



## Things I Should Have Known

*Claire LaZebnik*

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*Things Chloe knew: Her sister, Ivy, was lonely. Ethan was a perfect match. Ethan's brother, David, was an arrogant jerk.*

*Things Chloe should have known: Setups are complicated. Ivy can make her own decisions. David may be the only person who really gets Chloe.*

Meet Chloe Mitchell, a popular Los Angeles girl who's decided that her older sister, Ivy, who's on the autism spectrum, could use a boyfriend. Chloe already has someone in mind: Ethan Fields, a sweet, movie-obsessed boy from Ivy's special needs class.

Chloe would like to ignore Ethan's brother, David, but she can't—Ivy and Ethan aren't comfortable going out on their own, so Chloe and David have to tag along. Soon Chloe, Ivy, David, and Ethan form a quirky and wholly lovable circle. And as the group bonds over frozen-yogurt dates and movie nights, Chloe is forced to confront her own romantic choices—and the realization that it's okay to be a different kind of normal.

## Things I Should Have Known Details

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Author : Claire LaZebnik

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Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Romance, Health, Mental Health

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# From Reader Review Things I Should Have Known for online ebook

Cait • A Page with a View says

**Release date: March 28, 2017**

Wow, this was SO impressive. I've been trying to find a realistic YA contemporary about teens who care for their autistic siblings and this was so perfect. I'd recommend it if you like Sarah Dessen or Kasie West!

Chloe is seventeen, popular, dating the most attractive guy in school, and looks like she has an easy life. Her older sister Ivy is autistic, so Chloe has spent most of her life protecting and caring for her (their mother is a little self-absorbed and easily overwhelmed). Their home life has realistic complications, too, like a challenging stepfather and the pain of their father's death.

When Chloe sets out on a mission to get Ivy a boyfriend, she happens to pick the younger brother of David, a rude guy in Chloe's English class. Chloe and David have to accompany their siblings on all of their dates, so they start to bond and see a different side of each other.

David has no social life and has never dated before because he's his brother's caretaker. He's a really refreshing male character because he CRIES, expresses his feelings, and is a feminist. Chloe's actually an awesome main character, too, with her confidence and sarcasm. Claire LaZebnik does an amazing job writing authentic teens! I totally adored these two and their whole hate-to-love relationship.

But what really made this book so amazing was how realistic the characters were while they dealt with everything. Chloe's thoughts & responses were honest -- she's a flawed human who *will* become irritated with her sister at times. I thought the way she interacted with her sister was wonderful, though. She was super inspirational because I'm definitely not always that patient with the people in my life who are on the spectrum.

Chloe's popular boyfriend makes the typical unaware remarks like calling her sister "messed up" or referring to "people like her." Her friends don't really understand and provide the type of comments and situations that so desperately need to be called out... but it's all done really well. Like everyone honestly means well in this story, but sometimes they act from places of ignorance/fear or don't understand the whole picture:

An elderly couple is walking by, and the man maneuvers around his wife so he can put himself between her and our group. He's being *gallant*.

It hurts, especially because he's probably just some sweet old guy who loves his wife and wants to protect her from bad things.

But Ivy and Ethan aren't bad things.

I'm so grateful that the story was still funny, endearing, and hopeful because so many books about realistic challenges become unnecessarily depressing or try to sugarcoat it. These characters seemed like real people and the whole thing just felt *honest*. Chloe asks David "don't you feel like we're living in a different world from everyone else at school?" And that is exactly what I've felt like with most of the YA contemporaries

where the biggest issues are boys, drama with friends, or getting into college. I feel like I'm living in a different world from those books.

This book is SO relatable, important, heartwarming, and aaaah I don't want to spoil the main story so I can't properly gush. But there were seriously so many powerful scenes! You can *feel* the characters growing as they try to maintain the best possible world for the people they care about, even though they're not always right about what that might be.

Oh, and I do want to find a way to highlight that one of the main characters is gay without spoiling anything, so... I'll just leave this here?

Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC!

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### **Nina-Tala (JustAddAWord) Shannak says**

Consider me very very impressed.

Guys, help me out: You know those books that, staring at the cover or reading the synopsis or just from page one, you know they're going to be special? Does this feeling have a name?

Call it a gut feeling. Call it a psychic sense. Maybe it's magic? One can only guess.

I've had this experience (and been proved right sometimes, thank goodness) with books like Six of Crows, A Darker Shade of Magic, and The Winner's Curse. And now? **Things I Should Have Known** joins *those books. The ones that feel special and ARE special.*

Where do I start? There's just so much to talk about, so much to love. But I'll start with the idea in general.

**The concept of creating a sisterly relationship with autism included is impressive.** Why? Because a)sibling dynamics are so sweet and capture 99.87% of my attention in a novel, and b) I haven't read many books with good autistic representation, and I've actually been looking for a book that includes this.

So you can probably imagine my satisfaction when I stumbled across this one, AND how happy I was to know that this book was worth it.

**The characters are interesting, so interesting.** Chloe might seem to be your typical all-popular high school girl, but her characteristics are not confined to *just* that. There's so much more going on in her head and at home, and I like the message that you can never really know someone just by their typical behavior, because there's always a story to each person that is never told.

Unless, of course, you ask. And see.

**Ivy, too, is developed with finesse.** LaZebnik portrayed autism accurately (I believe her son has autism and she also co-authored a nonfiction book about autism itself, if I'm not mistaken??), and I liked the fact that there is so much more to Ivy than just the autism; she has her own personality and likes and dislikes. Authors typically forget this part so, so often. And that saddens me.

LaZebnik, though, is better than that. And i respect this.

**The pacing, too, is on point.** Pacing is always a little odd and, frequently, a little *off* as well, but THINGS I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN flows smoothly, and even the slow-ish parts are still so interesting, you can't even notice the pace has slowed down until it picks back up again. Love love love.

Bottom line: I love all brotherly-sisterly books. All of 'em. And TISHK's premise sounds awesome and is awesome. I was destined to love this. And I did.

NOW GO READ THIS. I command you.

\*laughs evilly while stroking this pretty cover with all its scratched-out-paradoxical-title-of-awesomeness glory\*

***Thank you, HMH Teen, for sending me a review copy in exchange for an honest review!***

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### **Casey says**

Things I Should Have known is the story of Chloe a popular, self-assured, teen that I found really realistic and true to herself even though she has some flaws, I want flawed truthful characters I want real life things that are annoying but also truthful and that's what I got with Chloe.

After Ivy starts asking questions about Chloes relationship and kissing Chloe decides to have a look into Chloes class when she picks her up and scopes out the class for a potential more than friend for her sister.

Ivy has Autism, she has trouble identifying facial cues or responding to social situations the "right" way but as she is 20 and has been in school learning these things she's not incapable just has to think about things a bit more before she acts, liking shaking someones hand or introducing people.

Ethan the boy Chloe has deemed perfect for her sister is better in social situations and doesn't self stimulate as much as Chloe unless he's really anxious or upset.

After arranging to take Chloe on her date with Ethan she realises his brother is David. The sullen, moody boy from school that always corrects her in english and seems to love to argue with her and call her gross when she's with her boyfriend. Chloe and David slowly start to know each other and become friends being able to talk about having a sibling with autism and being able to have someone who just gets it.

I loved Chloe's confidence and that she was one of the popular kids, the thing that wanted to make me shake her was her acceptance of people being nasty or wrong on subjects and not sticking up for the things she believed in or correcting anyone. That's why David was my favourite character he's more like me when it comes to my Brother, he'll address people who are making snide comments or staring, he'll correct you when your wrong and defend his brother with everything.

The portrayal of being a sibling of Autism was authentic and hit close to home, yes it can be annoying and frustrating but I wouldn't have it any other way.

A lot of the stigma that surrounds Autism is shown and I loved a line from David, it's like the author reached

into my brain and wrote what I couldn't form into words:

**"You know, if we were pushing our siblings in wheelchairs, people would be nice to them and to us. They'd be like, *Oh, the poor handicapped people and their wonderful siblings! Let's hold doors for them!* But Ivy and Ethan... they basically look like everyone else, with these tiny differences in how they behave and move. And that bugs people. They don't know what to do with that. It's like they've got a place in their brain for normal, and they've got a place for something obviously wrong but they can't deal with something a little bit different. And that makes them uncomfortable. And when people are uncomfortable they act like jerks. "**

Another thing I loved was David and Chloe discussing their future with their siblings, having a dependent sibling makes you look at life and think what will I do when we're older, how will I stay and help my parents? What happens when my parents aren't here anymore? It's a big decision and David and Chloe experiencing those feelings in the book made me connect to them.

Another thing I liked about this book are the parallels between Davids step mum and Chloes step dad, I'm sorry but anti vaxxers out there you are ridiculous, fight me on this I swear.

Chloes step dad may not get somethings but he really does care and I liked his pro action in trying to help another step parent like himself.

4/5 stars and I highly recommend this book! Thank you to the publishers and new galley for a free e-copy in exchange for an honest review

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### **Chelsea ❤️Peril Please❤️ says**

Shockingly enough, this was a book I had passed over because of a couple minuscule details I picked up on in the synopsis. But, seeing as how I have a very particular set of books that work for me nowadays, upon further inspection, this book looked like it was right up my alley. I mean, come on: Douchey guy, arch nemesis (pretty much the whole school's, to be fair), being pushed together in a selfless act for their siblings...I just couldn't help but balk and give this one a try. Though, **I should have stuck with my first instinct.**

“No, thank you,” she says as David catches it neatly in his free hand.

“I insist,” David says, and whips it back at them. It can’t possibly hurt anyone—I mean, it’s a *bag of chips*—but the gesture is violent, and they both cower away from the Lay’s with little noises of distress..

Lately I find that I'm so picky that it's beyond obnoxious. Almost nothing fits my tastes but what I *literally* have no time to read. Like, say, Victoria Schwab's latest release. COME TO ME. But, alas, I refuse to ruin something because of time restraints that I know I'd love normally if I had time to read it within a few days. But, **if I were to pick up my favorite genre at this time, YA Fantasy, I'd be ruining every book I attempted to soak in.** So, here I am, trying to navigate the YA realistic fiction waters with blinders on.

David has one of those bland faces that would get him off for murder because not a single eyewitness would be able to describe him. They'd all be saying stuff like, "Oh, you know . . . hair that's kind of brown . . . not that straight, but not curly either . . . His nose? Just kind of normal, I guess? . . . Dark eyes, probably brown . . . Average size . . ." Meanwhile he'd be off killing a bunch more innocents. And they'd come interview everyone at our school, and we'd all be, like, "Yeah, I'm not surprised. Guy was *weird*."

^^^ Okay, this is actually one of those moments I laughed out loud....

Yes, sure, this is a favorite genre as well, but when you don't have the same dialogue with all your GR friends [you used to] and don't get to scroll the feed for common interests or things that pique your curiosity, you're constantly stuck looking at the 'books similar to' section-and let's face it: That's basically a big pile of 'less than.' Not often do I find a winner in this section. But here I am, stuck looking and surfing and perusing these dumb attempts to grab suckers who actually think these books have anything in common with a book they adore and aren't just cherry picked by GR. I never ever did this before because I had all the friend advice possible, guiding me through all the winners each and every time I was looking for an awesome read. Now, here I am, settling in amidst the bottom feeder section....who's the sucker now?

"Okay," she says. "Just not bowling. I don't like bowling."

"It's because you're not very good at it." Ethan pats her shoulder consolingly..

But I'm not totally being fair-I guess some of those comparisons are astute and I'm being a bit of a pessimist these days because I just. Can't. Find. The TIME. To read and review-and it makes me sad. And, ya know, this book wasn't half as bad as I'm making it out to be. I'm just always looking for that 'wow factor' now, and I'm trying to accomplish this with minimal effort-it just doesn't work that way and I know better. You have to really pay attention and research to find new favorites-they don't just fall into your lap. (Unless you have great friends like I do/did who are always telling you what you'd love every time you finish a book)

Ethan glares at him but opens his mouth, and David shoves the rice in. Ethan chews and swallows. "It still hurts."

"You shouldn't have eaten the chili pepper," Ivy says. "Everyone knows they're hot."

"I didn't mean to!" Ethan roars at her, spraying chewed-up rice across the table. "It got in my mouth on accident!"

"Chilis can be sneaky," I say.

"Tricky little beasts," David agrees. "You can't trust a chili."

"Bell peppers, though—they're trustworthy."

"The really evil ones are those little shishito bastards," David says. "Some of them are hot, and some aren't. You can't tell until you bite into one. How is that fair?"

"It's not," I say. "It's not fair at all."

But enough whining-this book was pretty cute, in concept. I loved the guy in this story (I already can't

remember their names, and it's only been a couple weeks since I finished this...not a good sign), but **found his character was a bit underdeveloped**. Or, rather, **he was unexplored**. He was this mean guy at school, snarking at everyone's opinions like he was God and knew all, but then all of a sudden he makes exceptions for our MC. Now, this might be me acting a tad selfish- I love assholes in books, and he just showed how nice he truly was too soon for my taste. I wanted a bit more asshole, a little less 'now you see me for who I am' so early on in the book... Not that he even said any such Disney type line, but you get it (I think). So, in a way, **it was too quick a change of heart**-for both characters.

I can't decide if the world would be a better or worse place if everyone was as honest and literal as these two. Better in some ways, I guess, but maybe a little harsh? .

But what I'm not saying is that obviously we see a *little* more change in our MC because we are in her head (boring as it is), so it's a bit more forgivable. With him, we are just like, **WHAT? THAT'S IT? BE MEAN TO HER A LITTLE MORE!** I think the feminists of the world might not like that statement...I'm sounding a bit crazy. But I am who I am, so oops. Let's move on.

"Come on," I say, and shove him toward the exit. "Let's go. But admit you were wrong about that whole kissing in public thing. It's not such a crime."

"It is when I'm not the one kissing you."

"Were you jealous of James? Even back then?"

"I don't know," he says. "Not exactly. And you guys were pretty annoying. I was sincerely disgusted by you"

"Thanks."

"But I'll admit that if I'd been standing where he was standing, I'd probably have had a different view of the whole thing." .

I didn't mind the big discovery and the exploration of different...tastes...but I just thought it was handled so oddly-I think this is perhaps just my opinion, though, so **take that as you will**. It seems like others really enjoyed the secondary character's adventures, so I stand alone here.

One thing I WILL stand firm on, though, is **the shortness of the chapters**-I hate this. I have NEVER liked this. And I never will. I kind of thought it made for a disjointed story and mixed it up to the point I didn't even feel like I could immerse myself into the book-one minute we're getting somewhere, and then it's abruptly onto the next chapter. Not a fan. And the characters, or at least our main girl, were written a bit juvenile and a touch vapid-in a ditzy, not easy to relate to way. And I found the way our main guy's brother was handled/treated was off-handed and not handled the way it should have been...It was just thrown in there and not explored as much as I think it should have been. And his family (And her boyfriend for that matter). Give me a break. Keep your money, cuz I'm not buyin' it. Just...so odd, if you ask me. So, I think these are by far my largest problems with this book.

Had these details been more fleshed out, I would have had a much larger respect for the story and I wouldn't have been so nitpicky-but when you can't help but skim and roll your eyes and continually think-**THAT'S IT?!** Then there is something wrong.

This review was odd, had stunted writing, and was more like a list of reasons I liked and disliked everything-

but who am I trying to impress? **I disliked this story and it was handled poorly.** IT HAD SO MUCH POTENTIAL. Sooo much wasted potential. Perhaps if a little more effort had been put into the story, I'd have written a more fleshed out review. But, as it is, I don't give a damn. Oh well.

\*\*\*Upon further review looking back at the quotes I'd chosen when I read the book [before writing the review], I did think there were a lot of cute moments and I laughed out loud a lot. The main character was actually kind of a funny smart-ass....so.....snaps to her. Also, David (ahh that's his name, lol) was so sweet-I already said this, but he really was. And his brother was really funny. So, just a positive note to add to my surly review. What's funny is, I was in a GREAT mood when I wrote the original review...and right now I'm in a HORRID mood....yet I'm being nicer. Curiouser and curioser....

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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### **Alyssa says**

This book was WONDERFUL. <3333

\*\*\*Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog\*\*\*

Things I Should Have Known by Claire LaZebnik

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers

Publication Date: March 28, 2017

Rating: 4 stars

Source: ARC sent by the publisher

Summary (from Goodreads):

From the author of *Epic Fail* comes the story of Chloe Mitchell, a Los Angeles girl on a quest to find love for her autistic sister, Ivy. Ethan, from Ivy's class, seems like the perfect match. It's unfortunate that his older brother, David, is one of Chloe's least favorite people, but Chloe can deal, especially when she realizes that David is just as devoted to Ethan as she is to Ivy.

Uncommonly honest and refreshingly funny, this is a story about sisterhood, autism, and first love. Chloe, Ivy, David, and Ethan, who form a quirky and lovable circle, will steal readers' hearts and remind us all that it's okay to be a different kind of normal.

What I Liked:

Months ago, I received a galley of this book - it was sent unsolicited from Houghton Mifflin (and of course, receiving this galley in no way affected my opinion of the book). So I wasn't sure if I would read it, but recently, a few of my blogger pals read this book, and all of them really enjoyed the book. Throw in the fact that I really enjoyed the one LaZebnik book I've tried - *The Last Best Kiss* - and I knew I had to squeeze this

one into my schedule somehow. I'm so glad I did, because it was a wonderful, thought-provoking, sweet story. With great diversity too!

At a glance, Chloe Mitchell has a great life; she is smart and gets really good grades, her boyfriend is hot, athletic, and a fairly nice guy, and she seems really social and has a great group of friends. But behind closed doors, everything isn't as put-together as it seems. Chloe doesn't have the best relationship with her stepfather, or her mother (since her father died and her mom got remarried). Chloe's older sister is autistic, and Chloe is very protective of and careful with her sister. Chloe's friends don't know much about Ivy, and Chloe sometimes feels as isolated as Ivy. Chloe knows how lonely Ivy is, and so she gets Ivy to start hanging out with Ethan, a boy in Ivy's classes. Ethan is autistic as well, and when Ivy and Ethan hang out, Chloe comes along, as well as Ethan's brother David. David is one of the most annoying jerks that Chloe knows, but as she hangs out with him (and Ivy and Ethan) more, she realizes that he is somewhat antisocial and alone all the time because his devotion to his brother is similar to hers with Ivy. But what if Ethan isn't the right person for Ivy? What is David is the right person for Chloe?

I don't really love or care for most YA contemporary novels that I come across - I'm much more of a fantasy girl, when it comes to YA. But certain YA contemporary authors have produced amazing books that really worked for me - like Kasie West, Emma Mills, Jenny Han, Huntley Fitzpatrick, Julie Buxbaum... I think it's safe for me to add Claire LaZebnik to that list. I'm two for two with books of hers that I've read!

Reading from Chloe's POV was so entertaining and interesting. I love how selfless Chloe is - she sacrifices a lot of time and social opportunities to take care of Ivy or meet Ivy's needs or demands. And yet, Chloe is also good about not giving into all of Ivy's demands - she does a fairly good job of taking care of herself. Chloe is such a good sister, and a good friend and girlfriend too. I especially liked seeing her stand up for her sister to everyone - even their stepfather, of all people.

Ivy is a lovely character, one that I liked getting to know and learn about. I've had a lot of experience with young adults with autism, but I've never lived with someone with autism or had to spend hours and days with them. I think the author captured Ivy so well - not just Ivy with autism, but Ivy the person, Ivy the older sister, Ivy the lonely almost-twenty-one-year-old. Ivy is a secondary character in this book, but she is so important to the story.

David was a character that surprised me a little. He comes across as an antisocial jerk who gets good grades but is never seen with friends or a girl, so everyone thinks he is weird and unlikable. Even Chloe isn't nice to him at all, in the beginning. But I love how the author changes our minds about him; he stills seems a little antisocial and not a people-person, but we start to understand why. David is always with his autistic brother Ethan when they're not at their respective school, so David doesn't have much of a social life. His father and stepmother have no time or patience for Ethan, and David is all that Ethan has. David is incredibly selfless and such a good person, when you dig deeper. In fact, I'd say Chloe is more of a jerk than David is, in terms of how mean she was to him initially.

Autism is a big part of this book, and I thought LaZebnik handled the condition well, in both characters. Ivy and Ethan, and their fellow classmate Diana, and others in the class - they all have similar tics and mannerisms, but they're also very different, in terms of the spectrum. I appreciated this a lot, because (in my experience) there are so many different behaviors and mannerisms within the spectrum of autism.

The romance - both romances - is not what you'd think! Chloe has a boyfriend for about half of the book. James is cool and there's nothing really wrong with him - he doesn't cheat on Chloe, he's not sleazy, he's not a jerk to her. But he doesn't really get why Chloe is so attentive and devoted to her sister, and about halfway

into the story, Chloe and James break up. It seemed fairly natural and with minimal drama, and I actually ended up not minding that Chloe had a boyfriend that wasn't the intended love interest (usually this bothers me because LOVE TRIANGLE).

But this aspect of the romance worked fine for me, because Chloe and David barely knew each other at the time, and they didn't have the best opinions of each other. By the time they both start to develop feelings for each other, Chloe and James break up, and it's a fairly clean break. Chloe and David are great together! They're supportive of each other, and they understand each other. I didn't really swoon over them because there weren't a lot of swoony scenes or magical kisses, but I liked their romance.

Ivy's own romance is great! I had a feeling about it and I think everyone else does too. It was great to see Ivy come out of her shell a little and try new things with Ethan, and explore her feelings about him possibly being more than a friend. Ivy's tentative friendship with Ethan was interesting to see unfold, but her romance is even better.

It was also pretty cool to see the evolution of Chloe's relationship with her stepfather. I hated him initially, and I still don't totally like him, but I liked him more towards the end of the book. Chloe's mom too. David has a strained relationship with his stepmother and his father, and those relationships don't mature like Chloe's do, but they still improve. LaZebnik handled the development of these familial relationships fairly well, in my opinion.

Overall, I have to hand it to LaZebnik - this was a fantastic book. I don't usually like YA contemporary, especially the ones that are heavy with tough issues. This book had "tough issues" (difficult stepparents, struggling to find a balance with an autistic sibling, xenophobia exploring relationships), but I like the tone of the book, and how the issues were brought across. This isn't a book that will make you ugly-cry and break your heart - which made me very happy. It is definitely a book that makes you stop and think about xenophobia, and how you view autism, and loved ones of those with autism.

What I Did Not Like:

Nothing really! Maybe more kissing from David and Chloe?

Would I Recommend It:

If you like YA contemporary, then definitely put this one on your TBR! I'm not a YA contemporary person and I enjoyed it. It's worth the read - if anything, it'll open your mind to a completely different world that you might never have thought about (isn't that the lovely thing about books!). I've never read a YA book like this (I'm sure they exist, I just haven't read any).

Rating:

4 stars. I really enjoyed this light yet thought-provoking novel! Especially with the diversity it contains. I'm glad I took the chance and read it. I'm excited to see what else LaZebnik will be publishing!

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## Emer says

Hallelujah for a YA book that I actually like for a change. It just feels like it's been a while.

This was a very easy, breezy read. I read it in two sittings (pretty much just interrupted by the necessity to sleep) and just found myself happily racing through it.

The main character Chloe is great. Super likeable but far from perfect. What I mean is she's tough. She does not care about the more materialistic aspects of life because she's got Ivy. And Ivy is everything. Ivy is her older sister who is on the autism spectrum. And Chloe is so protective of her but in this fabulous way that she is not trying to hide Ivy away from the world but truly have her live her best life... And she discovers Ivy is lonely. Ivy wants companionship and romance and Chloe sets out to help her achieve these things and this book is basically what happens... Because things don't exactly go smoothly.

What I love about Chloe is that she's so well intentioned. She fights the good fight, she speaks her mind, she doesn't tolerate BS. But her good intentions can, and do, lead her astray. She's guilty of projecting her views on others, what she thinks is right... And it's fabulous. She's 100% human and just love her.

On the surface Ivy is a harder character to relate to because of her autism and her different social skills... But my god at times the most simple of sentences that she says to Chloe in particular just floored me. I think she was written with great humanity. And in the back of the book it states that the author is the mum of four kids, one of whom has autism, and that she has co-authored two non-fiction books on autism. Safe to say I think this deep and personal connection to parenting a child with autism gives her a unique insight and is what really makes this reading experience stand out from the crowd. It feels authentic. And that authenticity is surprising because in many ways this book is jammed full of 'issues' yet to me they all felt natural and believable.

### Things I loved:

#### *Present parents:*

A YA book with parents who were to the front and not conveniently absent so the teen characters could get up to more \*drama\*. Chloe and Ivy's mum had remarried and the relationship with their step-father was really interesting. You could see he was struggling (and acting like a knob in Chloe's eyes) and Chloe was struggling (and acting difficult in Ron's eyes)... Just loved their dynamics!

Conversely David and Ethan's parents were more of the train wreck variety and as David and Ethan were themselves side characters then their parents were less focused on. But it was great to have the contrast of how different people cope differently with a child with autism.

#### *Exploration of sibling relationships and sibling responsibilities:*

In the book we had two great sibling relationships. Chloe and Ivy. And David and Ethan. Ivy and Ethan both were on the autism spectrum and it was so interesting to see the connections between the siblings. The learned trust, the ease and comfort... And then the difficulties that Chloe and David were able to express to each other regarding feelings of protectiveness, guilt, wanting the world to not be freaked out by their siblings, wanting parity for them...

#### *A cute romance storyline:*

The less I say the better cos \*spoilers\* but I just really liked how it was built up throughout the book rather than insta love.

*LGBTQ rep:*

I loved how this aspect of the storyline was built up too. Also can't really say much cos \*spoilers\* but me likey.

*Sex positive:*

Chloe was comfortable with her dating history and happily body confident and sex was just a natural part of that.

*The ending:*

I really liked the ending because it was both hopeful but also not too neat and tidy. Basically it didn't make me want to tear my eyes out with how much we've "learned" or how much we've been "inspired"

Overall I really enjoyed this and would recommend it.

**three and a half to four stars**

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**Dee Montoya says**

**FIVE STARS\*\*\*\*\***

Uplifting and beautiful. *Things I Should Have Known* is a wonderful novel. A compelling story about a sister trying to find love for her autistic sister. The love and acceptance these sisters have for one another took my breath away, and made my heart sing. I laughed and cried, and had the most amazing time reading this book. I'm completely enamored with Claire Lazebnik's writing style, now that I've discovered her work, I'll make it my mission to read every single one of her books.

Chloe Mitchell is seventeen, she's a year away from graduating high school, has good grades, a great social life, and a gorgeous boyfriend. Chloe's older sister Ivy is autistic; the Mitchell sisters have a wonderful bond. Chloe is always looking out for Ivy, and lately she's been noticing that her older sister seems lonely, so Chloe has come up with the great idea, to find Yvy a boyfriend.

Ethan Fields is Yvy's classmate, and he seems like the perfect candidate to become her first love. When Chloe arranges their first friendly outing, Ethan also shows up with his brother, who turns out is Chloe's least favorite person in the world, David Fields. David and Chloe go to school together, and they are constantly bickering and at each other's throats. David is sarcastic, negative and plain rude. But the more the four of them go out in hopes that Yvy and Ethan will fall in love, Chloe realizes that there's more to David than his bad attitude, and when things don't turn out the way she's planned and Chloe's world turns upside down, her once nemesis is the only person who she can find solace with.

Honest and refreshing, this is a story that will make you smile. The devotion both Chloe and David had for their siblings was heartwarming and beautiful. I loved how inside a world of chaos these characters defended what was most precious to them, love.

Claire Lazebnik's writing style was so seamless and entertaining that almost forgot I was reading a book, her

words transported me right to the heart of this novel. She made something unknown to me feel completely familiar. Lovely story, I would definitely recommend this book to **everyone**.

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## **Aditi says**

*“If they can't learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn”*

----O. Ivar Lovaas

Claire LaZebnik, an American author, pens an enlightening and heart touching young adult contemporary novel *Things I Should Have Known* that revolves around a female high school teenager who sets up her autistic elder sister with another autistic boy on a date, but little did she had any idea that the boy's younger brother is her classmate and whom she despises to her heart's content and that they both share the same grief and challenges, despite of their social indifferences.

### **Synopsis:**

*Things Chloe knew: Her sister, Ivy, was lonely. Ethan was a perfect match. Ethan's brother, David, was an arrogant jerk.*

*Things Chloe should have known: Setups are complicated. Ivy can make her own decisions. David may be the only person who really gets Chloe.*

*Meet Chloe Mitchell, a popular Los Angeles girl who's decided that her older sister, Ivy, who's on the autism spectrum, could use a boyfriend. Chloe already has someone in mind: Ethan Fields, a sweet, movie-obsessed boy from Ivy's special needs class.*

*Chloe would like to ignore Ethan's brother, David, but she can't—Ivy and Ethan aren't comfortable going out on their own, so Chloe and David have to tag along. Soon Chloe, Ivy, David, and Ethan form a quirky and wholly lovable circle. And as the group bonds over frozen-yogurt dates and movie nights, Chloe is forced to confront her own romantic choices—and the realization that it's okay to be a different kind of normal.*

For a popular high school teenager like Chloe, there is no time to think about what her peers think about her personal life, where she every day struggles to stay sane amidst of the advice of her over-caring step father and the curiosity of her autistic elder sister, Ivy. But when Ivy raises some thoughtful questions about her younger sister's perfect love life, Chloe realizes that it is high time that Ivy too needs to find a boyfriend with whom she can spend her time. So she sets her sister up with an autistic boy named Ethan from Ivy's special school. But Ethan's brother turns out to be David, the boy whom Chloe despises and avoids in her school. Yet gradually both Ivy and Chloe rediscover themselves through many challenges like sexuality, relationships and ambitions.

Rarely have I ever came across such a teenage fiction where the author addresses quite a handful of heavy

social subjects and stigmas with an air of coolness yet with enough sensitivity. The book covers so many subjects in just 300 pages yet the readers are bound to get a fulfilling experience after reading this book. From teenage love drama to family drama to discovering sexuality, everything has its own weightage in this book, without being too cheesy or too sentimental. Hence the author cleverly draws that line so that the story remains inspiring as well as compelling enough to lure the readers to linger in its essence long after the story has ended.

With an eloquent prose, the author's writing style is extremely coherent and the readers will find it easy to comprehend with the story line. The flow of emotions is smooth although they lack the much-required depth, hence at times the readers might feel impassive, especially about love and relationships, which are the second most important factors of this book. The dialogues have enough sensitivity and are quite articulate that will help the readers relate with the conversations among the characters from this book. The pacing is bit slow, and often drags at times, yet the story line's flair is so brilliant, that it will keep the readers engaged pretty much the entire length of this novel.

The characters are well developed and extremely real to the very core. The author has depicted all the characters with their flaws and strong aspects to give them that honest edge to their demeanor. The main character, Chloe, despite being popular in her high school, is thoughtful and mature beyond her tender age. Chloe's compassion towards her own autistic sister is way above the world and so much encouraging enough to illuminate the minds of those who have an autistic sibling. The family household of the main character that the author captivates through the story line is laced with sympathy and kindness. Ivy's portrayal is extremely authentic and penned with utmost love, that she holds the power to instantly steal the hearts of the readers. The supporting characters aren't that well built as they lack depth and back story that will give them value in the story line.

The romance takes a back seat in this story line, although it plays a huge role in the book. The appealing factor between Chloe and David aren't portrayed with much passion or intensity. In fact, the readers might feel unconnected with their love affair. Whereas the journey of Ivy's love life and other things are painted intricately and vividly with enough emotions to make the readers feel for Ivy's plight. Autism plays a strong backdrop in the story line that is represented authentically with lots of love and sentiments.

In a nutshell, this is a one-of-a-kind and an extremely inspiring coming-of-age teenage contemporary fiction where one will find the realism behind autism, sexuality and teenage love and drama.

**Verdict:** *A simply fascinating tale about flaws, sisterhood and friendships.*

**Courtesy:** *Thanks to the author's publishers for giving me an opportunity to read and review this book.*

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### **Dana says**

When I picked up *Things I Should Have Known*, I wasn't sure what to expect. YA romances always have the chance of being too cheesy for me and mental illness is not always represented genuinely.

However I was pleasantly surprised in both aspects. The autistic characters in the story and their relatives, how people reacted to everything, felt very authentic.

In the authors bio it did state that she had a son who was autistic and had written two books on autism so I guess that's why this book ended up reading so refreshing and true. The main character also felt very true to age which I appreciated.

A couple small parts were predictable but it wasn't too bad.

Overall great read that I devoured. Would definitely recommend.

### **Buy, Borrow or Bin Verdict: Buy**

Check out more of my reviews here

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Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

### **Sarah Joint says**

**Funny, quirky, honest, and heartwarming.** I really loved this book. I was in the mood for something lighter than what I usually go for, and this was perfect: a well-written and inspirational young adult novel. I really enjoyed it.

Chloe has an easy life at school. She's pretty, popular, and dating the best looking guy in school. He's friendly and seems very devoted to her, but he does have one issue: he doesn't really understand Chloe's big sister. Her sister Ivy is very important to her. Their father died years ago, and their mother remarried and seems a little more devoted to him than her children. Ivy is autistic, and Chloe feels very protective over her. When Ivy starts to ask some questions about Chloe and her boyfriend, Chloe realizes that Ivy might want a boyfriend too. **It becomes her mission to find Ivy love.** She encourages her to contact a boy in her class that she's talked about before, and they make plans to get together. Chloe is in for a surprise, though... the boy is accompanied by a younger sibling of his own: David, who's in her class. He's always come across as rude and arrogant, and Chloe isn't his biggest fan... but putting up with him is worth it if Ivy finds a new companion.

**I think I enjoyed this book even more because I have a close family member with special needs, though not autism.** I identified with the frustration Chloe and David feel when strangers are rude and stare at their much loved siblings, simply because they happen to be a little bit different. Really cute story that's easy to read and become immersed in.

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*I received an ARC of this book from Net Galley and the publisher, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.*

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### **Kelly (and the Book Boar) says**

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

I seriously have no recollection of how I ended up requesting this from the library. I've never heard of this

author and zero of my friends have read it. At this point I'm almost convinced that I have some sort of weird sleeping disorder where I log on to the library in the middle of the night in order to . . . .

All I know is I woke up on Saturday morning and turned on the WiFi in order to retrieve a ~~perno~~ scientific study on the mating rituals of werewolves and saw this pop up. Me being me, I took a quick glance at GR and glossed over the synopsis, but . . . .

Because that's who I am. So going into this I thought it was about Chloe trying to set her autistic sister Ivy up on a date with a dude named Ethan (who just-so-happened to be the brother of David, a real toolbag from Chloe's lit class) which then resulted in **Ivy** and **David** hitting it off. But, per usual . . . .

I'm going on record to say the above story would have probably equated a 4 Star rating from me, but I do realize baby steps and all and it's a farkin' miracle authors have finally started branching out and writing about characters who don't belong in some cookie-cutter white, upper-middle-class, utopia full of instalove and bullshit. This wasn't a bad little story at all. Although teenage sex is hinted about, which I know would be a dealbreaker for a lot of parents, I would recommend this to younger teens. A good job is done showing how people can be offensive without even meaning to when it comes to talking about someone "different" than them and that maintaining popularity isn't necessarily a guarantee to happiness. 3 Stars. I'll definitely read more by this author.

The following is actually a legit spoilsie-time, so don't open it unless you want to know things and **definitely** don't come crying that I . . . .

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Alright, so the one thing that annoyed me to no end was (view spoiler)

## **Courtney says**

On the outside, it may *seem* like eighteen year old Chloe Mitchell has a *perfect life*, **but things are not always what they seem**. Sure, she's popular and pretty, gets good grades, and even has an attractive and athletic boyfriend, but that only just scratches the *surface*.

Chloe has an older sister, Ivy, who is on the autism spectrum, their father passed away from cancer a few years ago, and their mother, who's *pretty passive* about *everything* going on, has remarried a man named Ron, who can sometimes be a *little hard* on the girls (despite his 'good intentions'). **Her life is way more complicated than most people realize.**

With their father gone and their mother's and stepfather's busy schedule, Chloe spends a lot of her time caring for her older sister. Because of that, though, she worry's a lot about going to college and what that

might do to Ivy. But, When Ivy begins expressing interest in some of her classmates and in romantic relationships, Chloe decides to set her up on 'dates', hoping her sister will become more social and less dependent on her to have fun and be happy.

Deemed a perfect match by Chloe, she sets Ivy up with a boy in her class named Ethan. To her surprise, she discovers that Ethan is *the brother of her school nemesis*, David Fields. Since both Ivy and Ethan insist that their siblings accompany them on all their dates, Chloe and David spend more and more time together, too.

*What will happen when Ethan sees Chloe's popularity and Chloe sees through Ethan's "I couldn't care less about other people's" facade. What will become of Ivy and Ethan's newfound friendship?*

**"You know, if we were pushing our siblings in wheelchairs, people would be nice to them and to us. They'd be like, Oh, the poor handicapped people and their wonderful siblings! Let's hold doors for them! But Ivy and Ethan . . . they basically look like everyone else, with just these tiny differences in how they behave and move. And that bugs people. They don't know what to do with that. It's like people have a place in their brain for normal, and they have a place in their brain for something obviously wrong, but they can't deal with something just a little bit different. And that makes them uncomfortable. And when people are uncomfortable, they act like jerks."**

Things I Should Have Known by Claire LaZebnik is, simply put, a YA contemporary romance, but *truthfully its so much more* than that! This story is really about sibling love, growing up, romance, friendship, self discovery, and family. There's **tons of diversity** in this book, which I love! There are blended families, LGBTQ characters, characters with special needs and more. This book deals with so many *important* topics, and the author writes about all of them in a very tasteful way.

What I love most about this book is how well the author depicts autism. Its refreshing to read a YA book that **represents ASD in such a realistic and respectful way**. One of my best friends has a brother who has autism, and because I've grown up with them, I could relate to *so much* of what these characters go through, and I'm **sure** my friend could relate to this book even *more* than I do (so I'll definitely be recommending this one to her!).

I really enjoyed Chloe, David, Ivy and Ethan as characters. They each grow so much through out this story, and all have unique personalities. I liked how the author didn't shy away from hinting at her teen characters being sexually active, and that it wasn't depicted in a negative way. That's a rare thing to see in a YA book and let's face it, most teens have sex. So I'm glad about that. I wish some characters were a bit more developed though, and I'll be honest, I sort of hated some of characters too (the parents in this book are sort of *awful!*).

While I would consider this a YA contemporary romance, the romance in this book sort of gets put on the back burner. I love that **this isn't an "insta-love" story** and that the characters in this book all take their time figuring out how they feel for each other. However, it sort of felt like Chloe and Ethan were enemies... and then after hanging out just a few times and confiding in each other, they became a couple. I just feel that the development of their relationship sort of got *lost* within the many layers of this book. Don't get me wrong, I'm glad the author put more time and effort into writing about all the other topics included, I just wish that there was a little more to their romantic development. That's really the only part that fell flat for me.

This book took me on **an emotional rollercoaster**. Some parts made me really mad, some parts made me laugh out loud and others almost left me heartbroken. This book is full of witty and sarcastic humor, and

happy moments that kept things light, but it also had a lot of nerve wracking and tragic parts too.

I highly recommend The Things I Should Have Known, especially to anyone looking for a diverse YA read.

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\*\*\*\* I received an eBook copy of this title via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\*\*\*

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### **C.G. Drews says**

**This is simply an EXCELLENT novel.** It's all about friendship, love, sibling relationships, and the absolute decisive fact that if you don't have ice cream in your life at regular intervals than wut r u doing mate because ice cream is life. But I guess the book actually does focus more on, like, LOVE and SIBLINGS. (\*whispers\* ice cream tho...) **And I'm endlessly pleased that it had such a lovely representation of Autism!** The author has an ASD child and you can really tell they *know* things. Bless books with accurate rep.

**I'm such trash for sibling stories, I AM.** I absolutely adored Chloe and Ivy's relationship! Chloe is 17 and Ivy is nearly 21, but Chloe functions in more of the "big sister" role, with Ivy's Autism making her struggle with communication and relating to people. She really struggles to express her emotions/feelings and she isn't very independent at all...although honestly her parents are more like "she's too sweet and it's too hard to figure out what to do so we're just going to let her stay quietly at home". And like I'M OKAY WITH THAT TOO. But I also feel like the parents were a bit neglectful of Ivy??? They didn't seem to even *try* to connect with her. **Chloe was almost Ivy's #1 carer.** She was making sure Ivy had a chance to find love and make connections. Like why wasn't her mother making an effort??? IT MADE ME SO FRUSTRATED.

**Basically ALL the parents in this book = The Actual Worsts.**

**And plus there are also two brothers in the story too!!** AND I LOVE BROTHER STORIES SO EXCUSE ME WHILE I HUG THIS BOOK IMMENSELY. When Chloe sets Ivy up on a "date" with a boy from her school, they kind of get the package deal of Ethan (who has ASD) and his older brother David. Chloe also knows David from school and he's basically what would happen if an intelligent lemon grew teeth and bit you. David = no liking of the peoples. #relatable **Honestly I think David was on the spectrum too???** It's not stated, but he has low social skills and is *bluntly* honest and super smart. **Basically I just looooved the contrast of the sisters vs the brothers and how their relationships all developed.** Can we say A+ for all the character development here? I'm gonna say it. No wait. Belay that, my friend. I'm going to shout it.

EXCELLENT CHARACTERS. EXCELLENT CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. EXCELLENT OF IT ALL.

**Chloe and David were ajfdkslad the biggest ship.** She was so complex and loving but SASSY and spiky. And David was a bitter mushroom but also absolutely *devoted* to taking care of his brother since his parents were excellent at being THE WORST. Their banter was the best. Honestly can dialogue get any better than this?!???

**And like I said: most magnificent ASD representation too.** And Ivy and Ethan were so sweet too and I *loved* that the book showed SO many positive sides of Autism!! Like thank you?!???

**I have to admit: the ableism is pretty heavy and hard to handle.** I was swallowing RAGE a lot. And

obviously that isn't a negative to the story...because this is real life. Ivy's stepdad was constantly micromanaging her weight, with little comments that he "loves her" and "just wants what's best for her" so she should really not "get too fat so she'll still be attractive". LIKE WFT MATE. And her mother was just such a wet mop she never did anything. Chloe DID a lot of speaking up (YAS) but also she let things go a lot like with everyday-ableism amongst her friends. **There's a lot of instances where Autism is dehumanised** and I think the book was making a really good point. It had some lines that were just soooo amazing: like *why* Autism makes so many people uncomfortable and how grossly unfair it is.

"You know, if we were pushing our siblings in wheelchairs, people would be nice to them and to us. They'd be like, *Oh, the poor handicapped people and their wonderful siblings! Let's hold doors for them!* But Ivy and Ethan...they basically look like everyone else, with just these tiny differences in how they behave and move. And that bugs people. They don't know what to do with that. It's like people have a place in their brain for normal, and they have a place in their brain for something obviously wrong, but they can't deal with something just a little bit different. And it makes them uncomfortable. And when people are uncomfortable, they act like jerks."

**The book is STUFFED with incredible thought provoking and accurate realisations like this.** And I just...ajfkdsld I loved it.

**So, okay, some parts weren't the best.** Some things were a little cliche. Some were a little toooo obvious. (view spoiler) And I think there was a lot of "too fast forgiveness" at the end. Like, dude, just being NICE a few times does NOT equal cancelling out being an ableist freak frittata salad. No.

**ALL IN ALL: this book is just incredible!!** The characters are the CUTEST and I'm partially in love with all of them. The dialogue had me pleased. The ice cream had me hungry, which is actually hugely rude of the book because there is NO ice cream in my life and this is why I'm sad and bitter. And **I love love looooved the messages it sent** and also how it never said Autism was broken or bad or unlovable. And it was full of intelligent people and feminism and diversity and OMG CAIT WHY ARE YOU GUSHING SO MUCH GO SIT IN A BUCKET AND EAT SOME ICE CREAM AND CALM DOWN.

People can have nothing but good intentions and still sometimes make you want to kill them.

...and David brought the entire conversation to an abrupt halt by saying, "A feminist is someone who believes in equal rights for women, so you're either a feminist or you're an idiot."

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**Kaylin (The Re-Read Queen) says**

**2.5 Stars**

## **Overview:**

Focusing on the relationship between teenage Chloe and her autistic sister, Ivy, this story revolves around their ‘quest to find love’ for Ivy, but quickly proves it contains much more. Instead, this becomes a coming-of-age for both of the sisters.

I received an ARC of this through Netgalley, thanks to HMH Books for the opportunity!

## **Pros:**

LGBT representation in a healthy and realistic way.

There’s a note at the end that says the author has personal experience with autism and has already written about the topic in nonfiction—and it definitely shows. The topic was handled with care and addressed with a gravity I’ve never quite seen before. It was incredibly refreshing

I greatly enjoyed that the main character has great social skills, an active sex life, and popularity. I find YA tends to demonize most of these things so it was *incredibly* refreshing to see a female MC who not only possessed these things, but was *aware* of it.

This had several important things to say about not only LGBT and autism, but also feminism and mental health.

Chloe’s stepfather is one of the most realistic antagonists I’ve ever come across. I absolutely couldn’t stand him, even more for that fact that he *feels* like someone you could encounter in real life.

## **Cons:**

Here’s my thing:

This book talks about *so* many important things. It absolutely does. The glowing reviews have not lied to you.

But the story was sacrificed for those things.

There’s no instalove, which is a plus, but the romance develops so slowly and oddly that I never detected any chemistry between either character? They seemed like they didn’t like each other, and then suddenly they *really* liked each other. I think this development was hidden underneath all the other topics and sub-plot lines this was saturated with.

I’m not saying I think those topics should have been pushed to the side in favor of the romance—but if you’re going to include a romance, it *needs attention too*. In fact, I don’t understand why the romance was here at all, and think the story would have been much better without it.

This was *so overstuffed* it wasn’t just evident in the romance. But a lot of the family dynamics are pushed aside in favor of making the family discuss politics, a lot of the character development is really rushed, most descriptions are lacking in exchange for dialogue, etc.

This randomly would bring up really important topics or discussions and condense them down to one line.

The characters would really just reference previous arguments and conversations (that happened off-screen) merely as a way of bringing those topics into the narrative. I don't feel like you can address these important and nuanced topics in one-or-two offhand sentences.

### **In Conclusion:**

A multi-faceted portrayal of autism in a coming-of-age story that's overstuffed with discussion.

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### **Evelina | AvalinahsBooks says**

You probably know that I choose YA books quite rarely. I mean, *the premise has to be pretty special* for me to do it.

*But this one just had it.*

*And I wasn't wrong.*

Read the full review with images and buy links here on my blog.

**How can I sum this book up?** It brought me all sorts of emotions from the very first page. Very readable, very relatable – even though you might not have quite the life the main character has.

**In short?** Chloe is quite a popular teen. You'd easily mix her up with those air-headed dolls who are most commonly popular, she even has the hot jock boyfriend to prove it. But it's not quite like that. Because although Chloe comes across as such, and maybe tries to pose as one, *she has a big soul*. It's mostly because she has a sister she's quite close to – Ivy. *And Ivy is on the autistic spectrum.* With a sister that's quite different from everyone else, Chloe has to be a special human being herself. Because first of all, it's not easy to be close to someone like that. Second, taking care of Ivy and *making her life better is no easy task and demands a lot of care and attention on Chloe's part.*

Noticing that Ivy's lonely, Chloe sets out on a quite crazy escapade – trying to set her up with one of her (also autistic) classmates. As she has to take and accompany Ivy on her dates, Chloe ends up being put together with Ethan's (the date's) brother, *who just so happens to be Chloe's most hated classmate.*

*All of this really does sound like a simple YA romance, doesn't it?*

*Except it's not.*

Let me bring out some of the points I loved best:

1. **Such great representation of autism.** I loved getting to know Ivy and Ethan. Having only had limited and quite negative contact in the past, I can't say I thought of autistic people too well. This book gave me a new perspective. Told me what it's all about. *Showed me that as strangers, we can only ever see the bad sides, because you pretty much have to be a VIP to see the good sides, they're not for everybody.* More than that – it helped me understand that autistic people are not oblivious (we tend to think that a lot, don't we?) They do know they're different. It hurts them if we don't treat them with respect – with respect to who they are –

different, but still human, still warm and loving, breathing and understanding.

2. ***The book is more diverse than it seems already!*** If I say anything more, I'll spoil. But let's just say you might be surprised. ***And again, tough situation – great representation.*** I was impressed.

3. ***The main running themes are friendship, sister/brotherhood, tough family situations, understanding different people.*** Those are all such very good themes.

4. ***So it's in-part about teen romance. But the romance is so totally backseat***, it won't bother you even if you're like me and tend to avoid reading about it.

***If you're still not convinced, have a quote:***

"You know, if we were pushing our siblings in wheelchairs, people would be nice to them and to us. They'd be like, *Oh, the poor handicapped people and their wonderful siblings! Let's hold doors for them!* But Ivy and Ethan... they basically look like everyone else, with just these tiny differences in how they behave and move. And that bugs people."

***To sum it up, I'm glad I picked up this YA book.*** This is the good kind (I have had my experiences with too many bad YA books in the past). Books like this *SHOULD* be read by teens, the more the better. Books like this educate them in a very accessible way.

I am very thankful to Claire LaZebnik and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for giving me a copy of this book prior to it being published (opinions are not influenced by this and are my own). This was a really great read and I truly recommend it.

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