



Positively

Courtney Sheinmel

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Since the day Emerson Pressman and her mother were diagnosed as HIV positive, nothing has been the same. When her mother dies of AIDS, Emmy has to go live with the father and stepmother she barely knows, and she feels more alone than ever. Now she has to take pills by herself, and there is no one left who understands what it's like to be afraid every time she has a cold. But when her father decides to send her to Camp Positive, a camp for HIV-positive children, Emmy begins to realize that she's not alone after all, and that sometimes, opening up to other people can make all the difference in the world.

Positively Details

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Author : Courtney Sheinmel

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From Reader Review Positively for online ebook

Hannah says

I'd heard basically nothing about this book, but since it cost only 4€ at The Book Depository I decided to just buy it, without knowing all that much about it. When it arrived and I read what it said on the back of the book, I was surprised to read it's for ages 9 to 14. I read it anyways, and the fact that it's MG, not YA like I'd thought, didn't bother me much. Yeah, there are some explanations about what HIV and AIDS are, which I wouldn't have needed, and Emmy makes some immature decisions, but it's not like that never happens in YA. Anyways, what I'm trying to say is, don't let the fact that this is for a younger audience discourage you - Positively is a great book!

What's so great about Positively are the emotions it conveys. Emmy's story is heartbreaking. Struggling with HIV is heartbreaking as it is, and the fact that Emmy is only thirteen makes it even sadder. Emmy's feelings, both about her mother's death and her own disease, are raw and real, and I could feel them all easily, making me cry several times throughout this book. But Positively isn't only a sad book - it's also hopeful, the message making me smile throughout the book, too (well, more at the end, but whatever).

I loved the whole idea for this book - I've never read about someone being HIV positive, and how that affects every aspect of your life. The idea of having Emmy go to Camp Positive is great, too. At times, though, I was kind of bored by the plot - nothing all that much happens, and I think a few things could have been cut, especially since this book is actually for people younger than me, who I'm assuming get bored easier.

The writing, though, is what held my attention. Courtney Sheinmel somehow managed to make the voice authentic for a thirteen-year-old girl, but still have the writing be beautiful, vivid and insightful. Emmy's voice is great, and her way of expressing herself is just beautiful. It's so innocent, despite what she's gone through, and that really showed the cruelty of a child having to face something as grave as AIDS.

I don't have much more to say about this book, but I definitely recommend it. I'm sad to not have seen it around more. Even though it's MG and about a thirteen-year-old girl, I think it's suitable for YA readers, too. It's a heartbreaking but ultimately hopeful story.

Reviewed at <http://www.paperbacktreasures.blogspot.com>

Madeleine Rex says

COPIED FROM MY BLOG, [HTTP://MADELEINEREX.COM](http://MADELEINEREX.COM). FORMATTING LOST.

Review:

AIDS isn't a topic I know much about. I've never had to deal with it in any form or fashion. It's amazing how easy it is to distance yourself from difficult problems when they're not specifically relevant to your life. You almost forget they exist. Such is the case with AIDS. Positively not only reminded me of its existence but made it personal. I've heard from multiple sources that people respond more to individuals than statistics.

You can hand someone a list of thousands of names and say, “These are starving kids in Africa,” or you can hand them a single picture of a little Africa boy with a distended stomach. Which one will affect the person more?

The only issue in Positively’s case is that I struggled with connecting to the main character’s voice, so the whole “feeling for the individual” thing didn’t work quite as well. Emmy struck me as kind of irritating at times, but that wasn’t the real problem. It was that she was just words and a way of speaking for a while. I couldn’t really wrap my head around who she was. It took a long time before I could grasp onto her, and I believe it only really happened when she started to develop. Also, her voice definitely seemed more middle-grade-oriented, and I can’t help but wonder if this book would fit better there (although I suppose the topic is a bit morbid).

Emmy’s HIV is only a nuisance until her mother gets sick and eventually passes away, and then it’s devastating. It’s this evil, menacing curse that has unfairly been cast on her and her mother, and she can’t fathom why. I think it was Emmy’s rage that I connected to most. She asks tons of questions throughout the book, which got a little old, but it was when she acted on her frustration that I connected with her more. There are scenes when she loses what little self-control she has left. She simply doesn’t care anymore, and she lets loose. I loved that rawness. It gave her character texture.

I was surprised how long it took for Emmy to get to the camp – for the camp to be mentioned, actually – but once she was there, it was evident that some change was about to be made, either to Emmy’s circumstances or her mindset. The tools needed for her to “freshen up her emotions” were there, and I simply needed to sit back and wait for her to use them.

My favorite aspect of the book was seeing how the adults in Emmy’s life dealt with the situation. She’s only thirteen, so they naturally played a large role. Her father, his wife, and Lisa (Emmy’s mother’s best friend) are all wonderful. I knew that from the beginning, but of course Emmy didn’t. Her father was just the man who left her mom. Meg (her stepmom) was just the woman who her father chose to replace her mom with and who failed to show up at her mother’s funeral. Lisa was the only adult Emmy really felt close to. Though Lisa had issues with Emmy’s father’s choice to marry someone else, she never tried to tear Emmy away. I loved that the adults (as they should), overlooked their differences in an effort to supply Emmy with the unity and peace she needed.

The most interesting story was that of Emmy, her father, and her stepmother. Their relationship and ability to be a close family were definitely the most important element in Emmy’s life. Her father is just as confused and devastated by his daughter’s ill opinion of him as you’d expect, and Meg is floundering in her attempt to scrounge up as decent a relationship with Emmy as she can. As you can probably tell, I found the goings on of the adults to be the most riveting part of the story. I was certainly impressed by the way they handled things, particularly any mistakes they made.

While Positively is ultimately a novel about family and strength despite weakness, it’s founded on the best story foundation of all (or the best foundation period): love. It sounds corny. It sounds contrived. But it also sounds a lot like life.

Julie Gardner says

My favorite of this year's Sequoyah books-I love the author's note at the end about Elizabeth Glaser. It's nice to know not only the author's inspiration, but also the authenticity of Emmy's journey.

Elise says

Positively looks interesting. Unfortunately, my library doesn't seem to have it...

Jenna Amador says

Have you ever read a book that starts off so sad then deeper in the book it gets even sadder well it's this book. The genre is realistic fiction. In my opinion this book is sad but I LOVED IT. The major part of the book is when Emmy's mom dies.

The setting of positively is in a present time and she moves a lot so I can't tell where it takes place the setting is important in the story because it sometimes plays a part in the story. The plot of the story is Emmy's mom died then she had to go live with her dad and his wife but she didn't want to but she had to. The type of conflict is person V.S self because she's always fighting against her self but then gave up and didn't care anymore. The theme of my book is loss, I chose loss because she lost her mother and she lost a couple of friends because ever since her mom died she wasn't nice, because she had to live with her dad and lost her mom (wouldn't you be mad if you lost your mom.)

The climax in positively is when Emmy throws all the plates of the table because she was mad. And the resolution of the story positively is when she now has a PERFECT life with her dad and stepmom at first she didn't want to live with her dad and stepmom and now all the bad things past by.

The author's tone is sad because according to the story Emmy's mom died of aids and when her mom was pregnant she was already had aids and when Emmy was born she already had aids. "this is what I'm wearing when my mom gets buried." The major symbol in the story is that Emmy is brave because she's dealing with aids and she lost her mom because of aids. The title positively relates to the book by Emmy being positive about her life because she has aids.

In my opinion the book is sad because Emmy's mom died from aids. I was surprised when Emmy's mom died. My favorite part of the book is when Lisa took Emmy to go get her hair done. Positively is a good title for the book because Emmy is positive about herself and her life.

What I rate this book though 1-5 I 5 because I love this book I was really interested in it. I would recommend really anyone because you are learning about something. (TRUST ME IS'T GOOD.) If you're interested in learning stuff YOU SHOULD READ POSITIVELY because it's a incredible book.

Kayla (Kayla's Book Nook) says

This book gave me quite the feels! It had me laughing, crying, and everything else in between, and it was just amazing! Positively focuses on a thirteen year old girl named Emmy, who is HIV positive. This means that she is very prone to a more serious disease called AIDS, which can infect the body in many places and could be fatal. In fact, Emmy's mom unfortunately passed away from it, and thus she inherited it from her. Emmy thinks that she's all alone when she has to take pills at lunchtime and get worried whenever she catches a cold, and that no one really understands what it's like to be her. Due to her mom's death, she goes to live with her dad and pregnant stepmother, both of whom she isn't very close with, and she feels very uncomfortable in that environment for a while. She just wants things to be the same as they were before, what with her mom

being alive and healthy again. Then, summer approaches quickly, and her dad and stepmother make the decision of sending her to a sleepaway camp with other kids affected by HIV/AIDS. At first, Emmy refuses to go. Even though it would be nice to meet like-minded individuals, she just wants to spend the summer with her friends and not have to leave her beloved community, especially after coping with such a giant loss. But she ends up giving in, and the camp turns out to be amazing! I really liked Emmy. She was so strong after her mom's death, and really courageous to agree to going to overnight camp! I know I mention how strong characters are a lot, but I am 100% telling the truth, it's only that some characters are just amazing role models that we should look up to! I really felt for her in a time of sorrow, crying (and laughing) along with her. The feelings were just so real in this book! I also really enjoyed the premise of the book, as it was really interesting to learn about and become more aware of HIV/AIDS! Now that I know more about it, I am more determined to help make a difference in the lives of people who unfortunately have to deal with this every day. It really is a scary disease, but I believe that if more people read this gem of a book, they will become more aware of it and want to help! Sheinmel writes about such great topics, ones that many people overlook and therefore not know much about. I'd probably recommend this book to anyone, with the hope that there will be much more HIV/AIDS awareness!

Chrissy says

Emmy Price is a thirteen year old girl who feels different from other kids around her for one very big reason -- she is HIV positive. While the other kids go about their regular school day, Emmy makes special trips to the nurse's office to take an assortment of very important pills on a strict schedule. Emmy remembers that her mother would always kiss one of the pills before putting it into her daughter's hand, saying that she loved the medicine that was helping to keep her baby girl alive.

Unfortunately, the pills did not work the same wonders with Emmy's mother, who had severe reactions to the medication and died of AIDS when Emmy was only in the 7th grade. Lost and confused, Emmy is sent to live with her father and his pregnant wife in a room that feel strange and unfamiliar to her. Every day seems to be a reminder not only that Emmy's mother is dead but also that Emmy still faces a daily realization that the disease that claimed her mother's life is still coursing through her own young veins.

Unable to deal with her feelings of hurt and betrayal, Emmy is sent to a summer camp for kids with HIV in order to help her work through her emotions in an environment that feels safe and friendly to kids with her illness. Resistant to another change of environment, Emmy fights her father until the last minute, determined to convince him that camp can do nothing to fix her broken heart.

Emmy still ends up at Camp Positive, though, and first the first time in her life she is surrounded by girls her own age who really understand the struggles and fears that she deals with each and every day of her life. As Emmy learns to live life without her mother by her side, she also learns the value of really letting others into her world -- and into her heart as well.

I absolutely, positively adored everything about Courtney Sheinmel's *POSITIVELY*, from the first page to the very last part of the author's note. This may actually be the first time that I felt that an Author's Note was an essential part of the story, so I'm glad I didn't just stop at the last page of the story.

The blurb on the back says that the author is donating a portion of her proceeds on this work to the Elizabeth Glasser Pediatric AIDS foundation, which I think just adds even more amazingness to the novel. I definitely think this book does a wonderful job presenting an intimate look at the life of a little girl dealing with a

frightening disease -- and, in turn, it really puts a face to an issue that can often just feel so distant and horrifying.

I recommend POSITIVELY to pretty much everyone. It's that good.

Jane Pinto says

This book covers the story of Emerson Lou Price as she makes her way, recovering from the death of her mother from AIDS while also being HIV-positive herself. Her life is messed up and has no clue how to fix it. She wants everyone to stay away from her, just wanting her mom back. This results in her making decisions that are wrong and has to have to face a lot of struggles along the way that are displeasing but she ends up in a good situation in the end. Overall, this was an amazing, page turning and emotional book and I really recommend it.

Sandra Stiles says

This book starts out sad. Emerson Price has just lost her mother to AIDS. She herself is HIV – positive. She knows she could die. She has to go live with her dad and pregnant stepmom. She is tired of being treated differently. Kids at school have always done that. Her best friend Nicole can never understand what her life is like. She can't understand that Emmy has to eat properly to take all of the medicines she has to take three times a day. She is alone in this now that her mother is gone. What else could be worse? She is being sent to Camp Positive by her dad and step-mom. This is a camp set up for girls like Emmy who are HIV-positive.. This is just one more thing that makes her feel like she is all alone in the world since she has lost her mother. The things Emmy learns about herself might just be the things that help her survive. At first I didn't like this book. It made me sad and made me cry. I think the reason I didn't like it at first is that it made me feel helpless for Emmy and others like her. I want to feel like I am in control of situations. I don't think I would have done a very good job if I had been Emmy. She and so many like her are brave. I would not recommend this to the faint of heart. It is definitely a tear jerker in many ways. I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in seeing what true bravery is.

Marianne says

Enjoyed it. Placed me in the shoes of someone who is HIV positive and the things that they have to think about daily.

KY05 says

Made me cry in sooo many places!

Lianna Delgado says

Grade of a B

Expected to get more out of this book but I'm not disappointed.

Juricsy Garcia says

What do you think your life will be if you were HIV positive and your mom died of AIDS? Well this book is a Novel. This book is taken place in Connecticut, New York, positive camp. The theme of the story is love and loss. This story has the conflict Person vs self because she fights with her that she has to live different and also because she explains in the end how she felt (different). Emmy has been diagnosed with HIV. The main part of the story is when Emmy's mom died of AIDS and she has to go to live with her dad and her stepmother Meg. She does not want to go with her dad and meg. In my opinion this book is really good when I started to read it it was amazing I just started and I gave it 5 stars. What would you do if you had to live with someone you don't want to?

Emmy was only four years old when she and her mom had been diagnosed with HIV positive. Emmy loved her mother when her mom was alive. They used to say for example "Do you love me to the top of my head?" I'd ask. "Higher," Mom would say. "Do you love me to the top of that tree?" "Even higher." "Do you love me to the roof?" "Higher than that." "How high do you love me?" I'd finally ask, and Mom would say, "I love you to the sky." But..... When she is thirteen her mother dies of AIDS. Now she has to go live with her Dad and his new wife Meg. Emmy felt alone. Everyone is really nice to her but she thinks there just trying to be nice to her or feel bad for her. She has to take pills every day to not feel bad or die like her mom. She has her really nice friend Nicole there really nice friends.

Emmy does not like her stepmother Meg or her dad. She did a lot of stuff that were not correct to do because once she skip school and went to her mother's house to try to remind her about her mom but because there was no one she could not go in but when she got with her dad she got in trouble that was the first time. The second time was when she did not eat well and because she had drink her medicine she had to eat a more but she did not and fainted and she got in trouble with the doctor and her dad. The third time was when she was with her stepmother so meg had taken her china plates and stuff like that to clean them. So Meg had told Emmy not to touch anything. Emmy did not care and hold one up and drop it and then she drop EVERYTHING!! meg was really upset. Meg told Emmy's dad and got in trouble again. In my opinion Emmy did wrong because she was not doing the right thing. Days passed and finally Emmy was going to say sorry about what she had done.

So because of her behavior her dad and Meg sent Emmy to a camp named Positive Camp For HIV positive girls. Emmy thought she would hate it but it turned to be really good. She starts hanging out with a girl named Amanda. When she gets out of the camp she goes back with meg and dad. Now Emmy gets more along with them because it says that she saw her dad and she went to hug him and then saw meg and hugged her. Then because meg was pregnant she had her new baby named Hannah. Now there were a nice family.

So what do you think is it better to get far away from some a little bit or not? In my opinion I first was against

Meg and her dad wanted to send Her to the camp but when i finish the book my opinion changed a lot. Emmy learn Sometimes letting other people in can make it all differnt. I give this book A FIVE STARS because it was awesome i can't even explain it. IF you like books that start sad and in the middle sadder and in the end Happy i relly recommend you to read it.

Natalie Lee says

Just Go Negatively? Positively!

A book “Positively” by the author “Courtney Sheinmel,” is the utterly enthralling tale of a frank and thoughtful girl, Emmy. Have you ever thought that only a 4-year-old girl was diagnosed with HIV-Aids and her mom died when she was 13? There she is, Emerson Price, shortly Emmy, who lives in misery life, taking a pill everyday. She thinks that no one could ever understand her, even her father, stepmother and her best friend. Since her mom died and everything feel so lonely, maybe anything can’t return her from the depression. The story has well-connected characters, understandable plot and exceptional twists and conflicts with a great mechanics of writing.

“Positively” is a heart-touching story that has well-connected characters, understandable plot with HIV/AIDS and interesting twists. Courtney Sheinmel has created such a believable character in thirteen-year-old Emmy that maybe I didn’t want to live her. The story is developing with surrounding characters of the HIV-infected girl, Emmy, which is well-explained and detailed to show how she is interdependent with other characters. It makes a vivid and a memorable impressions, and many of similar situation to teenagers makes me sympathize and eventually smiled. For instance, even though Emmy is infected with the disease, she freely enjoys to talk about boys and exam; her school life. Secondly, I was attracted by the story with its twists and conflicts. While I was reading, I never thought that Emmy may change all that by Camp Positive, a camp for HIV-positive girls. How could you imagine the life that misses mother, takes a medication all day along and even the father tries to send me away? Is is certain Emmy is going to hate to go to the camp, and I was also sure that the story is going to be end with her boring life in misery. “It was the weirdest thing. It made me feel powerful, even though everything else was out of control.”(85) This is one of the part where she had made her stepmother scared of her and proud of herself. This conflict had made up and reaches the climax, and I was keep nervous as tension goes up. I eventually satisfied when Emmy got strength and hope into her life through the camp. Soon Emmy realizes that she is not so alone after all during the camp.

Remember, sometimes letting other people in can make all the happiness in the world. (189) In fact, this book was more special to me, because I could get knowledge of HIV/AIDS, which was very unfamiliar to me. It gave me a great knowledge through her stressful and embarrassing life with medication during the difficult months following her mother’s death from AIDS. I never thought that the author is telling to be positively through a story of girl who is infected to HIV/AIDS and give knowledge of it.

Not every author is a great writer unless they’re the god of writing and there’re few bad points that they made. Also, every reader feels differently about the book since they have their own unique life. For me, unnecessary contents of the story and too predictable elements made me exhausted. Sometimes, unnecessary dialogue and dispensable events fall off the concentration. Although this book was like a personal diary that is detailed every moment, too much of unnecessary dialogue and events made me getting bored and lose the focus. On the other hand, the author’s good mechanics of writing made the story itself unforgettable and more valuable. For example, the author uses lot of literary devices including foreshadowing. The first sentence of the book starts with, “When my mother died, I imagined God was thinking, ‘One down, and one to go’.” (1) It is implying a bad omen by saying the death of somebody and psych herself up.

Overall, I would like to strongly recommend the book especially if you are the one who lost the confidence of the life and feel lonely despite how old you are. The book “Positively” has a powerful message to being

positively despite you have a fatal disease. Also, good quality of the writing with literary devices of the author makes the story more interestingly. Look how the author wrote a well-connected characters with a understandable plot. Twists and conflicts of the story attracts you to fall in to the book, and you can even experience how a girl got strength and hope in the face of tragedy.

Work Cited

Courtney Sheinmel, *Positively*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2009

Melanie says

Depressed. In this realistic fiction book, you will find out how it is to be Emmy. I think this is book is a great book. **Spoiler Alert** Emmys's mom dies and has to live with her dad & his wife. I liked the way the author described how Emmy feels. It makes me feel as if I'm Emmy.

This book takes place in Emmy's school, house, & her dad's house. Emmy wanted her mom to live through her diagnoses with AIDS/HIV. But her mom died just when she was 4 years old. So when it was time for her funeral, her dad came. Her aunt told her she was moving with her dad. Emmy didn't like the house or school she was at. So Meg, Emmy's dad's wife, has an idea to send her to camp. Camp Positive. A camp for girls that are HIV positive. Emmy doesn't like this camp at first, but after a week, she gets used to it. Then just after coming home from camp, her dad's wife is having a baby. Soon her dad is at work & Emmy and her new stepmom are home taking care of a baby. The conflict in the story is that Emmy really hates this camp. And all she wants to do is go home. Sometimes she wants to sleep and NEVER wake up. Emmy is a 13 year old & is HIV positive. She is a quiet girl in school, & only talks to her bestfriend.

I can relate to the character because I don't really talk to anyone except my bestfriends. My favorite part was when Emmy started playing the games in Camp Positive because she really connected to the girls at the camp. I wish that Emmy's mom hadn't died because then she wouldn't have to live with her dad & his wife. I thought the ending of the book was amazing because it turns out that she really DID like living with her dad & Meg. I understood why Emmy was so sad because I think that everyone will be sad if their mom died at a young age.

When I read this book it reminds me of "The Cinco Hermanitas" because they were away from their mother a LONG while. I can relate to this book because I was once away from my mom for a month. That's the longest I've ever been away from her & I missed her.

I think this book was perfect because I relate to Emmy a lot. I'll rate the book a 10. Greatest book ever. I rate it a "10" because Emmy's emotions are similar to mine sometimes. I would recommend this book to people that like sad stories but get happier in the end. Now, I think that Emmy isn't as depressed as she was before.

