



## 11 Before 12

*Lisa Greenwald*

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**Fans of Lauren Myracle and Wendy Mass will love acclaimed author Lisa Greenwald's new duology about two best friends who kick-start middle school with a bucket list of eleven things they need to do to become AMAZING before their joint twelfth birthday party.**

The first day of middle school means trading in freeze tag at the pool for new schedules, fabulous outfits, and a fresh start. But for eleven-year-old Kaylan, the chaos of new locker combinations, cafeteria cliques, and potential first kisses is more than she can handle. She dreads the start of sixth grade and feels like she wants—no, *needs*—a winning game plan.

Luckily, Kaylan and her effortlessly chill BFF, Arianna, have a fool-proof plan for tackling transitions: a list of eleven things they need to do to totally transform themselves before they both turn twelve in November. But between making guy friends, getting detention (and makeovers!), helping humanity, and having super-candid conversations with their moms about their flaws, the first 100 days of school turn out worse than Kaylan ever imagined. Kaylan and Ari forget to focus on their friendship and soon their loyalty to the list—what was meant to help them keep it together—becomes the very thing tearing their lives apart.

## 11 Before 12 Details

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## **From Reader Review 11 Before 12 for online ebook**

### **Aleta says**

Meh. Could have been better.

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### **Livi A says**

I have not finished this book yet but so far I really like this book! This book is about two best friends and their list of what they want to do before they are 12. This book is very interesting and I would definitely recommend it.

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### **Anna says**

11 before 12 was a great book. It was such a realistic book about school and friendships. I think the story line is great and I'd even love to see it as a movie. It was kind of cheesy but in a realistic way.

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### **Mrs.Melaugh Melaugh says**

Though Kaylan and her BFF Arianna are enjoying their summer hanging out at the neighborhood pool, they are stressed at the thought of starting middle school next month. They come up with a list of eleven things to do before school starts, but then extend the deadline to November when their twelfth birthdays occur only a day apart. As they begin to accomplish the things on the list (get highlights in their hair, make a friend who is a boy), an unexpected rift develops between the girls. Their friendship drama will seem familiar to anyone who is or has been a twelve-year-old girl. Besides her troubles with Ariana, Kaylan is dealing with her newly divorced mother's insecurity, an absentee father, and a brother who has inexplicably become more irritating than he used to be. Happily, all is resolved just before the friends' joint birthday party, allowing for a satisfying ending.

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### **Clesia Q says**

Its a good book I liked it especially since I'm 11 and the book was realistic

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### **Lexie says**

This book was funny, sad and made me dying for more this is defiantly hands down the best book I have ever read.

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### **Beth Rodgers says**

'11 Before 12' by Lisa Greenwald will put you right back in that time of your life when everything mattered too much and nothing at all mattered more than your best friend. Kaylan and Arianna find this to be true as they gear up for sixth grade. They are chock full of excitement as they decide to make a list of all of the tasks they want to complete before turning twelve in November. Having their birthdays one day apart has convinced them of the need to plan a joint twelfth birthday party to celebrate their friendship and the new age that will bring them what they consider so much more of out of life.

Instead they find that the list starts to tear them apart. While Kaylan wants to stay true to the list and everything they've planned for it, including doing it together, Arianna is more open to bringing other people in and allowing them to be part of what Kaylan considers a super-special best-friends-only listing of tasks for the girls to share. While they do a few items together, they also find that they are finishing some separately. It was nice to understand Kaylan's point of view throughout the whole story since it is really quite a spot-on indicator of how any girl in her position would feel, worried about losing her best friend, but hopeful that things will eventually work out. However, hearing Arianna's point of view a bit more throughout would have been helpful. As the novel progresses, we learn more about how she feels about it all, but a dual look at their lives may have enhanced the storytelling a bit. Yet, this was not really an issue.

From Kaylan's worry over which boy to kiss and how to make a guy friend to Arianna's new girlfriends, lunch table gossip abounds, and the two are left sitting on the sidelines of each other's lives, waiting to be filled in with the nitty gritty details. Any reader will feel smack dab back in the action of middle school, as Lisa Greenwald creates the questions of how Kaylan and Arianna will move forward, how their troubles will affect their futures, and how family can matter more than a sixth grader believes, especially when on the outs with your best friend forever. A definite must read for any young adult and middle grade novel lovers!

Beth Rodgers, Author of 'Freshman Fourteen' and 'Sweet Fifteen,' Young Adult Novels

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### **Josephine says**

I loved this book so much, it was amazing, and I loved it because I'm sort of going through the same thing except just a little bit differently. So, I definitely recommend this book to incoming middle-schoolers.

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### **Félicie says**

Un très sympathique roman sur les émotions et ressentis de nos chères têtes blondes à l'arrivée au collège. C'est très représentatif de leur age, vraiment réaliste ! J'ai eu l'impression de voir ma fille avec sa copine !

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### **Kennedy O says**

In 11 before 12 two friends are starting junior high school. But before they start junior though Kaylan and

Ari (Arianna) want to accomplish some thing to show how they have grown over the summer, so they make a list. But they make the list with a catch, Ari and Kaylan convince themselves that if they don't finish the list before they turn twelve, they will be cursed for the rest of this life. What Ari and Kaylan didn't think about is how starting junior high might affect their friendship and them as people.

I think that a good theme for the book is, People shouldn't change themselves when things around them change. I think this is a good theme for this book because this whole book is about two girls change so they can fit in with other people around them. An example of this is, before school starts Ari and Kaylan convince their moms that they NEED highlights in their hair before school starts, and they so get highlights, another example is, Ari and Kaylan also decide that they need to do something they think they will hate, and the final example of this is, during the summer Ari and Kaylan love to go to the pool, and the pool there is always a freeze dance, they always do the freeze dance, but one time girls were laughing at Kaylan and Ari, so Kaylan stopped doing the freeze dance because she was embarrassed.

I LOVED this book so much. I liked this book because it is practically what happens all the time to people, I have even had something like this happen to me, minus the whole list thing. I liked this book because it tells the story of two girls struggling to fit in and keep their friendship together and the same time. I also liked this because of how it has different perspectives in the book, its not just this one person complaining about what happened to them, it tells everyone's side to it, and i really like it when authors do stuff like that. I liked this book a lot and i would love to read it again.

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### **Frederika Toth says**

11 before 12 was relatable, and it felt like middle school. Crushes, friendships, yeah it really did feel genuine

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### **Anne says**

Kaylan and her best friend Arianna are about to start middle school. In order to make the transition more manageable, they make a list of 11 things to do before they turn 12 in November. (Hence, 11 before 12). Sadly, the list works against them instead of for them and actually threatens to destroy their friendship completely. For fans of Lauren Myracle and Wendy Mass. Perfect for middle school (and the upper elementary kids about to transition).

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### **K.C says**

One of my favorite books ever!! ?????

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### **Audrey says**

Umm, just ... don't read it.

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**Lisa Nagel says**

A light sweet book that is a perfect summer read. It tackles many of the tween/starting middle school issues with humor, but some of it felt too stereotypical and cliche for me, but it still will likely be a popular and fun read that is very accessible to readers

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