



Inevitable and Only

Lisa Rosinsky

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What if you suddenly found out you had a sister . . . and she took over your life? Cadie is close to her father. They are so much alike--same temperament, sense of humor, and love for the theater--and Dad always knows how to comfort her . . . until the day he announces that he has another daughter. Suddenly, Cadie has a sister, Elizabeth--a sister who is six months older than her, a sister who is about to move in with them, a sister whose very existence means that Cadie's beloved father cheated on her mother when they were already married. What other secrets might he have? Can she still trust him? Does Cadie really know her father at all? And when Elizabeth arrives, Cadie's worst fears come true. Elizabeth looks just like Dad; not only that, she seems all too perfect. Until she begins stealing Cadie's place in the family and even Cadie's one true love . . . But Elizabeth has secrets of her own. This deeply emotional coming-of-age story explores the choices you make when your family--and your life--changes overnight. Are these choices the inevitable and only ones? And will they ultimately bring your family back together or push you further apart?

Inevitable and Only Details

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Elina says

I was completely enchanted by this sweet story and its characters, so much so that I finished it while walking to work and definitely walked into the office with misty eyes. Can't wait for more from this author!

Jodi says

Ugh, I'm in such a book slump. This book started out interestingly enough, but then I just got bored with it and no longer cared about the characters a third of the way through. I skimmed the rest of the book, but probably should have quit earlier. Maybe teenagers would like it more, but there are some rather adult themes.

Cathy Schultz says

I loved this book! Every character is interesting and fleshed out and so very real, and the web of relationships between them all elicits moments that are charming and sweet and funny and sometimes deeply heartfelt. Cadie, our heroine, adores her quirky, bohemian family, especially her father, who always knows the right thing to say. But Cadie's adoration is challenged when her father's *other* daughter suddenly arrives--a person no one in the family had known existed. Cadie and her family have to navigate a new family dynamic, while struggling to forgive the father's long-ago affair.

But that quick plot synopsis doesn't capture all that I love about this charming book. I love all the theater scenes, and the Shakespeare lines, and the wonderful descriptions of inspired acting and directing. I love the shabby bookstore that Cadie's dad runs, and the oddball assistant who will talk only to cats, not customers. I love the school's theater director, who had his name legally changed to Robin Goodfellow. Because, who wouldn't? I love the deep friendships between Cadie and her friends, and the sweet romance that begins to develop with a boy in her class. I love that Elizabeth, the new sister, is not portrayed as a villain, but is given her own complex arc. In fact, there ARE no stock villains in the book--just complex, interesting people who make mistakes and try to remedy them.

I read the book in just a few days, and I know I'll reread it again in the future, mostly because of how much I loved hanging out with all the characters. Just a delightful read, overall!

Beth Summer says

I enjoyed this one SO much. it had so many light, fun elements and LOL moments, but it was layered beautifully with sweet, deep scenes. The development of Cadie and Elizabeth's relationship was flawless, and the father-daughter situation was realistic and perfectly executed. I also loved the little brother, Josh. Getting a behind the scenes (pun intended) glimpse of putting on a play was especially fun to read about for me. I know nothing about theater, and Rosinsky's writing completely made me want to go see a play (and then see that same play a few more nights in a row! ;) I love how the romance didn't dominate the plot, but was an important force in the story of Cadie's self-discovery. And this novel touches on an important question: how well do we know the people we love? But more importantly, how well do we even know ourselves?? can't wait for more from this author!!

Elaine says

A great book! The author relays the complex world of sibling and family relationships very well and displays the courage to try to sort it all out. I ate this book up.

A lovely tale full of warmth. Highly recommend.

Ryan says

Was having a little trouble getting into this book and then I'm sitting here at 12:45 in the morning having just finished it.

This book is a love letter to Baltimore and Takoma Park, MD. As a person who grew up and lives in the DC suburbs, this hits a particular heart-string for me.

Cadie and Elizabeth are more complex than they initially seem, and this is a credit to the book. I still find myself thinking this book would make a decent theatrical adaptation, though the challenge would be how to show the thoughts of Cadie's that are told rather than shown. I enjoyed the narrative voice and liked the special touches of the theater in the story, although I found the romance a bit predictable and cloying despite what appeared to be attempts to avoid its becoming overwhelming to the main story.

I would have liked to find out (view spoiler)

I'll be interested to see the directions in which Rosinsky grows as a writer in subsequent works.

Corinna's World of Books says

MEINE MEINUNG

In „Fast schon bühnenreif“ geht es um Cadie, die gerade einfach nur Drama hat in ihrer Familie. Ihr Vater eröffnet ihnen, dass er eine unehrlche Tochte Elizabeth hat und diese auch noch bei Ihnen leben soll. Es scheint als würde ihre neue Halbschwester ihr ganzes Leben übernehmen und ausgerechnet ihr Schwarm interessiert sich auf einmal für Elizabeth. Kann Cadie wieder ihr Leben in die Hand nehmen???

Acadia (Cadie) liebt das Theaterspielen und lebt zusammen mit ihrem Bruder und ihren Eltern. Sie ist ein aufgeweckter Charakter, der mich zu Beginn direkt neugierig gemacht hat.

Elizabeth scheint auf den ersten Blick eher unscheinbar und als Halbschwester von Cadie ganz anders zu sein. Welche Absichten hat ihre Schwester und kann man ihr überhaupt vertrauen??

Der Schreibstil ist angenehm flüssig und wird aus der Perspektive von Cadie erzählt. Der Leser kann sie so noch näher kennen lernen und ihre Gedanken und Gefühle erfahren während der Handlung. Die Kulisse der Stadt passt zur Geschichte und man entdeckt vieles zusammen mit den Charakteren. Die Nebenfiguren wie

Cadies Freunde sind authentisch und gestalten die Geschichte mit.

Die Spannung und Handlung haben mich langsam in die Geschichte von Cadie gezogen. Sie lebt zusammen mit ihrem Bruder und ihren Eltern und ihre Leidenschaft ist, das Theaterspielen. Alles scheint normal in ihrem Alltag, ihr Vater arbeitet in einer Buchhandlung bzw. gehört ihm und ihre Mutter ist Rektorin. Eines Abends scheint, aber ein Anruf alles zu ändern, denn ihr Vater teilt Cadie und ihrem Bruder mit, dass sie beide eine Halbschwester haben und diese zu Ihnen ziehen wird. Auf einmal scheint sich, der komplette Alltag und das Leben in der Familie zu ändern. Cadie neue Schwester scheint sie komplett aus dem Leben der Familie zu drängen und auch Cadies Schwarm scheint auf einmal auf ihre unnahbare Schwester zu schauen. Sie will sich ablenken und sich vollkommen auf das Theaterspielen in ihrer Schule konzentrieren. Auf einmal scheint, die Situation noch schlimmer zu werden und sie muss etwas unternehmen. Wird Cadie ihr Familienleben wieder auf eine normale Basis schaffen? Was ist mit ihrer Halbschwester Elizabeth, die doch ganz anders aufgewachsen ist, wie sie? Das Ende war mehr als abgerundet und ich hätte am liebsten direkt weitergelesen.

Das Cover sieht einfach toll aus und passt perfekt zum Titel des Buches. Der Schriftzug ist passend in Szene gesetzt.

Fazit

Mit „Fast schon bühnenreif“ schafft, die Autorin eine besondere Jugendbuch-Geschichte, die mich mit Seite mehr in die Handlung von Cadie gezogen hat. Ich bin gespannt, was als Nächstes kommen wird.

Brian says

In this teen novel, we meet Cady, a young girl who lives with her parents and her brother. One day, her father announces that he has another daughter that he found out about and that she is moving in with them. The family has varying reactions but overall, the tone is negative. Elizabeth, Cady's new half sister moves in and quickly begins to extend her reaches into Cady's life, including her crush! Can Cady and Elizabeth find peace? This was kind of an odd duck of a book. It said in the first few pages that it was age 12 and up, but there were situations and language that I felt was a bit too mature for that age. The book had an odd mishmash of cultures, with the main character's mother being Latina, but the father being Jewish, but the family are atheists. That was a bit confusing for me. There were also a lot of subplots going on that I didn't enjoy, such as the school play and the relationship between Cady and her friends, who I could care less about. Overall, it was an entertaining read but I wish that there had been a bit more focus on Cady and her family rather than the school scenes.

Ms. Yingling says

ARC from the publisher

Acadia has always gotten along better with her father than her mother, especially now that her mother is in administration at the Quaker school she attends while her father still runs a used bookstore and cooks vegan dinners for the family in their Baltimore home. When Cadie finds out that her father has another daughter a few months older than she is, and that Elizabeth's mother has passed away and Elizabeth is coming to live with them, she's afraid it will mean bad things for her family. The transition isn't horrible, but Elizabeth is

very religious and preppy, and doesn't quite fit in to Cadie's hipster world. (Her parents lived in a cooperative house, and the children at Cadie's school are named things like Raven, Heron and Zephyr.) Will her parents be able to overcome the past and bring the family together?

Strengths: I'd probably buy this for high school, but it was more of a young adult book, but without enough sweet romance for my girls who want older books. Nothing objectionable, though, and I enjoyed it.

Weaknesses: Hippie parents? Cadie would have been born about 2000, and her parents were very young, so they were born about 1980? Communist grandparents? I got stuck on the generational math of this one. We'll just go with hipster parents and move along.

What I really think: I'd buy this for high school but will pass for middle school, mainly on account of the vast amount of the book concerned with putting on *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Naomi says

Such a lovely book! Cadie's family struggles to integrate a surprise!half-sister into their home, and Cadie realizes that her dad isn't who she thought he was. She finds herself pulling away from him while she tries to figure out who she can trust and what she really knows about the people in her life—and what she knows about herself. Cadie's voice is really distinctive—she's a little anxious, a little nerdy, a little melodramatic, flustered but assertive around her crushes—and it was easy to root for her.

The story is centered around family, but also around the theater, friendship (I love Cadie's friends!), and a little bit of romance (with extra bonus queer girls in the mix, I died, no spoilers). It's set in Baltimore, and the vivid little details about neighborhood staples are really fun. And it wraps up in a totally charming and satisfying way!

J. Mann says

The sibling relationship is almost always a complex one...but how much more so when you just find out you have one, and she's a few months older than you are. Cadie, a Sophomore, is looking forward to a school year filled with friends, dances, and her first role in the school play. Along with these, she gets a sister. A sister she didn't know she had. Neither did her Father. And even worse, her mother. A child of a past infidelity of her father's, Elizabeth comes to live with them when her mother dies. Rosinsky writes the inevitable and only thing that can happen between these two.

Kim Baccellia says

Teen's life is totally changed when she finds out she has a half-sister.

Jamie says

Very well written. A wonderful debut novel by a future super star. This book is a lot of fun and does a good job of depicting a very specific part of adolescence, a very unique and difficult problem, and an even more specific part of Baltimore. I look forward to the author's next endeavor.

Jennifer says

"Good people can hurt things without meaning to."

"We're all given crosses to bear. Some of us have more strength than others. And the rest of us just have to find that strength. Somehow."

"Is everything we do inevitable, too? What if every action is the only possible continuation of the things we've already done? I mean, do we really get any choices about anything? Ever?"

Nicole Valentine says

Truly a family you will miss long after you close the book. The kind of quirky, heartfelt modern family tale for those of us who didn't grow up as the perfect Penderwicks, but more like Hilary McKay's awkward, yet brilliant Cassons. Cadie is a joy to inhabit and the ending is one of those surprises that leaves you wondering why you didn't see it coming, as it is the inevitable and only way it could be. Masterful.
