



## My Life in Pink & Green

*Lisa Greenwald*

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## **My Life in Pink & Green** Lisa Greenwald

Twelve-year-old Lucy Desberg is a natural problem solver. After the local homecoming queen shows up at her family's struggling drugstore with a beauty disaster that Lucy helps to fix, Lucy has a long line of makeover customers for every school dance and bat mitzvah. But all the makeup tips in the world won't help save the pharmacy. If only she could find a way to make the pharmacy the center of town again, a place where people want to spend time, like in the old days. Lucy dreams up a solution that could resuscitate the family business and help the environment, too. But will Lucy's family stop fighting long enough to listen to a seventh-grader?

This book is a funny and sweet debut featuring an unforgettable narrator who knows what she wants, whether it's great makeup, a killer business plan, or a better world.

## **My Life in Pink & Green Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2009 by Harry N. Abrams

ISBN : 9780810983526

Author : Lisa Greenwald

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Realistic Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary, Family, Teen

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## From Reader Review My Life in Pink & Green for online ebook

### Trisha says

Cute and light, but I am definitely not the target audience.

There are a few books that I think stand up well over time. I don't know that this is one. She's 12 but she doesn't talk or act like any 12 year old I know (and I know a few. A whole troop of 12 year olds!) I'm glad she was so invested in her family's business but I couldn't help but think this fell into the typical absentee parents that so many young adult books fall into. Her mom was pretty outrageous and she seemed almost "anti" being a mom.

And the grandma was even worse. The both seemed to know very little about Lucy or anything she was going through. Sure, they had a failing business and the loss of the house on their hands, but they also weren't doing anything to change it.

There was little to no mention of technology (almost every 12 year old I know at least has a phone, most iphones!), internet or any type of advertising that way. Cute but dated. And not really my cup of tea.

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### Brennan H says

I have just finished reading My Life in Pink and Green by Lisa Greenwald. Lucy Desberg, her mother, and grandmother work at a family pharmacy. Lucy has been there as long as she can remember and has had nothing but good times. When suddenly, she revealed a secret, the pharmacy can't afford to pay all the bills. Unless they get some serious cash, it might close! It just so happens on High School, Homecoming night, that Courtney Adner, Homecoming Queen for two years in a row, comes in with (A very wonderful) hair disaster! When Lucy gives her tips on her hair, and helps her with it, word gets out, and now Lucy can't do anything BUT makeovers. Now if only word could get out to her family that she's not just a 12 year old...

I think the author does a very good job on the story. Lucy seems like a wonderful girl and has lots of thoughts, feelings and character. She is really stubborn, but that can be a good thing when your family business is about to close. Though I like Lucy, my favorite character is her best friend, Sunny. Sunny is really sweet and would do anything for Lucy. (Lucy would also do anything for Sunny) Sunny and Lucy's relationship reminds me of my friends and I's relationship. We are over at each other's house all the time, and we would do anything for each other. Overall, I rate this book 5 stars. \*\*\*\*\*

It can really relate to a lot of people and it is kind of addicting. I highly recommend this book for Dylan

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### Ellie says

My Life in Pink and Green is an immediately endearing story. The Old Mill Pharmacy, the business that Lucy's family revolves around, is in danger of going out of business, and Lucy will stop at nothing to save it. Lucy is strong, smart, and resourceful, and her spunk and green solutions will appeal to readers young and old.

The Old Mill Pharmacy sounds like the perfect place to hang out, and Lucy is determined to revive the aging

establishment's popularity in her town before it's too late. While her activist mother is busy trying to save the world and her more down to earth grandmother is trying to get Mom to see reason, Lucy uses her skills, friendships, and initially reluctant membership in the Earth Club to fight for the pharmacy she loves.

The relationships depicted by Greenwald are strong and believable; Lucy's mother and grandmother are loving but somewhat condescending towards Lucy's attempts at business innovation, while Lucy's best friend and older sister are helpful comrades in her plans.

The novel manages to entertainingly combine makeup, environmentalism, and first crushes to tell the sweet story of Lucy, her friends, and her family. This one's definitely a younger read, but was endlessly cute and enjoyable.

Originally posted at: [noraatnow.blogspot.com](http://noraatnow.blogspot.com)

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### **Oumie says**

I think the book is excellent. It all about Lucy and her mothers Pharmacy. Her mothers Pharmacy don't have a lot of clients. So Lucy got a great idea, which was to add change the pharmacy into an eco-spa

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### **Linnea says**

genre: realistic fiction

summary: Lucy's family has been running the town pharmacy for as long as she can remember. Now it is in danger of going under. When one of the popular high school girls comes into the store with a "hair crisis". Lucy steps in to help out (with suggestions for beauty fixes she learned from her older sister Claudia). This impromptu makeover leads to Lucy's spa business something she thinks will save the store. Especially if they can become an earth friendly eco-spa. She and her sister work to submit a proposal to win the town's green business grant. Meanwhile Lucy's dealing with best friend's who have crushes, extracurriculars, mean girls and all that other middle school stuff.

notes: popular with our tweens, mentions crushes and dating without going into anything more steamy than hand holding (no kissing or anything like that)

for kids who like: girly, Wendy Mass - birthdays,

age group: age 10+

my review: Honestly this was predictable, girly, and an easy read. All not really my thing but I can see why our tweens like it. Props for the inclusion of diverse characters without pandering or overly drawing attention to it. Lucy is 12 and acts wayyyyyy mature for her age. Her mother and grandmother seem to have an interesting dynamic and could be interesting characters but I definitely feel like they weren't fleshed out enough.

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### **Joella [www.cinjoella.com](http://www.cinjoella.com) says**

Lucy is supposed to be 12 in this book. Her perception of life doesn't really fit with any 12-year-olds that I know. Good idea, but really? I think Lucy is really 15 going on 20 for most of the book and 10 for the rest of it. (She has great fashion, make-up, school, outlook on life/what is really important, and business sense while not knowing how to act around a grumpy best friend.) I just couldn't pretend that the unbelievable characterization didn't bug me after a while.

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### **Sindhu Gowda says**

This is one of the best books i have ever read. You should read it if you like realistic fiction.

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### **isabelle says**

Don't read this. Just don't.

Rtc (rant to come)

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### **Abigail says**

My Life in Pink and Green is a story about a girl that lives in a small apartment with her mother and grandmother. Her mother and grandmother own a pharmacy. But when the pharmacy starts to go out of business she tries to solve the problem by trying to convince her mother to turn the store into an eco friendly spa, but her mother doesn't totally agree. They decide to start off with adding a relaxation room. She also has a best friend that she does everything with, but when for some reason she starts liking her best friends' brother it all goes wrong.

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### **Lauren S says**

This book is a really fun book to read!!!!!! It talks about so much!!!!!! I love this book because it has a happy ending and who wants to have a book with a sad ending. So if you want to find out the happy ending you will just have to read the book!!!!!!!

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### **Emmeline Guest says**

Mostly unrealistic characters -

A Yale graduate who lives in her mother's house, with her two daughters, and helps run an old fashion drug store (think medicine, soda fountain, and cosmetics). A 7th grade girl who can fix any hair/beauty problem with her mad skills (and a bottle "Fix-a-Frizz"). A best friend with an obnoxious brother, a red rec room, and

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an extensive collection of hindu figurines.

Although some may relate to the economic struggles the family faces, as they attempt to make mortgage payments and keep their pharmacy afloat, the unrealistic happy ending brought on by a 7th grade girl's plan to run an "eco-spa" makes this debut novel a little too uplifting.

The intergenerational story line is sweet, and for young tween readers - this book may be a good introduction into the less sweet family/romance stories that exist within the YA genre.

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### **Eden Schanzenbach says**

I looooooved this book! The cover, to me, looks really cheesy, because I don't like girly girl book, but it was amazing!! It had such a great story to it! It was about a 7th grade girl, so I could really relate. This has probably moved it's way up to being on of my favorite books! I would recomend this book...to ANYBODY!!!! It made me want to read more books by this author. It was a great book!!!

This book is about a girl who's family doesn't have much money. She is really struggling. Her family owns a pharmacy and it doesn't get very much business. Plus, her friend now has a crush and is acting very strange about it. She is forced to join this going green club, and figures out that it is really fun!!!! She is lookin online at ways to save the planet one day, and found a really cool idea! She found a grant that says, "This is for any local small business that needs a makeover. We will turn it green and make it better. Fill out this grant by the end of the year and enroll it in. We will choose the winner after they are all sent in." Lucy, the main character, knows that this is what she must do. She has her sister's help with filing it out and they send it into the govener. They wait, and wait, and wait.

While they are waiting, her friend, Sunny, finally realizes that there is nothing to be scared about of her crush. They end up becoming good friends and going to the movies. Sunny would have to be my favorite character because of her personality. She is always on the move and wanting to do something. Lucy ends up doing peoples make-up for everything. She fixes hair tramas and make-up messes. She is known as the young grown up for how mature and helpful she is. She feels so good about herself, knowing that she helps everybody. Lucy still waits and waits, and one day she gets a letter.

She doesn't know what to do. She is scared to open it. Lucy doesn't know if she even wants to know whats on the inside. She flips it around, hoping to find good news inside, but she doesn't have to open it. On the back, it says CONGRATULATIONS! Lucy can't barely contain herself. She just saved her family's business! Lucy can't wait to come up with the makeover idea for the pharmacy!! She thinks that she wants to do an eco-spa. Can you imagine saving your own family business, at the age of 12?

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### **Andrea Medina says**

This book was about a girl that had problems with her family and bills. She had a pharmacy and they couldn't afford to keep paying for it because they didn't have enough money to pay for it. She tries to help out her family, but they don't take her seriously because she's still a kid and they think that what she says isn't going to make any sense. I like thins book because it actually has a problem that most families with businesses have.This is a very common problem. I recommend this book to girls that have a family business

and can't afford to pay for it. This can really give the girls ideas to keep their business up and running.

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### **Melissa says**

Lucy Desberg is determined to help her mother and grandmother save their family pharmacy from bankruptcy. Burdened with bills they cannot pay, Lucy's grandmother is convinced they will to sell all they have to make ends meet. But Lucy comes up with a plan to "diversify" business – add a day spa, incorporate "green" business practices, and apply for a city grant, in hopes of saving their livelihood.

By far, this was the WORST book club selection I've read. I hated this book from page one. So much so, I can't even manage to rehash all that I thought that was wrong with this book, but for a brief outline here is what I had issues with:

- Completely unrealistic characters
- Poorly developed plot
- Age inappropriate relationships (12 year olds dating)
- Age inappropriate activities (and not morally inappropriate, but maturity level inappropriate)
- The use of the name of deity, over and over again.

However, the girls were extremely prepared for our discussion! This was a complete 180° from last month where they totally spaced it. They had some very thoughtful questions, like, "what would you do to help save a family business?" to "Would you be jealous if your best friend started dating sibling?" Of course, there were the throw away questions like, "what is your favorite lip gloss?" But we spent far more time discussing the book than last month. And I was the ONLY mom to finish this book...to confirm the poor quality of our reading choice (at least for the adults!).

I am excited for our May selection (and last for the school year!) – Lois Lowry's *The Birthday Ball*. Our favorite book this year, as a whole, was *The Willoughbys* by Lois Lowry, so I look forward to reading more of her works.

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### **Rosario Beltran says**

I don't like the book. This book is more like those types of girly books that a lot of girls like. It's not my thing. This books I recommend are for girls that like other things like make-up or something weird to me. I just don't like it. I'm not saying I hate it but I just don't like these types of books.

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### **Erin Forson says**

*My Life in Pink and Green*  
by Lisa Greenwald

Anyone who knows me can tell you that I am a recycling fool. If I could "Go Green" all the way and minimize my impact on the Earth (otherwise known as my carbon signature) I would. It's hard work sometimes, lugging dirty plastic and smelly cardboard to the recycling center, but I feel good about doing it even though my friends sometimes tease me. So what does going green have to do with a pharmacy that is

best known for its cosmetics and Lucy, its young makeup artist? It doesn't really, that is until Lucy discovers her family business is going under, and they may lose not only their business but their home. Lucy isn't satisfied to sit back and let this happen; and when the answers unexpectedly fall in her lap during an Earth Club meeting, Lucy must try and convince her mother and grandmother that she may have a solution to their troubles. While this book might be a little young for some of our readers, I certainly had fun reading it. Remember that first crush you had and how funny you felt every time you saw him in school? The author does a great job showing how awkward a first crush is, and how hard it is to get an adult to listen to you when you're only twelve.

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### **Christina (Ensnoced in Lit) says**

I've seen good reviews of this book hanging about and I knew I had to pick it up. I don't think I realized it was a middle grade read, but I have to say this is the best middle grade/younger adult book I've read in a long while.

My Life in Pink and Green by Lisa Greenwald stars Lucy, one of the spunkiest and smartest 12 year olds I've ever read about. She has a mother that still lives at home and a grumpy grandmother who is trying to hold their finances together. They all work/live in a pharmacy that has been in their family forever. It's barely holding on, and they are struggling to pay the bills. Lucy has a terrific idea to help save the pharmacy and go green (her mom is an activist) to bring together the disparate personalities of both her mom and grandmother and stay lucrative. On top of all that, she deals with first crushes and her new burgeoning makeup side business. Will Lucy be able to pull all of this together to save her beloved pharmacy?

Lucy is a TERRIFIC character, and I don't say that lightly. I was thinking while I was reading this book, that she is definitely in the top five characters that I would love to meet in real life. When I have a child, I'd be ecstatic if she had a fraction of the drive, passion, and just overall curiosity and love for life and learning as Lucy does. She is what makes this book-- and her voice definitely sounds 12 even though she's obviously doing a lot more than most 12 year olds (and most growups). I think this book has mass appeal to both the 12 year old audience, and people... my age. :-)

My only caveat was that Lucy's personality is so big, and her character so terrific, that she can't be contained in just one book, and at the end, I was so sad to see her go. When preparing for this review, imagine my excitement that there is a followup to this book! I don't actually usually clamor for sequels, but this is an exception to the rule.

Overall, a terrific middle grade read that everyone will enjoy with one of the most engaging protagonists I have ever read about. Greenwald puts everything together seamlessly, and I will definitely be watching her career from now on!

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### **Deanna says**

Realistic fiction, small town, friendship, family drugstore, makeup and beauty tips, middle school crushes.

Lucy Desberg is a 12 year old girl who opens the family mail and realizes they are about to lose their pharmacy. Business isn't good anymore because people are going to big box stores to purchase groceries and fill their prescriptions at the same time. One of her hobbies is playing around with and applying makeup on

her older sister. Eventually she decides to use these skills to help the young girls in her town look beautiful for the school dances, weddings and special events. One important line, "I don't like it when people say makeup makes you prettier. That's not really true. Makeup can make you feel a little better about yourself" (p. 94) rang true. The high school girls nick name Lucy the makeup goddess.

At this same time Lucy joins the Earth Club at her school and begins thinking about convincing her family to turn the business into a green pharmacy. She also begins researching eco spas and dreams of opening one next door to the pharmacy. Eventually with the help of her older sister she fills out a "Going Green Grant" for local small businesses to see if her dream can become a reality.

I enjoyed reading this book since a middle school kid is trying to make a bad situation that adults caused and try to make it better. Only girls would enjoy this book because of all of the makeup talk and boy crushes. It was a fun enjoyable read.

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### **Anthony says**

"My life in Pink & Green" is a great story that relates how even young people can be proactive and ambitious and maybe even play a small role in saving the world. It is great to read a young female protagonist that knows what she wants and knows what she needs to do. It is also great that even though Lucy and Sunny do have crushes that boys are not the thrust behind their plans. Having a first crush is just a secondary theme and plot line.

Lisa Greenwald has written a story with realistic people and places, and realistic problems. Now, do I believe that the solution to the story's problem is realistic? No, as an adult it seems just a little far out on the limb for me, but not utterly impossible. I also think that Lucy acts and talks more like a sixteen year old than a twelve year old, but what do I know, I've never been a 12 year old girl. Those things being said I liked Lucy's story. Whether farfetched or not, it is encouraging youths, especially young girls, to make a difference, to have ambitions, and to shop locally. This is a must read for tween and teen girls everywhere.

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### **Jennifer Wardrip says**

Reviewed by Sally Kruger aka "Readingjunk" for TeensReadToo.com

Lisa Greenwald has a nice combination of things going on in her debut novel MY LIFE IN PINK & GREEN. Put together "green" living to save the earth, the trials and tribulations of being a 7th-grade girl, and the financial stress of running a family business, and you have a real page-turner.

Lucy will be the third generation owner of a family pharmacy - that is if her mother and grandmother can keep the store going against the competition of large chains and consumers only looking for one-stop shopping options. She hears their constant arguments about which direction is best for the business her grandfather started years ago.

Lucy's mother's objections are that the store is stuck in the 80's, while her mother, Lucy's grandmother, says her own daughter is the downfall of the business because of her poor money management skills. All Lucy knows is that she doesn't want to lose the family business, and she thinks she just might have the answer.

Being a 7th-grader is also a challenge for Lucy. Her older sister is away at college, but thanks to Claudia, at least Lucy knows how to look her best, and with the help of good grooming she maintains a high level of self-confidence in the face of middle school stress. She has always been interested in make-up, and growing up in the pharmacy with its make-up aisle so easily accessible, she has developed a certain knack for making people look their best.

When people begin realizing her talent, she finds herself running a makeover business that is bringing in needed cash for the store.

In an effort to boost her friend Sunny's confidence with boys, Lucy joins the school's Earth Club. Membership in the club revives Lucy's interest in recycling and promoting some of the more nature-friendly make-up products she uses with her customers. When an afternoon of research for the club causes Lucy to stumble across a city grant offering some major money help for local businesses who "go green," she believes she has truly found the way to save the family business.

MY LIFE IN PINK & GREEN grabbed my attention right from the start. Lucy is portrayed as a fun, upbeat 7th-grader not afraid to test out her innovative ideas. The addition of the financial stress in the family business brings this story into the here and now of our economic woes and will help hold the interest of readers dealing with their own tough times. By adding humor and a bit of young romance, Lisa Greenwald has really hit the mark with this novel.

I look forward to reading what I hope will be a long line of her YA work.

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