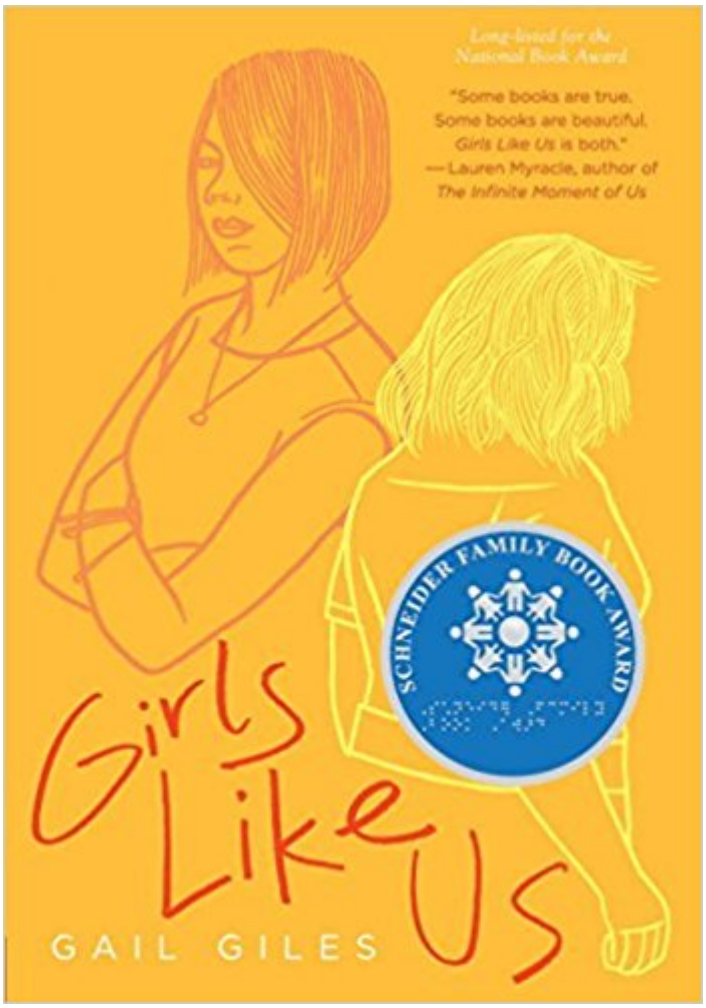
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Girls Like Us



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Synopsis

A 2015 Schneider Family Book Award WinnerWith gentle humor and unflinching realism, Gail Giles tells the gritty, ultimately hopeful story of two special ed teenagers entering the adult world. We understand stuff. We just learn it slow. And most of what we understand is that people what ainÃ¢â ¬â„¢t Speddies think we too stupid to get out our own way. And that makes me mad. Quincy and Biddy are both graduates of their high schoolÃ¢â ¬â„¢s special ed program, but they couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t be more different: suspicious Quincy faces the world with her fists up, while gentle Biddy is frightened to step outside her front door. When theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re thrown together as roommates in their first "real world" apartment, it initially seems to be an uneasy fit. But as BiddyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s past resurfaces and Quincy faces a harrowing experience that no one should have to go through alone, the two of them realize that they might have more in common than they thought Ã¢â ¬â • and more important, that they might be able to help each other move forward.Hard-hitting and compassionate, Girls Like Us is a story about growing up in a world that can be cruel, and finding the strength Ã¢â ¬â • and the support Ã¢â ¬â • to carry on.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Quincy and Biddie are "speddies" (special education students). They have just graduated high school and must live out in the world on their own. After being matched together by their teacher, they are given adult responsibilities: Quincy works at a supermarket while Biddie cooks and cleans for the older woman who is boarding them. The teens must learn how to fend for

themselves in a world that is unfamiliar. They have both experienced physical, mental, and sexual violence, and must rely on each other to come out stronger than they were before. Girls Like Us is filled with genuine relationships that develop over time and feel authentic. There is humor and heart throughout, making the severity of the protagonists' situations more accessible to readers. A story line about Biddie's obsession with a family of ducks in their backyard is particularly poignant. The one- or two-page chapters alternate between Quincy and Biddie and are told in voices that are genuine to their experiences but never sensationalized. The frank discussions and depictions of the violence committed against them are shocking but never vulgar. Giles has constructed a unique, hard-hitting yet refreshing story with well-developed characters free from expected clichÃƒÂ©s or caricatures. A powerful novel that teens will enjoy wholeheartedly.Ã¢â ¬â •Christopher Lassen, Brooklyn Public Library --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Starred Review In compelling, engaging, and raw voices, 18-year-olds Biddy and Quincy, newly independent, intellectually disabled high-school graduates, narrate their growing friendship and uneasy transition into a life of jobs, real world apartments, and facing cruel prejudice. Obese and illiterate Biddy has more emotional intelligence than Quincy, whose normal brain development was shattered when her motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s boyfriend hit her with a brick when she was six. BiddyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s limited cognitive capacities spring from oxygen deprivation during birth as well as lifelong deprivation of nurturing. Paired by a social service program, the girls are made roommates in a live-work placement where they share a small apartment at the home of a wealthy, sensitive, and supportive widow, Elizabeth. Biddy cleans and provides physical assistance for Elizabeth, while Quincy, who loves cooking, works at a market. Biddy and Quincy share deep secrets and narrate lives heartrendingly full of anger, abandonment, and abuse, including explicit, realistic descriptions of two rapes. But with the help of patient Elizabeth and the support they gain from each other, they are empowered to move forward with strength and independence. Giles (Dark Song, 2010) offers a sensitive and affecting story of two young women learning to thrive in spite of their hard circumstances. Grades 8-12. --Francisca Goldsmith --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

What an amazing book. I was required to read this for a college class, do an analysis and a whole bunch of other things. Normally, this ruins a book for me, but not this one. I read this about three times after I was done. I did find it slightly difficult to read the book, as the girls use a dialect I am not used to reading, but by my second read-through, it was much easier.Reader beware-There are situations that happen to the girls that may trigger the reader.

The story is simple but ok.

Refreshing protagonists in a heart-breaking, while redemptive, narrative.

Good quick short read

My mom loved it! She says it is a great!

LOVED IT LOVED IT LOVED IT

Great read

4.5 ofBiddy and Quincy, special education girls (Speddies) have graduated. They are placed as roommates in an apartment at an older woman, Lizbeth’s house. Quincy, who brain damaged and disfigured when her mother’s boyfriend hit her with a brick, has a job in a restaurant while Biddy, who is intellectually disabled, cleans and helps Lizbeth with rehab exercises. Both young women have to adjust to being roommates, being adults with jobs and responsibilities, and sadly, with people treating them kindly for the first times in their lives. Slowly they learn to trust each other and Lizbeth and the three might just become their own family.Gale Giles has masterfully woven together the voices of Biddy and Quincy, each different and unique with their own idiosyncrasies. The voices are strong, even when the young women feel weak. The short chapters, alternating between the two young women are fast paced although GIRLS LIKE US is primarily a character study, I wanted to keep reading to find out what happened next. Giles avoided the trap of creating stereotypical characters with all three women. Each was, at times unlikable, at times heartbreaking, and quite often admirable.Whether you’re an adult or teen, GIRLS LIKE US is a must read. In fact, don’t miss any of of Gale Giles books.

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