



The Opposite of Invisible

Liz Gallagher

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Alice and Jewel have been best friends since grade school. Together, they don't need anyone else, and together they blend into the background of high school. Invisible. To Alice, Jewel is the opposite of invisible. Jewel is her best friend who goes to Indie concerts and art shows with her. Jewel scoffs at school dances with her. Alice is so comfortable around Jewel that she can talk to him about almost anything. But she can't tell him that she likes the cool, popular Simon. And then Simon asks her to the school dance the same day that Jewel kisses her for the first time. Still, she can't say no to Simon. He seems like the easy choice, the one she's attracted to, the one she's ready for. But will it mean losing Jewel? In a bright debut novel set against the lively backdrop of Seattle, Alice must learn the difference between love and a crush, and what it means to be yourself when you're not sure who that is yet.

The Opposite of Invisible Details

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Author : Liz Gallagher

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From Reader Review The Opposite of Invisible for online ebook

Ginger says

boring teen book, I would not recommend it to my daughter, dwells to much on 'finding' yourself as a teen.

Sandy says

2.5 stars

It was a light read with simple conflict. The main girl, Alice, feels lonely and dreams of coming out of the "cocoon" that she's in. She only has one close friend, Jewel, an artistic guy who everyone at school thinks is gay. Alice has a crush on Simon, a popular football player at school, but when she prayed to her "Dove Girl" (a peaceful looking girl in a poster that she talks to) asking to go out with a guy, she didn't imagine that the guy would be her out-of-her-league crush. Now that Simon is within her reach, she struggles with losing her best friend Jewel and starting to lose her sense of self, while not knowing how to talk to anyone about it all besides her Dove Girl poster.

It's not a very exciting read but it still wasn't bad. Not the best writing, but I still liked it because I saw a part of myself in it. It made me feel nostalgic I suppose. Would have been a good book for me to read when I was younger and struggling with similar issues.

Linda says

reads like a boring diary, static dialogue and not any reason early on for me to care to continue.

Steph Su says

Alice and Jewel are the same person. Best friends since they can remember, they are both outsider artists; everyone thinks Jewel is gay because Alice is the only person he ever talks to, and Alice just doesn't talk at all to anyone else. They both like the same quirky, gory, and eccentric stuff that can be found in Seattle. They are never apart, and yet no one else sees them. They are invisible.

However, as a high school sophomore, Alice is beginning to want something more. She has a major crush on Simon Murphy, a popular and gorgeous football player who is clearly out of her league. So Alice can hardly believe it when Simon starts talking to her. Pretty soon they are apparently an item—the oddest, most incomprehensible item the school has ever seen, perhaps. There's no pretense about Simon when he's around her, though. He is a genuinely good and sincere guy who understands his popular crowd is not all that great

sometimes and envies the artsy crowd—Alice included—for being able to be themselves.

But her budding relationship with Simon puts a strain on Alice and Jewel's friendship, which was so close they were practically a couple. A week ago Alice had no prospects; suddenly she was stuck choosing between two. Either she begins a new life with the guy of her dreams and explore a new social life, or she remains with Jewel and continues to be invisible to the rest of the world.

Which one will Alice choose? Or can she have both?

I absolutely loved this book because all the characters are so real. There are no annoying stereotypes because it seems like every character defies them. There are no easy answers because, well, that's life, and Liz Gallagher portrays it so very sweetly. This is a short and quick read, but it will linger with you.

Cinthia says

This was a super cute quick read. I loved Jewel he is so cool and artistic. I gotta say though I was super wrong about Simon I really thought he was going to be a jerk but really he was a super nice guy I liked him towards the end and felt a little bad for him. I liked that he knew so much about octopi and that he was into Alice, I also loved Alice's parents they are super cool ?. I knew that Alice wasn't really into Simon it was just one of those unattainable crushes that she was able to attain but it was better off just platonic. I'm glad that Jewel and Alice are back to being friends and that Vanessa and Alice are friends too. I liked that she at least came out with friend throughout this whole thing. I hope that Alice and Jewel become more than friends they are so perfect for each other.

Amy Jacobs says

I am so glad I found this book. Granted, it isn't a long book, but it has a powerful message that is more important than the number of pages. I liked the character of Alice. Maybe because every teenage girl goes through a point in her high school life that she wishes she could be more than what she is. Alice wants to explore outside her cocoon that she has been living in. She has a wonderful friend in Jewel, who yes is a boy, but she has a crush on Simon. Simon is one of the popular group, and even though Alice is in the artistic crowd, they begin a relationship. Yet just as Alice and Simon start to talk to each other, Jewel professes his love for Alice. Alice must decide which boy is the right path. Unfortunately, Alice picks the wrong path. She finds herself falling down the rabbit hole, trying to figure out what she should do. Finally she figures out what she wants and realizes that she wasn't invisible to everyone, she was just insecure in herself.

You can't help but fall for each of the characters in the story. It is a simple, teen read that packs a strong punch in life lesson. A book I thoroughly enjoyed and can't wait to read the author's next book.

Beatrice ~ Confessions of a Pinay Bookaholic says

What's the difference between a Crush and Love? between Love and best friendship?

The story is about Alice, She loves art and takes Glassblowing classes. She has a bestfriend named Jewel (I thought it's a girl, but Jewel is a guy). He is talented and weird. They've done things together and enjoyed each others company. She knows him so well and they talked about everything except for one thing.

Alice never shared to him her secret crush Simon, a football player and he's a popular guy at school. When she dated Simon, things changed between her and Jewel, they didn't talk and Jewel dated Vanessa (Alice's old friend). She's happy that she dated her crush, but something makes her feel uncomfortable, she'd hurt Jewel's feelings (Jewel likes her more than friendship). In the end, Alice chose Jewel instead of Simon.

It's nice to have a feeling when you are dating your crush, your heart just skip a beat and you'll feel warmth on your cheeks. But you just like that person because of Physical aspects or maybe his popularity and skills, in the end 'TRUE COLORS' will appear and that you would just realized something.

A Best friend, he/she knows everything about you and the moments you've shared for a long time, you are going to reminisce everything, those happy and sad times.. A best friend accepts you for who you are. and that's a fact.

Thumbs up for Liz Gallagher!

Andrea says

Couldn't put it down!

Jess says

Yesterday I became overwhelmed by how many books I had going at once. So what did I do? Started (and finished) a new one. The Opposite of Invisible came in on hold yesterday, though, so I picked it up on my break. And stayed up past 1 to finish it. Solid contemporary YA - although I had to laugh when Alice said she only has one friend. At the Mock Printz, the teen in my group had noticed this YA trend of characters with only one friend, and she said it drove her crazy. But to appease teen readers of the world, she makes more friends. That part was very nicely done, plus I had a great sense of (and empathy for) Alice as a person, and the arc that her relationship with Simon rang true. Some of the details felt a little self-consciously placed - specific locations, details about her family, articles of clothing - and that distracted me from the narrative, particularly since it was told in the first person. But overall, it's a good look at the high school dynamic, with decently well-rounded characters (apart from the football player who keeps eying Alice like a piece of meat) and believable emotions.

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

While I liked the slowly built back friendship of Jewel and Alice, Alice slowly coming out of her shell and gaining some new friends in her classmates, her love of art and her glass blowing course, bonding with her parents, etc, I didn't much care for the whole Simon and Alice thing.

Honestly, I kind of found those moments a little boring. I don't know, seemed it took me a little longer to read this one. I like the story and some of the characters and the writing style at least.

Also, you'd think Alice would just tell Jewel. You'd think her best friend would I don't know be understandable or something. Anyway, an okay but has its moments kind of read.

Susan says

I was frustrated because Alice didn't seem to change much over the course of the book, and in the end she went back to the status quo, with only minor differences.

Becky says

Once you meet Alice, you'll want to either be her, or be her best friend. Okay, maybe I can't safely guarantee that. But I sure did love Alice. When we first meet Alice, we see an invisible girl. Not an outcast, not a loner. But someone usually invisible with the popular people in her school. Her best friend is a guy named Jewel. But he's not just her best friend, in a way he's her only friend. But then Simon enters the picture. He's newish. He's popular. And he notices--really notices--Alice. The more time she spends with Simon, the less time she spends with Jewel. And soon that friendship is threatened. What's a girl to do when two guys want to be with her? When she likes them both?

There is something so right about Gallagher's writing. It's satisfying, appealing, easily accessible. The characters. The storytelling. This one just begs to be read.

He looks at me.

He keeps looking at me. With those eyes.

Then he does something amazing. Puts his fingers under my chin.

Simon Murphy, whose perfect girl had to be a cheerleader. That's what I thought. That's what Jewel and I joked about.

He kisses me. He kisses me with candy still on his lips.

So quickly I'm not sure it really was a kiss.

If it was, it was my first.

My heart is trying to beat itself out of my chest. I hope he can't feel it. I hope he can. My toes are bent up in my shoes.

Then he kisses me again, for real. (43)

And here's her description of her planet wobbling moment with Jewel

Jewel is just ahead of me. I stumble and he turns around to grab my hand. We each have our junk shop bag in one hand, and now we have each other's fingers in the other...Jewel keeps my hand. We let our bags rest on the stone.

Then my planet wobbles.

His hand.

That wanting-to-be-close feeling starts to come over me again. I have the urge to lay my head on Jewel's sweatshirt, on his shoulder. To feel how solid he is.

Did kissing Simon release something in me? Or would I feel this way toward Jewel right now anyway?

As if we're at the slow-motion point in a movie, Jewel reaches across my body to my cheek. He pulls my face toward his. His fingers feel like hot ice. They're cold but they burn me.

My eyes close as he kisses me.

I kiss him back, a dream I've never had.

This kiss is so soft, it's almost like rain falling on my face.

I've never realized the softness of Jewel's hair before.

His skin.

Jewel kissing me, me kissing him, feels like a rocket.

Like blastoff.

Finally, I pull away.

I'm thinking we shouldn't be doing this. I'm thinking it feels too real...

He says "Wow."

I think, Tell me about it.

I think, Have you honed your mind-reading skills yet, 'cause I hope not...(52-53)

I'll leave the rest to your imagination...as to who she chooses. The Opposite of Invisible is the perfect kind of teen romance. I definitely recommend it.

© Becky Laney of Becky's Book Reviews

Libro Joven says

If I were forced to describe this book in just one word, that would be BORING. Absolutely, incredibly boring. It's so short that you would think it's impossible to get bored in such a short amount of pages, but, hey, it's never too late for that. You may say that it's my fault, that I knew what this was about, that it is supposed to be a predictable book, but I disagree. A lot of 100% predictable YA books are definitely not boring. As opposed to this book.

As weird as it may sound, everything happens way too fast and way too slow. Slow, because it is boring. (Oh. Have I already said that? Well, I'm not joking, it IS boring. Is it clear enough?). Fast, because the chronological time in the book is just too short, and fifteen-year-old Alice is all so worried about her virginity, and thinking about taking her relationship with Simon to the next level (oh! Sex!) when they have been going out for about... one week. Yup.

The characters are totally decaffeinated: Alice, Simon, Vanessa, Mandy, Jewel (actually, Jewel is the best character, though he only has some dialogue lines in the beginning and the end, so I'm not sure if that counts)... They all feel like pod people, all the time, and I couldn't even make myself care about them, or their intentions.

So... I just wouldn't recommend this book. To anyone. Period.

Emily McCormack says

I loved this book I could not put it down the second I picked it up. I loved how Alice finally came out of her shell and went after Simon Murphy who she thought was "out of her league" The best part of the whole book was the fact that she didn't want to be with Simon she'd rather have stayed friends with Jewel, or maybe even more than that. The idea of Alice and Jewel being best friends ever since he moved to town and then Jewel kissing her on the troll. It was definitely a page turner, and I'd recommend this to anyone who loves cheesy romance drama like this!

Lisa says

Predictable story with undeveloped secondary characters.
