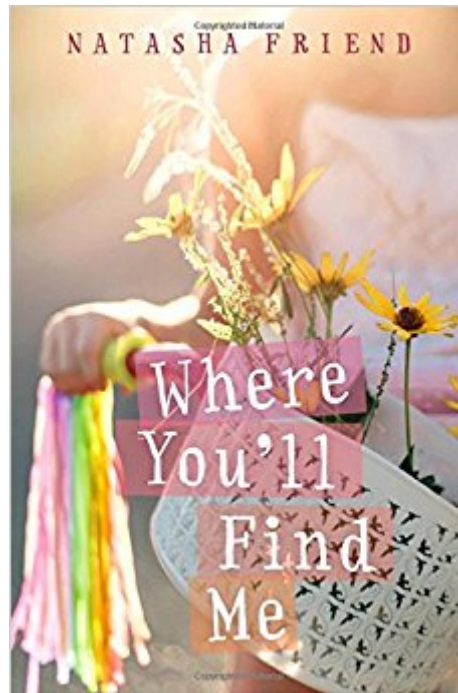




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Where You'll Find Me



Synopsis

"Natalya Friend, I loved your book. I was hooked from the first page." —Judy Blume
The first month of school, thirteen-year-old Anna Collette finds herself...DUMPED by her best friend Dani, who suddenly wants to spend eighth grade "hanging out with different people." DESERTED by her mom, who's in the hospital recovering from a suicide attempt. TRAPPED in a house with her dad, a new baby sister, and a stepmother young enough to wear her Delta Delta Delta sweatshirt with pride. STUCK at a lunch table with Shawna the Eyebrow Plucker and Sarabeth the Irish Stepper because she has no one else to sit with. But what if all isn't lost? What if Anna's mom didn't exactly mean to leave her? What if Anna's stepmother is cooler than she thought? What if the misfit lunch table isn't such a bad fit after all? With help from some unlikely sources, including a crazy girl-band talent show act, Anna just may find herself on the road to okay.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 520 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (March 8, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374302308

ISBN-13: 978-0374302306

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #413,611 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #215 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #247 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness #302 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

Customer Reviews

Gr 6 "Anna is reeling from the recent changes in her life. A year ago, her parents divorced; six months ago, her dad and stepmother had a baby; a few weeks ago, her BFF declared their friendship over; and three days ago, her mother tried to commit suicide. Everything in Anna's life feels wrong and awful—and on top of everything else, Anna feels she's let her mother down.

Friend's book deals with all the difficulties of middle school, newly blended families, and "authentically and without oversimplification" having a parent with mental illness. Anna's confusion about her mother, her mother's bipolar disorder, and their relationship are heartbreaking and honest, and her conflicts and conversations with her parents, teachers, and friends ring true. Friend avoids all the pitfalls of a run-of-the-mill "issue" novel to offer a nuanced look at a life that, despite unexpected turns and sometimes crippling feelings of fear and loss, can still be happy. VERDICT This well-written, expertly layered work is strongly recommended for YA collections. —Amy Koester, Learning Experiences Department, Skokie PL

"Natasha Friend, I loved your book. I was hooked from the first page." —Judy Blume "Anna's voice is extremely realistic and the attention to detail about her emotional distress surrounding her mother's suicide attempt makes this a must-read book for teens who are going through tough times and screaming their why me out into the void." —VOYA starred review "Friend avoids all the pitfalls of a run-of-the-mill issue novel to offer a nuanced look at a life that, despite unexpected turns and sometimes crippling feelings of fear and loss, can still be happy. VERDICT This well-written, expertly layered work is strongly recommended for YA collections." —SLJ starred review

When I hear that a book is about middle school and its hardships, I think that it's going to be cheesy and dumb. This, however, was much more deep and thoughtful and meaningful. The character Anna is so strong and has to deal with so much, but it is not all sad and dreary, relationships are created and everything is alright. This was one of my favorite books, and I can't wait to read more from Natasha Friend.

Ms. Friend has taken a brutal subject and infused it with humor, drama, and pathos. This is the best that education has to offer: learning about a difficult condition and wanting to read more.

Great

Thank you to Nori from ReadWriteLove28/the Sunday Street Team, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, NetGalley for providing me with an ARC for an honest review. I actually didn't realize that this was a middle grade novel when I started reading it, but hey, no one is ever too old to read anything. This story is cute, adorable and fantastic. Yes, I realize that two of those words are

basically the same but this novel is both. Anna is a young girl in high school who has a mom with bipolar two who tried to kill herself. As a result, she is sent to live with her father, stepmother, and their baby. She feels alone, especially since her best friend, Dani, decided to never talk to Anna again when she became popular. I know exactly how this feels and let me tell you: it absolutely sucks. Anna was very relatable. Even if readers have never been through some of the things that she is going through, they will still be able to find a way to relate to her. She is struggling to cope with everything that is going on. She is forced to be friends with the most unpopular girls at school. In the end it turns out that these girls aren't as bad as she thought. This novel is told with such honesty from Anna's point of view that it hurts my heart to think about how heart broken she is over her situation. Even though this novel started out with the tragedy of Anna's mom trying to kill herself, that wasn't the focus. The focus was Anna and the development of her character as she learns a lot about who she is and grows closer with the family she thought she hated. I won't say anything more because I hate spoiling things for people. Everyone should definitely check this novel out. Remember: you're never too old for middle grade novels.

I found this book by browsing the library shelves today and I couldn't be more pleased than with my discovery of this book (and author). 13-year-old Anna's mom tries to kill herself and she moves in with her dad, stepmom and half-sister, and, well, there's a lot to take in. Her best friend stops talking to her just because she's weird (I could so so relate to this), and she now sits with the "weird" girls table at lunch. What I loved about this book was how it looked honestly at Bipolar II disorder (which Anna's mom has), blended families, judging others, trichotillomania (which Anna's friend has, and they actually discuss! and don't just write it off), and how friendships can change. There's also no romance/crushing which was really refreshing. Anna's story was full enough. I adored this one - and the cover, too, even though it seems a little more happy than the book inside.

What can I say? I truly enjoyed this book. *Where You'll Find Me* follows Anna Collette who moves in with her Dad and his twenty three year old wife and newborn baby after her mother attempts to kill herself. Not only that Anna's best friend Dani dumps for the cool kids after hitting puberty over the summer. With no friends and no one to talk to Anna has no choice but to sit at the "loser" table with a bunch of weird girls. Anna struggles to be happy while constantly worrying over her mom. This book talks about mental disorders and coping with not only the disorder but with life changes. I have to say I loved every character in this book. I wanted Anna to go off on everyone and tell them all

how she really felt. No tried to help her or ask how she was doing or how she felt. I just wanted to hug her through the pages. I loved that she finds friendship with an unlikely bunch of girls with weird quirks, they were super cool by the way. Anna is a smart ass(all in her head of course) and funny as hell. The way this story progressed was so beautiful. It was so easy to read I could have read the whole book in a day. It was absolutely perfect. I'm sure many of us have been in Anna's shoes at one point in our lives.I truly adored this book. It gave me the feeling that there most definitely a light at the end of the tunnel. It had the best ending, more than I could have hoped for. I highly recommend this book.

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