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Invisible Emmie

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Invisible Emmie

Emmie is invisible. Her parents overlook her, she has only one friend, and her crush has no inkling that she exists. She’s encouraged to speak up for herself and reach out to others, but it’s easier to quietly draw. This book is her journal, fully illustrating the worst day of her life.

Katie’s life is the exact opposite of Emmie’s. Katie is the most popular girl in school, has more friends than her house can fit, and the cutest boy in school just asked her out! This might just be the best day of her life, until Emmie’s love note to Katie’s boyfriend falls in the school hallway. Now everyone knows who Emmie has a crush on, and Katie’s and Emmie’s lives converge, changing everything for the better.

Emmie embodies the struggles of anyone who feels unnoticed and unimportant, portrayed with humor throughout her drawings and comments. Katie is not intended to be an antagonist, surprisingly, and the connection between the two girls is important as Emmie is faced with standing up for herself with confidence. Emmie’s relationship with her best friend explores the complexities of friendship contrasted with loneliness, and is an important element to Emmie’s character development as she tries to defend against the horror of embarrassment. Vulnerability and confidence are big themes in this book, both being defined as sources of strength in Emmie’s life. Katie likewise represents kindness and allows Emmie to feel accepted as she makes friends for the first time in her life. The consistent humor throughout the narrative doesn’t detract from these themes, and instead amplifies the positive message of this book.