



Life as It Comes

Anne-Laure Bondoux

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Sisters with nothing in common? That's Mado and Patty.

Studious and responsible, 15-year-old Mado is the family brain. Patty, on the other hand, is a carefree 20-year-old party girl who lives on her own and has plenty of boyfriends. The two are following divergent paths . . . until their parents die in a car accident and a family court judge reluctantly appoints Patty as her sister's guardian.

Now these two improbable siblings face the challenges of growing up together—but it's Mado who quickly assumes the big sister's role. And it's not a role she particularly wants—especially after Patty announces that she's several months pregnant. . . .

Anne-Laure Bondoux writes with insight, humor, and poignancy about the bonds between sisters—and the challenges of everyday life.

Life as It Comes Details

Date : Published February 13th 2007 by Delacorte Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2007)
ISBN : 9780385903905
Author : Anne-Laure Bondoux
Format : Hardcover 211 pages
Genre : Realistic Fiction, Young Adult, Contemporary

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Inka says

Inhalt

Seit dem Tod ihrer Eltern im vergangenen Herbst ist für die Schwestern Mado (15) und Patty (20) nichts mehr wie vorher. Die chaotische Patty ist jetzt Mados offizieller Vormund – auf Probe. Aber dann ist Patty schwanger, die Vormundschaft infrage gestellt, Mado droht das Heim. Was nun? Das wollen Mado und Patty nach dem Sommer entscheiden. Zunächst einmal geht es in das Ferienhaus ihrer Eltern, in die Ardèche. Wider Erwarten wird die Zeit dort wunderbar. Das Wetter ist herrlich und die Schwestern lernen zwei holländische Brüder kennen. Mado verliebt sich in Sander, Patty in Daan. Doch das Glück ist nicht von Dauer. Die Holländer reisen ab. Beide Schwestern sind unendlich traurig, Patty bekommt sogar Fieber und dann setzen plötzlich die Wehen ein ...

Wie hat's mir gefallen

Wow, was für ein Roman, was für ein Auf und Ab. Wenn ihr dieses Jugendbuch lest, werdet ihr es stellenweise lieben, stellenweise hassen, denn es polarisiert stets so intensiv, dass es immer an der Grenze zwischen Weglegen und Weiterlesen wandert. Doch wie ist das möglich? Die 15-jährige Mado lebt nach dem tragischen Tod ihrer Eltern bei Patty, der unzuverlässigen großen Schwester, die sich nur wenig zu kümmern scheint. Schon zu Beginn der Geschichte war ich schockiert, wie scheinbar gefühllos beide Schwestern miteinander umgehen und wie innig sie sich zugleich lieben. Sie opfern alles für ein gemeinsames Leben und dennoch können sie es nicht wertschätzen. Schon hier beginnt der Leser sich zu fragen, wo die Reise hingehen soll und was die Autorin verdeutlichen will. Obwohl die scheinbar leichte Handlung nur so dahinfließt, muss hier zwischen den teils harschen Sätzen stets zwischen den Zeilen gelesen werden, denn gerade was hier ungesagt im Raum steht, hallt viel mehr nach als alles, was die beiden Schwestern aussprechen.

Wer zunächst mit einer reinen Lovestory oder einem locker leichten Sommerroman rechnet, wird schnell enttäuscht sein. "Das Glück ist nicht immer gerecht" ist nicht nur ein treffender Romantitel, sondern beschreibt das Leben beider Protagonistinnen. Zu Anfang habe ich mit Mado gelitten, sie verstanden und sie bemitleidet. Und obwohl einige sicher verständnislos den Kopf schütteln werden, aber auch Patty, die teilweise scheinbar kopflos und egoistisch handelt, hat es nicht leicht und ist ein Opfer ihres Umfeldes und ihrer Vergangenheit geworden. Schnell wird klar, dass es hier nicht darum geht einen Schuldigen oder den "bösen" Protagonisten zu suchen, sondern viel mehr das Leben darzustellen. Ungefiltert. Ungeschönt. Knallhart.

Es geht um Liebe. Um das Leben. Um Freundschaft. Auch um Verliebtsein. Aber vor allem um die Familie und was dieses große Wort im Detail und vor allem im Alltag bedeutet. Es geht um Zusammenhalt und um falsche Entscheidungen. Um Reue und Bereuen. Ihr werdet geschockt sein, was die Autorin euch antut und ihr werdet dieses Buch den vielen jungen ungewollt schwangeren Teeniemüttern schenken wollen. Und doch werdet ihr Lernen, dass man Dinge nicht zerreden und zerdenken kann, sondern sie einfach tun muss und dem Leben seinen Lauf lassen muss. Bitte verzagt nicht an dem kurzen Buch, sondern lest es von Anfang bis Ende mit bedacht und lasst es eine Nacht wirken, bevor ihr urteilt oder gar verurteilt. Es ist ehrlich und

erschütternd und ich danke der Autorin für so viel Mut, obwohl ich selbst kurz davor war das Buch zu beenden. Ich danke für so wenig Hollywood und so viel Realität.

Wer einen etwas anderen Sommerroman entdecken will und zugleich nicht vor Problemen zurückschreckt, sollte einen Blick wagen. Aber Vorsicht: wer beginnt, muss es bis zum Ende lesen, denn sonst bekommt ihr einen völlig falschen Eindruck!

Cover/Buchgestaltung

Sommerlich, leicht - aber vielleicht nicht ganz passend, obwohl es eine der Schlüsselszenen des Buches zeigt. Es gibt dem Leser zwar den Hinweis, dass es hier nicht um eine Lovestory geht, dennoch stellt man sich zu wenig auf die doch anspruchsvolle Lektüre - eingebettet in einfache Worte - ein.

Für Fans von

* "Fuck you Leben" von N.Pratt

* "Colours of Africa" von Ellen Alpsten

Fazit

Ein (Jugend)Buch über das wahre Leben voll mit ungeschönten Wahrheiten, voll mit Fehlern und voll mit Liebe. Ich war geschockt und fasziniert zugleich, wie ehrlich und drastisch die Autorin Szenen beschreibt, die näher an der Realität nicht sein konnten. Danke für so viel Mut!

Clay says

Three and a half-stars. This French/European teen novel is a real tonic to many plastic teen offerings. After their parents are killed in a car crash, quirky twenty-something and out-of-wedlock-pregnant Patti "takes responsibility" for her far more responsible 15-year-old sister, Mado. Quick read, recommended.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Jocelyn Pearce for TeensReadToo.com

Mado and Patty are sisters. Now that their parents are gone, killed in a car crash on their way to the family's vacation home, they're the only family they've got. Still, though, they're very different people. LIFE AS IT COMES is about their life together after the accident.

Patty is her younger sister's legal guardian, and they're doing the best they can together. However, life is further complicated when Patty reveals that she is several months pregnant. If the social workers find out, they might put Mado into foster care, not expecting a twenty-year-old to be able to care for a baby and a teenager. But what can they do?

LIFE AS IT COMES is a lovely, sad, hopeful novel about life, loss, love, family, and growing up. The translation from the French is, as far as I can tell, done quite excellently; the writing style flows wonderfully and is completely absorbing. The very well-done relationships of the fully fleshed-out and interesting characters give the story remarkable depth.

This is one that will stay with readers long after the final page.

Soobie's scared says

E ciò dimostra che, ogni tanto, spulciare tra gli scaffali della biblio fa bene.

WOW! Come sono rimasta sorpresa da questo breve romanzo.

Racconta la storia delle sorelle Maddy e Patty Yazinsky. Che poi, non capisco perché la povera Mado diventi Maddy in italiano. L'assonanza tra i due nomi non aiuta, almeno all'inizio, a differenziare le due protagoniste. Le prime pagine sono state traumatiche anche se davvero le due sorelle non sono per nulla simili.

Maddy ha 15 anni ed è quella con la testa sulle spalle. Da quando i genitori sono morti in un incidente stradale nove mesi prima è affidata alla sorella maggiore Patty, che è quella senza sale in zucca. Per il momento la vita delle due sorelle scorre tranquilla senza intoppi, poi Patty scopre di essere incinta di Luigi, un ragazzo italiano con il quale usciva ai tempi della morte dei genitori. Non sa cosa fare del bimbo, non ha contato bene i giorni e si ritrova troppo tardi per abortire. Così, dicendo alla sorella che partorirà a settembre, le due vanno in vacanza nella casetta di compagna dei genitori, dove incontrano due fratelli olandesi che fanno perdere la testa ad entrambe. E poi le cose si complicano.

(view spoiler)

Di questo libro mi ha colpito moltissimo la voce narrante: Maddy. Ha una forza straordinaria, è sveglia, intelligente e si dà da fare per allevare il nipotino appena nato. Inoltre deve sempre tentare di sistemare i guai della sorella, che ne combina un sacco e una sporta. Patty, invece, mi sta decisamente antipatica perché è un cervello di gallina... Sì, lo so, è un insulto desueto ma ho appena letto Ma gli androidi sognano pecore elettriche? e lì veniva usato spesso. Dopo essere rimasta incinta comincia a prendere una serie di decisioni sbagliate, una dopo l'altra.

Luigi, invece, è un altro personaggio ben riuscito. All'inizio il lettore lo vede solo attraverso gli occhi di Maddy, che non ha una grande opinione di lui. Anche vero che non lo conosce di persona. Da quello che raccontava Patty, poi, sembrava un idiota. Invece, il tipetto era proprio innamorato della ragazza, tanto da sciropparsi almeno 800km per andare a trovarla. E qui non trova (view spoiler), bensì scopre di avere un figlio di cui non conosce l'esistenza. Il suo comportamento è ammirevole: innanzitutto non vuole dare il figlio in adozione, poi comincia anche a prendersi cura di lui e a cambiare i pannolini (e ne ho incontrati tanti di maschietti che si schifano a cambiare pannolini...)

La storia ha un finale dolceamaro però perfetto.

Son stata proprio felice di aver letto questo romanzo. Di sicuro vado a ripescare altro di quest'autrice.

Chris Halkovic says

The fiction book, *Life As It Comes*, by Anne-Laure Bondoux, is about two sisters, Mado and Patty, who are nothing alike. Their parents died in a car crash, and now live together. Patty is only 21-years old and is now her 15-year old sister's, Mado, legal guardian. Now they're forced to rely on each other emotionally and physically.

Mado's irresponsible sister, Patty, gets pregnant with her, now ex, boyfriend's baby. While on vacation to their parent's old beach house, they struggle to take care of the baby together. Patty abandons her sister and the baby because she can't handle it anymore. Then, Patty's ex, Luigi, comes along and helps Mado out with the baby. Mado, Luigi, and the baby go on an adventure together, looking for Patty. Once they find her, they have to work together. The four of them have to figure out what to do next.

My favorite part of the book is when Patty abandons her sister, and Mado is left to take care of the baby all by herself. Age doesn't mean the oldest should be in charge, or is more responsible. A popular saying I've heard a lot is, "Age aint nothing but a number". It all depends on who you are, what you are capable of, not your age. This part of the book proves that you don't need to be old to be responsible because a 15-year old girl is left in charge of a new born baby, and she ended up handling the baby better than her 21-year old sister could. This part tells us that we are capable of doing anything, no matter how old we are.

This book talks about the challenges of everyday life. It's a realistic presentation of life's consequences, a story of grief, sibling conflict, acknowledgement of personal responsibility and change. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read about everyday challenges, or bonds between improbable siblings.

(Toniann B.)

Alexandra Evans says

This book is about two sisters who are complete opposites but somehow manage to get along together. You find out early on that their parents had died and that they are living on their own. I liked this style of writing that you see in this book because it is told through the point of view of the younger sister. It really reflects the feelings and emotions of a younger child and how they often feel isolated in a world without their parents. This story also has a lot of plot twists and cliff hangers that I like. You also get attached to the characters in the story which makes you more interested in finishing the story. Personally, I like the younger sister better but you have to read it to figure out which character you like better. You also have to know that the story is translated to English. The characters in the story are from Europe and speak different languages. I thought that was kind of cool how the author did that.

Colleen says

Life as it Comes is a great read to pick up this summer, especially because it centers on the first summer that two sisters spend together after the death of their parents due to a car accident.

Mado is fifteen and Patty is twenty. You would think the opposite was true, though, because Mado is the responsible one and Patty is the reckless one. Mado makes the dinners, makes sure that the bills are paid, and is always doing homework so that she gets good grades. As long as Mado does well in school and makes it look like everything is OK, then the social workers will let Patty keep custody of Mado. Patty, however, is everything but OK. She leaves Mado alone all the time, and it is when Patty gets home from one of these weekends away that she reveals to Mado that she is pregnant.

Patty's pregnancy could ruin everything, especially because it could mean that she would no longer be able to care for Mado. The sisters don't know what to do and are afraid of their social workers finding out. So, they continue on as if nothing's wrong and go ahead with their planned summer vacation at their family home in Southern France. For awhile, their summer is perfect. They even meet two brothers who are vacationing from Amsterdam and have a bit of summer romance. However, as the days grow shorter and autumn approaches, Mado and Patty have to come to terms with Patty's pregnancy and try to do what's best for themselves and for the new baby.

As I said, *Life as it Comes* is the perfect summer read if you want a little bit of drama, a little bit of romance, and a really great story about what it means to be a family after a tragedy.

Kristen says

Finished this one just to finish it. Had it been any longer, I wouldn't have bothered. I couldn't stand the older sister and I liked the other characters less for their tolerance of her extremely selfish, immature, and idiotic behavior. I honestly have no idea why the guy likes her at all. Even without all that, there's basically no story. I mean, things happen, but there's no real point. The writing wasn't great either, but that may be due to it being translated from French.

Elisa Vangelisti says

Leggero e assurdo, ma carino così. La storia tragicomica di due sorelle allo sbando, costrette a prendersi cura di se stesse.

Clemence says

Lecture très rapide, style d'écriture très fluide. Premier contact avec Anne-Laure Bondoux dont j'entends beaucoup parlé. Bonne lecture, même si je pense que je l'aurai davantage appréciée quelques années auparavant. Le personnage de Mado et de Luigi et de Robinson sont attachants, on compatit vite avec Mado..Patty, bon, c'est dur de pardonner aussi vite mais ce livre est plein d'amour et de positivisme malgré tous les malheurs et malgré le deuil.

Lou Maix says

C'était doux et dur à la fois. Joli roman jeunesse.

Rebecca says

so good i couldn't put it down!

Owen Leosh says

I like it, I read it in a day, but it has the adult theme of childbirth so that's cool.

Banu Tahir says

I don't know how often I have read this book up until now, but what I do know is how much I love it. It is about a girl - Mado - who is as melancholic and loving as I sometimes am. She goes through a lot - her parents died and her sister is pregnant - but still she doesn't give up. With her thoughts in the clouds and her head on the ground she keeps going, until she finds her love and a somewhat complete life.

Kaley says

7/10

I liked it. Though pregnancy stories aren't what I usually reach for, I did appreciate how this one was handled. It had a good sense of family, even when it got completely hectic. The sibling dynamic was realistic; Robinson was absolutely adorable; Mado, I did enjoy hearing from and seeing her view on the situation; and Patty had to grow on me but gradually i was rooting for her..

Only other things I can say is that I like the boys throughout, like Luigi and Sander. The France setting was also cool, and since the novel was originally French, it felt casual.

It was a nice story and it had a good ending. If it interests you I recommend it :)
