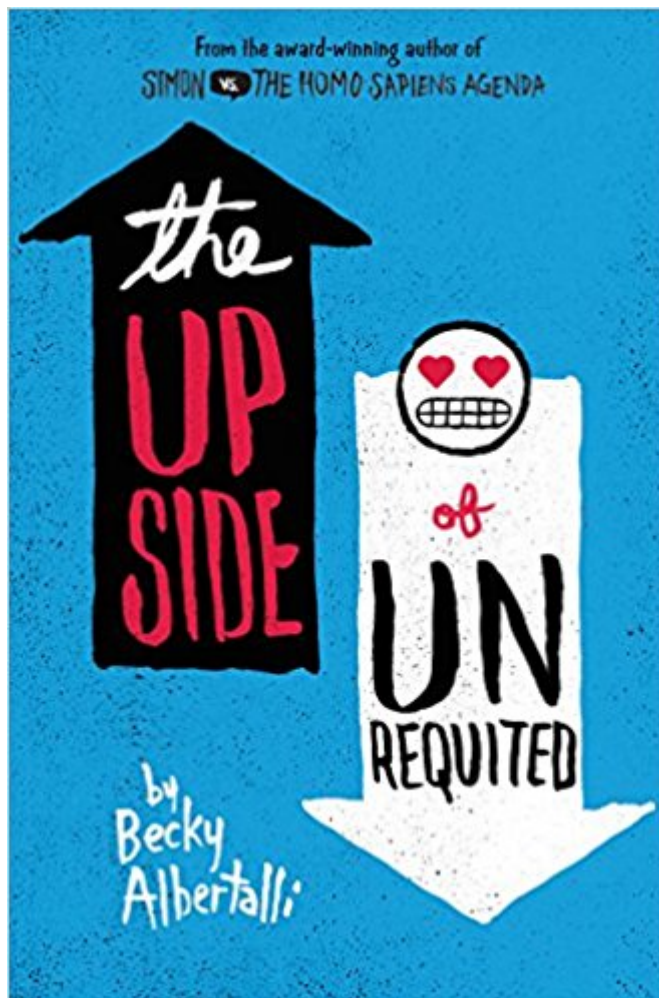


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The Upside Of Unrequited



Synopsis

"Heart-fluttering, honest, and hilarious. I can't stop hugging this book." • Stephanie Perkins, New York Times bestselling author of *Anna and the French Kiss* "I have such a crush on this book! Not only is this one a must read, but it's a must re-read." • Julie Murphy, New York Times bestselling author of *Dumplin'* From the award-winning author of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* comes a funny, authentic novel about sisterhood, love, and identity. Seventeen-year-old Molly Peskin-Suso knows all about unrequited love. No matter how many times her twin sister, Cassie, tells her to woman up, Molly can't stomach the idea of rejection. So she's careful. Fat girls always have to be careful. Then a cute new girl enters Cassie's orbit, and for the first time ever, Molly's cynical twin is a lovesick mess. Meanwhile, Molly's totally not dying of loneliness except for the part where she is. Luckily, Cassie's new girlfriend comes with a cute hipster-boy sidekick. If Molly can win him over, she'll get her first kiss and she'll get her twin back. There's only one problem: Molly's coworker, Reid. He's a chubby Tolkien superfan with a season pass to the Ren Faire, and there's absolutely no way Molly could fall for him. Right?

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray (April 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062348701

ISBN-13: 978-0062348708

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Teens > Romance > LGBT #25 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Gay & Lesbian #125 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

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If you're in the mood for a snappy romance to vicariously bathe you in the pain

and elation of first love, Becky Albertalli's *The Upside of Unrequited* provides. (NPR.org) "While first kisses, first loves, and even first sexual experiences have all been dealt with in some form or another, she tackles these big milestones head-on and with aplomb. (Entertainment Weekly) "Readers will fall in love with this fresh, honest, inclusive look at dating, families, and friendship. A top purchase for all YA collections. (SLJ (starred review)) "In her second, relationship-rich novel, Albertalli's take on the agonies and ecstasies of adolescent love are spot-on. (ALA Booklist) "Heart-fluttering, honest, and hilarious. I can't stop hugging this book. (Stephanie Perkins, New York Times bestselling author of *ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS*) "I have such a crush on this book! Not only is this one a must read, but it's a must re-read. (Julie Murphy, New York Times bestselling author of *DUMPLIN'*) A funny, relatable novel that's filled with well-rounded, diverse characters. Best Books of the Month (Brightly.com)

Becky Albertalli is the author of the acclaimed novels *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, *The Upside of Unrequited*, and *Leah on the Offbeat*. A former clinical psychologist who specialized in working with children and teens, Becky lives with her family in Atlanta. You can visit her online at www.beckyalbertalli.com.

Initial thoughts: Quirky, witty and adorable. Becky Albertalli made me nostalgic for first loves and growing up. While I didn't love it quite as much as *Simon*, I still absolutely recommend this touching YA coming of age story. As the synopsis states, Molly Peskin-Suso is familiar with unrequited love (or crushes, really- but aren't all teenagers overly dramatic?). She has had many, many crushes and has never really acted on them. She is awkward, unsure about herself and often feels like she is comparing herself to her more confident twin sister, Cassie. When Cassie gets a hip, cute girlfriend Molly feels like she is being left even further behind. "I don't entirely understand how anyone gets a boyfriend. Or a girlfriend. It just seems like the most impossible odds. You have to have a crush on the exact right person at the exact right moment. And they have to like you back. A perfect alignment of feelings and circumstances. It's almost unfathomable that it happens as often as it does. Honestly, for the first 40% or so of this book, I was a bit skeptical. I wasn't in love with Molly. I can't exactly say why- she just annoyed and frustrated me more than I usually want in a main character. But then I realized that

maybe that was part of the book. Molly is a seventeen-year-old teenager. She's emotional, insecure, growing up and her relationship with her twin sister is rapidly changing. Everything is a big deal. And you know what? It is a big deal. Change is scary and unknown and Albertalli handles it beautifully. This book is obviously about more than unrequited love, it's about growing up and self-acceptance and I really appreciated the message. There were aspects of Molly's character that I absolutely related to. The carefulness, uncertainty and anxiety. I love how Molly constantly had these internal conversations with herself, always thinking about the worst possible outcome. So, if this is a story about self-love and acceptance, why is the ending so neatly packaged with a nice love story? At first I didn't want it to end with a cutesy relationship but after thinking about it, I was happy with it. Why? Because first crushes, first kisses and first loves are such an influential part of growing up. The first time I fell in love and subsequently had my heart broken I learned so much about myself and I learned to love and feel confident in myself. Seeing Molly experience that with Reid for the first time made me so happy and I was smiling throughout all of their interactions. They were so cute! Another aspect of this story I really enjoyed is that it took place in Simon-verse. Molly is Abby Suso's cousin from Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda. I was so happy to see that Simon is alive and well in this book! Even though it's a brief cameo, I love when authors have overlap between their characters. It makes it all seem more real (Colleen Hoover and Kasie West do it as well!) This book, which I'm sure you have seen through all of the reviews, is wonderfully inclusive. It includes so many characters of different races, cultures and sexual orientations. I will admit, sometimes the diversity aspect felt a bit forced (a bit like a laundry list of everything needed in a diverse book) but in the end, I'm not complaining because we need more books like this in the YA community. This was another great book by Becky Albertalli! She is a talented author with a very relatable writing style. She does a wonderful job of capturing those very real feelings growing up- the first loves but also the many awkward moments and insecurity. I hope you all get a chance to read this book soon!

It was inevitable that I would enjoy this book having loved Simon, Becky's debut novel and this book did a fantastic job at satisfying my book-lover needs. Molly Peskin-Suso has had twenty-six crushes but has never been kissed. This has come easily for her twin sister, Cassie who has had girlfriends like it was not a problem. Molly learns about growing apart from her sister and finding herself. Everything changes this summer for Molly when she starts working at Bissel, a shop in town and meets a nerdy boy, Reid. You might find your next OTP! Reid and Molly quickly became my new

OTP. I was their biggest cheerleader, they had me laughing out loud! Reid is a funny guy who is obsessed with Game of Thrones and Cadbury Mini Eggs (same to the mini eggs). Reid has a great sense of humor and so much sarcasm. Their story is so cute and pure and realistic. Molly and Reid are both characters with underrepresented body types, they compliment each other and have an adorable romance. Their romance shows that two people despite body shape can be together. This book has so much diversity within the character's (race, sexual orientation, religion, mental health and size). Molly and Cassie are sperm-donor children and have two mothers, Patty and Nadine; they're laid-back and very supportive. Their family is Jewish and interracial, we see Jewish traditions implemented or just talk of Jewish culture (Reid is Jewish too ;). Mina, Cassie's girlfriend is a pansexual Korean American and we see some of her culture as well. This is such a great coming of age novel about a seventeen year-old girl wishing for her first kiss. Molly's story is so real, sweet and raw. I definitely related to Molly in many ways. She has a hard time interacting, she's shy and experiences anxiety. She feels like the friend that isn't being looked at. But, she also is a Pinterest queen and I envy her. I made some edible cookie dough that she made and it was delicious. If you liked Simon, you are going to love this novel especially because we get to see more of Abby, who is Molly's cousin. As well as glimpses of Simon and Nick. Disclaimer: This book is like Mini Eggs, you're sad when they are all gone. Truly, I didn't want it to end.

THE UPSIDE OF UNREQUITED is an uplifting YA novel that made me smile while I was reading it. I can't believe it took me this long to read it, but I'm glad I finally did. It's wonderfully diverse and a true feel-good gem. I really related to Molly. When I was a pre-teen and teen, I was always falling in and out of crushes. I wanted a boyfriend. I was concerned about my body since I've always been overweight and thought I was nothing special. Hearing Molly's voice echoing my childhood made me tear up a few times. Aside from that, she's also loving and has a dry sense of humor. Okay, so she's pretty much me in a nutshell. The book doesn't really have a concrete plot, but is tied together with the marriage of her moms. Molly lives with her twin sister Cassie, baby brother Xavier, and their moms in Maryland, and on the day same sex marriage becomes legal, wedding plans are in order. The family dynamic is supportive yet brutally honest. I loved them all, even Molly's grandmother, who has her own issues but remains a steadfast matron in their family. I liked Molly and Cassie's relationship. They're there for each other, but when Cassie falls hard for a girl she met and starts to spend all her time with Mina, Molly feels left out. Add to that the strong push for Molly and one of Mina's friends to get together, topped with Molly's blossoming friendship with her new co-worker Reid, and things get complicated. Cassie can be mean, but Molly's not a saint either. In the end,

their bond is rock solid. I love these sisters. And Reid...what a dreamboat of nerd and a boy staying true to himself. I want more well-written romantic leads like Reid. This is a definite favorite of the year and should be read by many people.

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