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Ellis only has four days of her sophomore year left, and summer is so close that she can almost taste it. But even with vacation just within reach, Ellis isn't exactly relaxed. Her father has been in a coma for years, the result of a construction accident, and her already-fragile relationship with her mother is strained over whether or not to remove him from life support. Her best friend fails even to notice that anything is wrong and Ellis feels like her world is falling apart. But when all seems bleak, Ellis finds comfort in the most unexpected places.

Life goes on, but in those four fleeting days friends are lost and found, promises are made, and Ellis realizes that nothing will ever quite be the same.

37 Things I Love (in No Particular Order) Details

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Author : Kekla Magoon

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From Reader Review 37 Things I Love (in No Particular Order) for online ebook

Adrienne says

I felt sorry for the protagonist for what happened to her father, who was one of the most important people in her life, but other than that I felt detached from her and I couldn't care less about all the decisions she made in the book which, in addition, I couldn't understand even when I tried to. Her friends were insipid characters who didn't undergo any sort of personal growth over the course of the story. Other than that brief moment where she mourned for her father, this book failed to get a reaction out of me.

There were also a lot of things left unresolved, like her relationship with her mom, and her friendship with Abby, as well as her romantic involvement with Cara. (Honestly, I did NOT see that one coming.) Would she and her mother ever grow closer after everything that happened? Was Abby still her best friend despite all that had gone down between them? There was no closure whatsoever.

Overall, this was a little bit sad but doesn't really hit you right in the feels.

Jennifer Marie says

A beautiful teen novel that leads the reader through an accurate portrayal of how a fifteen year old experiences loss, emotional turmoil, friendship and betrayal, first loves, questions of sexuality, and the pressures of high school in a neat 240 pages. Once I started reading, I had to be forced to put it down (we were Christmas shopping, and I'd wasted over an hour of my friends' time) and finished it the moment I had time (aka, the moment I returned to campus: I curled up in my favorite chair and devoured the last half of the novel). Initially, I'd been planning to just read it in the store and not buy it, but once I was halfway through, I realized that I needed to own it. That's pretty high praise from me; it means I liked it enough at the halfway point to want to finish it, and to want to give the author my money, and to want to potentially share it later on.

All in all? Great story.

Roberta Weiner says

Continuing through the YA section - this was unexpectedly touching. A wonderful book for an older child or teen dealing with serious loss

Mariah Pilcher says

ENGL 420 REQUIREMENTS: KEKLA MAGOON

This is a story of a teen girl who has to deal with many problems all at once: her father is in a coma in the hospital, her best friend is mean and spiteful, her love life is complicated, and to top it off, she tries to get

reacquainted with an old friend. Things go wrong, love is lost and gained, and new relationships are formed. This book is all about the different types of relationships a teen can have, how they can go wrong, and how they can go right.

I liked this book for the most part, it was funny and short, but it was also very sad. It's a tear-jerker!

Marianne says

It really should be 3.5 stars, but you know.

I loved the writing in this book...

And I thought the story told well...

But this book seemed uneven to me. The chapter length and format would indicate (at least to me) a younger reader, but the characters and their actions a bit more mature. The cover is bubble gum sweet, yet the book a bit dark dealing with real life issues such as growing apart from your childhood friends, drinking, sexuality and death.

This quick paced book didn't allow for much depth in character development. For example, the love interest of the main character as well as their best male friend. It just seemed a bit too simple.

so HI/LO maybe? Good to have a book to include GLTB.

Katie says

37 Things I Love is a very deceiving book. From the cover I expected something light and fun. What I got was a rather serious story that touched on first love, lost friendships, and the death of a loved one. I don't know if maybe my expectations were just set for something completely different or what but I just didn't really care much for 37 Things I Love.

The characters in 37 Things I Love were lacking quite a bit. The main character, Ellis, had very little personality and almost no backbone. She never stood up for herself and she acted like it was her job to just take the crap her friend Abby was dishing out. And Abby was not a friend. She was a Grade A bitch. She made fun of Ellis and their other friend, Colin, constantly. And when Abby did something stupid it was Ellis' fault. Colin was the only one I even remotely liked although he had no backbone either.

The plot didn't seem to go anywhere. Don't get me wrong the book was a quick read but mainly because it was only 224 pages and had short chapters. It was actually pretty dull and kind of predictable. I just didn't see any real change or growth until the end of the book. I expected so much more.

Overall, 37 Things I Love just fell short of my expectations. I really wanted to like it but I couldn't. I would recommend getting this one from your local library if you are interested in reading it.

Lillian says

I imagine it could've been a good book, but I was deceived by the cover. The one I had, had a cool pic of her on the swings at night, and I thought "hey this looks cool", I never really believed in the saying "you can't judge a book by its cover" (literal), now I know to do some research before I grab a random book.... If I'd seen the other cover I may not have been as interested (just because of the type of books i like to read). But i'm a young rather 'innocent minded' teen and I was not expecting (or mentally prepared for) something this explicit. I had to put it down after reading about the party they snuck out for (because I didn't like reading about people relatively my age doing things I would never think about doing), but decided to give the book another chance. Bad idea!!! The last straw was when her new/old friend started doing some things to her that I really Didn't want to read! (it's not the fact that they were both girls that bugged me, I wouldn't want to read it even if it was with a guy). I feel pretty scarred, my mind I guess was a little more innocent then I thought. I like the writing, I may try a different book of hers, that's why I gave it 2 stars, but I didn't like the details. Don't get mad at me for this critique, I'm just not ready for stuff like this, and I don't think it's appropriate for the crowd it's angled towards.

Sydney Jacob says

In the book 37 Things I love (In no Particular Order) Ellis, the main character, has had a rough two years. Her father was in a construction accident and has been in a coma for two years now. Her relationship with her mother and her "best friend" are not exactly in the best shape. Ellis and her mom rarely ever see each other because her mom works nights at the radio station and Ellis is at school during the day, and when they are finally together they do not know what to say to each other and have little to no communication. Her "best friend", Abby, cares more about herself and who is going to ask her out this week than how Ellis is doing. The only thing Ellis actually enjoys doing is visiting and talking with her father. She feels he is the only one who could truly understand and be there for her although he is not fully there. She spends a lot of the book attempting to reconnect with her old friend who was pushed away after her dad's accident. She is being forced to make some tough decisions involving her father and her friends. She learns how to let go and do what is best for all involved, an important lesson we all need to learn. I enjoyed the story of the book, but the setup of it not so much. It had potential to be so much better. I recommend it to high school and even middle school students. I give 37 Things I love by Kekla Magoon 3 out of 5 stars.

ChrisVigilante says

I thought it was a beautiful book. Each chapter we get something that Ellis loves or things she might love. Sometimes those things changed. Sometimes I didn't know why she loved certain things or people until we saw more of her life. It was really special. I loved that format.

This book has a romance element. It has some comedy. It's really a story about a girl growing up . A girl coming to terms with the fact that her mother wants to pull the plug on her father. A girl realizing that she's been holding onto a hope so tightly that she hasn't been enjoying life like her father would want for her.

Ellis goes along with things. For example, everything Abby puts her through. Abby might be one of the worse friends I've ever seen in a book but Collin and Ellis let her be. Just when I thought I couldn't dislike Abby more it happens but still no real immediate consequences for her actions in the book. At the end, I feel

like there will be a change but I don't know how much things will change.

Ellis also goes along with what Evan wants in this book a little. I feel like that part didn't surprise me because I don't think Ellis had much agency in other parts of the book unless it had to do with her dad. She made a dumb decision because she always did what was expected of her when it came to friends and popularity. I think part of that was because of her main focus being her father. Where this book ends there are a lot of changes on the horizon for her. I liked that it was a little open-ended about what some of those changes might be.

LeAnn Streeter says

This book is a story put together with 37 things the narrator loves, each chapter is a different thing but the story is tied together by each one. The story is about the main characters life and how she goes through some major changes. Her dad had a terrible accident a few years ago and he never woke up from the coma so her mother decided it was time to let him go. But that was only her mothers decision, she didn't to let him go she still had hope he would wake up. She had a very strong connection with her father even after the accident. She would visit him in the hospital and talk to him as if he's listening. On top of that she becomes friends with an old friend again and finds the truth on how their friendship was lost. But as this is going on she still finds 37 things she loves in everything around her.

I admire the main character and her strength and decisions she makes throughout the book. We actually share some of the same love for things, and i thought that was very interesting. She is a very brave and courageous girl, and the things she goes through are very life changing but she handles them well. Her thought process throughout the book is what really interested me. The way she portrays her thoughts and emotions was very fascinating.

Ashly Lynn says

4/5 Stars

Ellis' father has been in a coma for years now after a construction accident in hopes that he still might wake up one day. There are only 4 days left of her sophomore year before summer vacation starts and Ellis is ready for it. Our main character goes to visit her father frequently after school, which adds more strain to her already troubled relationship with her mother. Ellis is also fighting with her best friend, or at least on her end she is. Often passive aggressive, Ellis has a hard time dealing with all the stresses in her life. On top of everything, she recently started talking to a friend she hasn't spoken to since middle school. Follow her journey as she comes of age and comes to terms with love, loss, and relationships.

Okay, confession time: I picked up this book for no other reason than **hot dayum look at that cover!** I was browsing the young adult section of the Library and couldn't pass this one by.

I'm so glad that I picked it up, because I ended up loving this book way more than I thought I would based on the description.

I don't even know where to start, since there's so much I want to say.

I guess I'll start with the plot/story/atmosphere. This felt very *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* to me, but not in a bad way. I've read quite a few books trying to emulate the passive-aggressive tone of that rapidly-becoming-a-classic book. Most I've been disappointed with. This one I wasn't.

I really enjoyed this plot. I thought it was strong, believable, and mostly-realistic. Most young adults don't have to come of age while their father is confined to a hospital bed in a coma, but I found the storyline to be relatable regardless. I was interested to find out how everything was going to play out and watch Ellis come into her own.

Speaking of Ellis, I really did like her character. She can be kind of whiney and woe-is-me-all-alone, but it comes across in a very un-idealistic way. I felt myself really relating to her and where she was coming. My father was never in a coma, but I understand the way in which she displayed her emotions and tried to deal with stress and grief.

I also didn't mind the fact that she had a strained relationship with her mother because they still loved each other and fought over practical issues. Their relationship isn't strong, but it's *written* strong. I found this to be, like everything else, believable and appropriate to the story.

The other characters held their own, too. They all had depth and unique, highly-believable personalities and character traits. **The development of them was highly satisfactory, especially Ellis and her close friends as well as Ellis' relationship with her mother.**

The set up of this story is also something to note: It's creative and fresh. I loved the fact that each chapter was Ellis talking about something she loved and how it affects her life and then how it also actually tells the narrative and moves the story along. **I thought the execution of it all was near perfect.**

The writing increased this book's strength. It's not exceptionally special, but instead is quick to read with short chapters. This works in the book's favor, though, as it makes it compulsively readable and easy to finish in a few sittings (or only one sitting if you're feeling particularly determined).

Now, it says in the title that these 37 things are in no particular order, but we, as readers, know better, don't we? As I said, the 37 things are not just random but are actually telling the story as new events unfold. And, of course, it all comes together in the end, which I *really* liked.

I'm going to warn you, though; this is a tear-jerker. I found myself shedding a few as I finished the last couple chapters.

The last thing I want to talk about is the way sexuality is tackled. When I picked this book up, I had *no idea* this fell into the LGBTQ+ category, so I was pleasantly surprised to find that creep up in the story. **My favorite part about it is that Magooon does not feel the need to justify and explain the queer aspects of this book.** She writes it like any other contemporary story with a love interest, and I gave much silent applause to that fact.

We don't need books about being queer; we need books with people that are queer.

(Or any other type of identity that respectively falls into the LGBTQ+ category.)

So, all in all, if you like contemporaries or are looking for something similar to *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (except female driven), definitely pick up a copy of this book. It didn't quite make it to the 5-star rating for me, but 4 stars is still an unbelievably good book!

Review originally published on my Wordpress blog Dreaming Through Literature.

Hailey says

In 37 Things I Love, Ellis, realizes that changes need to happen but doesn't want them to. Her father, who has been in a coma, is about to come off life support because of Ellis's mother's request, due to Ellis's father's condition. Ellis was very unhappy because she wants to hold on to her father a little longer. Her best friend, Colin, helped her through the tough times and now their friendship has grown into something more. At the end of the story, it turns out that 37 Things I Love is the things Ellis loved and wanted him to know, so she put it in his casket because it was too personal for her to read out loud.

I think the book was great. At times, it got a little awkward but it was mainly funny and cute. This is definitely a high school book, because of some of the content. I recommend this book to girls between the ages of 12-19. I would recommend this to them because I can relate to the story and I'm sure most girls in high school can. Overall, it was a fantastic book and I think you should read it.

Jordan Kuehl says

37 Things I Love (in no particular order) by Kekla Magoon is about a girl named Ellis. She is just finishing her sophomore year in high school and is ready for summer. Her dad has been in a coma due to a construction accident that happened 2 years ago. Ellis has been struggling to keep a healthy relationship with her mother due to the fact they are deciding if they still want to keep him on life support. I relate to most of the teenage characters in this book based on how they handle different scenarios throughout the book.

Throughout this book it has kept me on my toes as many of the characters pulled out a twist within the book. Many times while I was reading I had laughed and felt sad as a variety of events occurred. Something I didn't like about this book was the main character mostly focused on the people around her instead of getting help when she needed it most. I would highly suggest this book to anyone who is interested in drama. This book has its fair share of characters and their problems along the way. A book like this can really affect how you see the way you treat people in your life as you compare the people in your life to the characters in the book. In the book Ellis states 37 things she loves that are not in any particular order. She loves her friends Abby, Cara, and Colin. She loves her mom even though they get into many fights. She adores her dad as to why she is fighting her mom to keep him on life support in the hospital. Ellis has a love for many things in her life but she has a no particular way of choosing what she loves more than others that's why they are in no particular order throughout chapters of the book.

Lillian says

Loved how at the ending, the number 37 was tied in, that was cool. Otherwise this was an easy read, with 37 short chapters, with not a whole lot of thinking involved... except for that twist in chapter 23... hay carumba. I also noticed that the reading level on the back said ages 14 and up, but I thought this was more for a middle school level, even though the characters are in high school

Amanda says

When I started to think of my review for this book I had to pause and really consider what the main flaw of this book was. It wasn't that the characters were undeveloped, it wasn't that there were too many topics covered, and it wasn't the fact that the title wasn't tied in to the story until the end of the final chapter. The main flaw in my eyes was that the book wasn't long enough.

Personally, I liked the characters. The only reason I found them underdeveloped was because we didn't get to spend much time with them. I thought that for the quick pace of the story (4 days), we got to see them react in typical ways. How can a character truly completely change their personalities in such a short amount of time? THAT would be unrealistic.

I also found the amount of events that occurred entirely possible for the time span of the story. The loss of friendships and family members really do come that quickly and the parties are right there at your fingertips every night. Especially for teenagers who are about to go on their summer vacation.

Also, the title tying in at the finale is not really something that bothers me.

So yeah, I enjoyed this book and took it for what it was. I would have enjoyed it a lot more if each of the events were drawn out and described more (I want a longer novel!). So 3.5/5.
