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Ever since her mom died three years ago, Analee Echevarria has had trouble saying out loud the weird thoughts that sit in her head. With a best friend who hates her and a dad who's marrying a yogi she can't stand, Analee spends most of her time avoiding reality and role-playing as Kiri, the night elf hunter at the center of her favorite online game.

Through Kiri, Analee is able to express everything real-life Analee cannot: her bravery, her strength, her inner warrior. The one thing both Kiri and Analee can't do, though, is work up the nerve to confess her romantic feelings for Kiri's partner-in-crime, Xolkar—aka a teen boy named Harris whom Analee has never actually met in person.

So when high school heartthrob Seb Matias asks Analee to pose as his girlfriend in an attempt to make his ex jealous, Analee agrees. Sure, Seb seems kind of obnoxious, but Analee could use some practice connecting with people in real life. In fact, it'd maybe even help her with Harris.

But the more Seb tries to coax Analee out of her comfort zone, the more she starts to wonder if her anxious, invisible self is even ready for the real world. Can Analee figure it all out without losing herself in the process?

Analee, In Real Life Details

Date : Published September 18th 2018 by Simon Pulse

ISBN : 9781534410299

Author : Janelle Milanes

Format : Hardcover 416 pages

Genre : Contemporary, Young Adult, Romance, Realistic Fiction

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From Reader Review Analee, In Real Life for online ebook

Cait says

This was fine, but I wanted way more Harris, and the ending felt SO weird. Really good (step)family stuff here though (from someone with no step-family)

Teresa says

This book made me cry...it snuck up on me and before I knew it I was full out crying. Analee...where do I begin?! Analee keeps to herself; she lost her best friend when her mother died and now she seems to be angry at everything. Angry at her father for not talking about her mother (and for marrying a woman much younger than him that is different from her mom in everyway). The only time Analee isn't mad is when she is playing online with her best friend, and the boy she is in love with, Harris...but Harris and Analee have never met in real life; in fact they live on opposite ends of the country. Analee is too scared to admit to Harris how she feels; enter Sebastian, the popular, handsome soccer star...who is grieving a breakup of his own. When the two of them are thrown together in school they form a crazy plan to make their respective crushes jealous by fake dating. As we all know that never seems to work out how everyone wants it to and pretty soon Analee and Seb will be questioning how they really feel about one other.

What I loved about this book was Analee chose herself...she f@cking chose herself over Seb at the end...he did some pretty messed up stuff, he admitted he acted wrong but Analee was like, no way...I am choosing myself...you can't take away my choice even if you are something I want and maybe even love.

Janeel Milanes has a new fan for life...I loved this book!!

Thanks to Simon & Schuster for the ARC!

Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

“There are no rules for happiness. You'll be happy, then you'll be sad, then you'll be happy again. Enjoy the happiness when you have it. When you don't have it, remember: It will come again. You just have to be open to it.”

Analee, In Real Life is a feel-good story about family, finding your confidence, and growing up. Analee Echevarria is most comfortable in an online world as the fierce Kiri in an online game and is secretly crushing on her long distance best friend, Harris. When she's paired with popular jock Seb in biology, he suggests they pretend to date to make others jealous. And so many fantastically tropey things follow that I was just sucked in!

The chapters were so quick, I was pulled into the story and I flew through it. It was so easy to read and there were so many fantastic tropes that I eat up. It was like this book was a compilation of cliches and plot points designed to make me happy. **Analee and Harris' banter** and generally interactions were so great and made me love their relationship. And seeing the buildup for the friends-to-lovers potential was great. And the **fake dating** between Seb and Analee - I mean what's not to love. Seb and Analee had so many cute moments from encouraging each other to cute faux dates. I just liked them a lot. And I really appreciated seeing **Analee and Harlow's relationship develop** through the story. Harlow started as just Analee's stepmom, but we really get to know her as a person and see their relationship grow. And I really liked seeing Analee's

Cuban culture highlighted and how important it was to her and her mom's memory.

While I liked so many parts of this story, some things just didn't work for me. I thought that all of the **romantic moments** that happen after about the halfway point felt really unsatisfying after the buildup of both relationships. And that was disappointing to me because I was invested in both of them for different reasons. I don't mind that romance wasn't the focus of the story, but the resolutions felt unfinished. I also thought that the resolution to **Analee's Dad and Harlow's fight** was so distractingly stupid. It was just out of left field weird and made no sense.

Analee, In Real Life was an entertaining read that's perfect to read when you just want to relax and enjoy reading. And even though there's a lot of things to love, the story doesn't lack in heart or well developed relationships, particularly with Analee and her father. Like *The Victoria in my Head*, **Analee, In Real Life** showcases relatable characters growing into themselves and learning to love and accept who they are.

I received a copy of the book from Simon Pulse via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah says

I adored this YA read about Analee finding her way from a place of pain and anxiety over her world to a place where she could be herself and not hide away. After the death of her mother, and being ditched by her bestie, Analee is spending her time playing online games. She has an online bestie she thinks she may be in love with, but they haven't met IRL. At school, Analee tries to hid herself but when Seb, the handsome soccer star, and she are put together as partners, she finds herself starting to come out of her comfort zone. When Seb suggests they pretend to be boyfriend/girlfriend, the real changes in Analee begin. I loved the way this story dealt with the concept of family as her father is about to remarry and she is gaining both a step mother and sister. I felt like that part of the story was done very well. I also enjoyed the way that Seb challenged her and their dynamic. Overall I know that my students will enjoy this book and I really will keep my eye out for more by this author! Thank you netgalley for this arc in exchange for my honest opinion.

Joelle says

I can honestly say that this is the first book in a long time I've felt completely compelled to review. I'm not sure I've ever read a book where I saw as much of myself in a character as Analee. I'm in my late 20's now, but reading this book brought back all my feelings of insecurity, all of the social anxiety I've struggled with, that I still face very often. I think this is a story that speaks to a lot of people, teenagers and readers of any age.

There are so many things I love about this book. I love the family dynamics and how Analee works through her emotions on her mother's death. I love that nearly every character is more than just a stereotype. I love that though this book has so many of the makings of a typical romance (fake relationship! Potential love triangle! The loner and the most popular boy in school!), it also makes you contemplate friendship, family, and so much more. The story is entertaining, thought-provoking, heart-wrenching, funny, and satisfying, sometimes all at once.

This book also has an interesting approach to romance and sex. It doesn't shy away from sexual references, but at the same time also makes it clear that in spite of hormones, not every teenager is ready for sex. The book feels inclusive and shows multiple perspectives on sex, from both teenagers and adults. Analee's

thoughts on physical intimacy feel completely genuine to her character.

I'm not going to say too much in order to avoid spoilers, but I absolutely love the way this book ended. It's something that I so, so wish my teenage self could have read, something that I did not see enough of as a teenager (and don't see enough of now, for that matter).

I definitely would recommend you pick up this book and give it a chance, especially if you like stories of growth, imperfect characters, and unique personalities. It's something I would hand to my 14 year old sister in a heartbeat (and probably will).

Hannah says

4.5 stars

I picked this up thinking it was going to be in the same vein as Francesca Zappia's *Eliza and Her Monsters*, but surprisingly it is not; a good surprise. While it does deal with an mc who struggles with social anxiety and plays MMORPS, it focuses more about self-love, family, and friendships.

I would recommend this for people who enjoyed Holly Bourne's *It Only Happens in the Movies*.

Allie (alliembooks) says

I actually read this book in one sitting. I mean, I did read the first 20 pages a few days ago, but then last night I just decided that I was going to finish the book right then and there. So I did. And it was probably one of the best decisions ever!

I really love Analee, In Real Life and I can't believe that more people aren't excited about it. If you like *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* and *Eliza And Her Monsters*, then you'll love this book. This has the fake dating trope and it does it SO WELL, and also Analee is really into a role playing video game and has someone she's crushing on from there.

Basically, Analee's gone through some rough times. Her mother passed away from cancer a little over a year prior, and not long after that she and her best friend stopped talking to each other. Not only that, but now her father is seeing this new woman and they're engaged to be married. Now Analee has a new potential step-mom and a step-sister. If that's not enough, she's crushing hard on a boy she's never met who plays an online video game with her. After inadvertently becoming a confidant to one of the most popular boys in school, they strike up a fake relationship to make his ex-girlfriend jealous and to hopefully get closer to her ex-best friend.

This book was SO MUCH FUN to read in one sitting. I'm not really that kind of a reader anymore, but this book was perfect for it and I really feel like I enjoyed it even more this way. I never wanted to put the book down and I'm even really desperate for a sequel. I don't normally like the idea of sequels to contemporary books, but I would love to know what happens after the ending.

Speaking of the ending, that ending has me so conflicted. I really love the way it ended because it showed a lot of growth in Analee's character and I'm so glad she didn't settle for anything, but it's also so frustrating because things I wanted to happen didn't happen. It kind of reminds me of how *To All The Boys I've Loved*

Before ends, so I'm hoping that maybe possibly there could be a sequel in the future... Who knows?

I really loved all of the characters. I felt like I could really relate to Analee and how anxious she was in social situations and how passionate she was about the hobbies she loved. I also really loved her step-mom and her step-sister even if they were annoying at times and got on Analee's nerves. They also had a lot of character growth. I feel like this book is the book of character development and growth. No one is the same as they were in the beginning of the novel, which is really refreshing.

Also I surprisingly loved both love interests. I loved Seb and how he was able to get Analee out of her shell even though they fought and disagreed a lot. I felt like their relationship was really realistic without being toxic, which was nice. And I also really loved Harris because of how much he understood Analee and was really respectful of what she wanted. These boys are so sweet and I love them both!

There are so many things I loved about this book. It was perfect to read while listening to Lauren Aquilina, all of the characters were so fantastically done, fake dating trope, really cute dynamics in the fake relationship aksdjhkfdsf IT'S JUST SO CUTE I LOVE IT!!! Please read this book!!

Kelsey Rodkey says

I absolutely loved Analee, In Real Life. It was just what I needed when I read it. Analee's narrative voice was charming and engaging. Her family had nuanced, complex, and entertaining dynamics and the Cuban culture that came into play was also really fun to read. In addition, the cast was, like, 99% non-white, which I loved and want to see more of in YA. The relationships in this book were tense and the emotions, visceral. I related to and empathized for Analee so much. There were also so many tropes I loved: fake boyfriend, internet crush, etc. In time, I even grew to appreciate the bittersweet ending that, at first, left me screaming, NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

So, in conclusion, take a chance on Analee.

Stacee says

I really liked the premise of this, especially with the aspect of online personalities.

I liked Analee. She's loving and loyal and a lot stronger than she thinks she is. I did struggle with her in the beginning, but she had a lot of growth through the story and I quickly found myself rooting for her. There are several other characters, but I loved Elliott the most and could have had a million more pages with him.

Plot wise, it was a bit longer than felt necessary and some of the scenes seemed repetitive. And while I hate open ended endings, I found this one to be fairly satisfying. It was hopeful and maybe a little heartbreaking and really worked for the story.

Overall, it was great story about finding yourself in the face of loss and new beginnings and grabbing some happiness.

Huge thanks to Simon Pulse for providing the arc free of charge

Lisa says

I loved it all - the complications of blended families, the loss of a loved one, the acceptance of yourself as you are.

Another great YA contemporary I highly recommend!

Rachel Strolle says

I loved a lot of things about this but ESPECIALLY the end ♥️?. Perfect for TATBILB fans

Samantha (WLABB) says

As a fan of **The Victoria in My Head**, I was looking forward to Milanese follow up.

Analee, in Real Life explored some of my favorite things - friendship, family, and grief. It even featured some romance, but this was solidly a book about Analee working through her feelings and finding herself.

As anyone would, Analee took her mother's death quite badly. She cocooned herself in grief, sort of holding most people at arm's length. The only place she found some comfort was when playing her MMORPG. There, she had a friend she could confide in, and was a fierce warrior. In real life, Analee was crippled by her low self-esteem, grieving lost her best friend, mourning the emotional loss of her father, and struggling to accept her new blended family.

I always adore a good fake-dating "showmance", but it was more interesting the way this one was used in the book. It wasn't really about the romance, but rather a catalyst to push Analee in the direction of change. Being with Seb opened her eyes to many things she just wasn't seeing. I enjoyed the friendship and the romance that bloomed between them, but I really appreciated the way his friendship put her on her journey back from grief. It was a long journey, but Analee gained perspective on her friendships, Avery, Harlow, her mom, her dad, and most importantly, herself.

This book was also a lot of fun. The banter between Harrison and Analee, her outings with Seb, and many Harlow's daily doings made me smile. However, I will not lie, that I was sort of sad with the way a few things went down there towards the end. It's not that I don't think Milanese made a big statement for Analee by making those choices. I just would have liked it better if we could have gotten a similar result in a different way.

Overall: I enjoyed this story, which was heartbreaking at times, but also very heartwarming.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Demi says

If I could give this book 100 stars, I would. ?

Catfairy Books says

Catfairy's "Real" Bookish Babbles

Analee, in Real Life sneaked up on me unexpectedly and I am so happy it did! The year 2018 was the year where so many amazing diverse books were being published and *Analee, in Real Life* came at a perfect time since it was published during Latinx month in September!

Janelle Milanes's book was the best-underrated book that I have read in 2018 because it is written by an own voices Cuban American author and the MC *Analee* is Cuban American! This book took me back to a time when I was a shy emo teenager writing unrequited love to one of the popular jocks in school. I can identify with *Analee* so hard because as a Cuban American I love that this story is not really about a girl who is Cuban, it's just about a girl who is just trying to exist in the media-saturated world we live in.

Catnopsis

Analee Echeverria is a girl who juggles between two identities. She is an awkward and shy girl at school that prefers to be invisible and she is the kickass online avatar elf hunter named Kiri of her favorite online game. *Analee* lost her mother three years ago and she struggles with finding her own voice. She wants to be more like the online character of Kiri who always takes action but she keeps holding herself back until she finally decides to stop hiding behind her computer and face the real world.

The character is going through many changes in her life and she prefers to escape reality more than deal with it head-on. Her dad is going to marry a yogi lifestyle YouTuber named Harlow and her best friend won't speak to her anymore. She finds comfort in her friend Harris who is her online gamer buddy who she has never met and to make things more complicated she has love feelings for him. *Analee's* world begins to change when she gets an offer to pretend to be the girlfriend of the most popular jock in school. She finds herself in the process and realizes that she may be more like Kiri the elf hunter than she thinks...

Catfairy's Glittery Introspections

I love how this book didn't end the way I expected it to. *Analee, in Real Life*, is kind of similar in the vein of the *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* series but with a twist. This is a story about a girl who finds herself and gets the people she loves back in her life. *Analee* finally finds the strength that is inside of her and realizes that life is best lived outside of her online gaming world. Milanes' book gets 4.5 stars for me because I felt that the relationship between Harris and *Analee* was unnecessary and I just wasn't invested enough in that part of the story. Although, I totally ship the relationship that evolved between *Analee* and Sebastian even though I have very conflicted feelings about the Sebastian character! There were some choices that Sebastian made in the story that really aggravated me but then again he is a high school jock! I can't expect perfection from Sebastian!

Janelle Milanes wrote the kind of book that was extremely special because it is a book about a Cuban character who simply existed as a Cuban character. This book had all the dynamics about how it is like to grow up in a Cuban family but the book wasn't really about that. I love that this book just simply has Cuban

characters and that it doesn't just center the writing on their own culture. Books that are diverse are not solely relegated to just hone in on the character's cultural background, it can just be about the character's journey whether it be fighting warlocks or crushing on popular boys.

If you would like to read more of this book review to see my book mixtape, my pop cultural references, my gifs, and more go to www.catfairybooks.com/analee-real-lif...!

Nicole says

Copy received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I was disappointed by this book for several reasons, the first and most obvious being that the love interest was completely unlikable. It's obvious that the popular guy is using Analee for his own personal gain; this fact is even stated in the beginning of the story. It made me wonder what the point of the book was if you know that he and the protagonist aren't going to end up together. There's no chemistry between them, though this is supposed to be the case. The fact that it's inevitable that the relationship isn't going to work out made me mad.

Also, the first "real" love interest of Analee-- her online MMO partner Harris-- doesn't even show up at the end of the book. He has no role at the end, even though Analee states many times at the beginning that she is in love with him. Harris is suddenly irrelevant after he travels to meet Analee in person; she suddenly stops liking Harris because she likes Seb, but it doesn't even work out at then end. I feel like this book implies that it's a romance, but then there's no endgame couple. I would have also liked more parts that involved Analee playing her game, because it's only at the beginning and then it completely disappears.

Overall I was disappointed with this book. It was a waste of my time because I couldn't root for either love interest; one because he didn't even like Analee, and the other because he has almost no important parts in the story. If you're going to write a romance novel, at least make one of the boys likable.
