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Every Day #1: Every Day

Abigail Packard

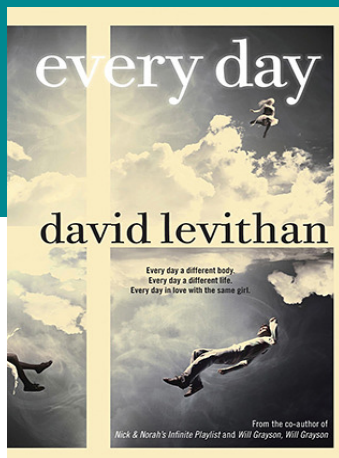
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Book Review

Every Day #1: Every Day

Author

David Levithan

Illustrator

Reviewer

Abby Packard

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

400

Year

2012

Publisher

Knopf Books for Young Readers

ISBN

9780307931894

A plays by the rules. Never get attached. Never interfere in the other person's life. Avoid standing out. With those rules in place, life goes as smoothly as it can go for a person that inhabits the bodies of different people every day. A has found a secret peace in this lifestyle, until A meets Rhiannon, the girlfriend of Justin whose body A inhabits one day. That one day with Rhiannon is enough to push A to do the unthinkable: return to Rhiannon the next day and the day after, each day as a different person, but still as A. When A confides in Rhiannon, she is not convinced, but as time progresses and she continues meeting A as a girl, a boy, another girl, but always A, Rhiannon is forced to confront the truth. Rhiannon and A realize that what they have may be beautiful but cannot last. In the face of impossibility, A inhabits a boy that is fun, kind, and genuinely good. A knows that this boy can be trusted with Rhiannon. A and Rhiannon have a beautiful final day together, and A leaves her with this boy.

Every Day is a fascinating read that brings up questions about what makes us who we are, how we fall in love, and what makes our lives important. The whole concept behind the novel is an intriguing magical realism that's never fully explained. However, A's situation is described in great detail, and readers will appreciate the attention that Levithan gives to the little things. The struggle of Rhiannon and A's situation is heartbreaking. But the ending, although unsatisfying in some respects, is fitting. It's an ending of sacrifice and hope, which is what love is all about. There are some sexual scenes between Rhiannon and A and there is a healthy, if a bit heavy, discussion about gender and sexual orientation. But overall, this is a story about hoping for something that may end up being hopeless, sacrificing for someone you love, and living in the moment by taking every day as it comes.

*Contains mild language and mild sexual content.