now. But this audiobook didn't have that problem. The sound and performances from both narrators were really great and made me enjoy the story even more. Anna Brisbin and Nora Hunter were really great as Harper and Lily. Since these characters are a bit younger, I was worried their 'voices' would be annoying or sound too young and fake, but both were completely age appropriate and spot on for the characters. This was on the shorter side and I would have stuck with the book if I would have read it, but the audio was a fantastic performance.

4 out of 5 stars

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Lauraelisabeth (fashion-by-the-book) says

Lily and Harper are inseparable, and have been since 5th grade. But now the dynamic duo are being

separated as they enter high school. Shy and awkward Lily, dressed in fairy wings, is sure she'll suffer without cool and casual Harper, but she finds herself fitting in her new school. Harper, on the other hand, finds herself lost without her bestie. As she watches her best friend change into a new person, she wonders if friendship can really last forever.

A tale of two besties is something I would have loved as a middle schooler, or maybe even as a high school freshman. But as I am now, I found it silly and immature.

Lily and Harper seem way too young to be 14 year olds. As a homeschooler, most of my friends are a variety of ages, and one of my closest ones is a 14 girl and I can honestly say I don't think she would act as immature as Lily and Harper in a million years. I mean, it's one thing to be unique but quite another to act like a five year old all the time. And Lily is so... weird. I mean, if it was explained that she had anxiety disorder or a history where she was bullied, she would have made more sense. But she didn't, so she came off as odd, and not in a cute, quirky way that I think the author wanted. Harper came off as whiny and depressing, and who would actually want to be called by the nickname "puppygirl"?

Another thing that drove me crazy was all the name dropping. Was this book sponsored or something? A quick flip through the book, and the words "H&M", "Brandy Melville", The show "Girls", "Doc Matens" pop out. In just about four pages. I like pop culture in books, but this is insane. Also, Rossi reallllllllllllly hates American Apparel. Like, really hates it. If all the stores mysteriously burn down, I'd call in with her name as a tip.

Another annoyance? It's like the author couldn't choose what type of people she hated more: "Hipsters" or "Basics." Hipster being the kids at Lily's school, mostly artistic vegans types, and basics being anyone at Harper's school. The thing is, there is nothing wrong with being a "hipster" or "basic" if that's what you're happy being. But the whole book acts like you have to be so CRAZZZZY UNIQUE that you can't have anything in common with anyone. It's silly. Sometimes people fit into clichés and that's ok. I'm super cliché most of the time; in my TOMS, drinking Starbucks at Target in my forever21 t-shirt. Does this mean I'm not a person with a real personality? No, according to this novel. Also, speaking of hipsters, the kind of school Lily goes to, Pathways, so doesn't exist. Otherwise, I'd be graduating from it this spring. And why is Lily going there, anyways? In the book, it seems like a school for talented kids, but nothing besides a somewhat joke band is even mentioned. Is she an artist, a writer? Is she a math prodigy? Who knows! Maybe her talent is wearing fairy wings and acting like a four year old.

As for positive, I did like the "weird" text that went between the friends. I always joke with one of my friends that someone in the NSA probably reads our text messages and worries about our mental health. (He says probably not, but I'd bet money on it tbh.)

Anne Martin says

what is this book about? the horrible problems of high school? the oh-so-tough lives of students? the special difficult times you go through as a teenager when you have all you want?

Why is it supposed to be interesting? the girls in this book are more privileged than most, their lives are empty of anything but themselves and high school drama. And it is not even well written.

Two stars is a gift!

Erin Lynn says

DNF - Too yuppie and childlike for my taste.

I've decided that I'm not posting my full review on Goodreads, but my review can be read on my blog, The Hardcover Lover.
