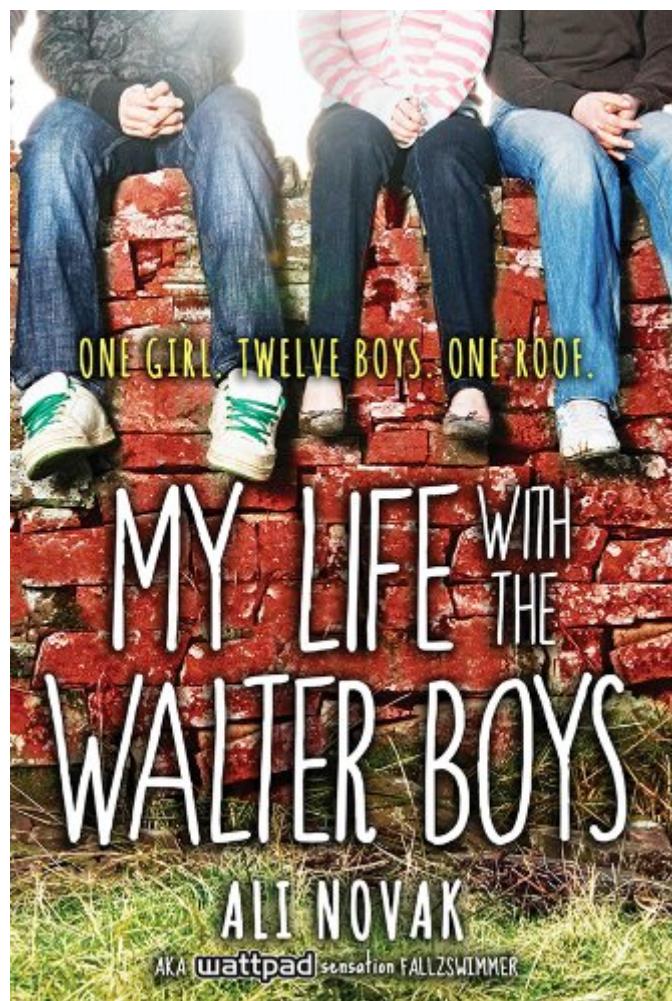


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My Life With The Walter Boys



Synopsis

From a fresh new voice on the contemporary YA scene, *My Life with the Walter Boys* centers on the prim, proper, and always perfect Jackie Howard. When her world is turned upside down by tragedy, Jackie must learn to cut loose and be part of a family again. Jackie does not like surprises. Chaos is the enemy! The best way to get her successful, busy parents to notice her is to be perfect. The perfect look, the perfect grades-the perfect daughter. And then... Surprise #1: Jackie's family dies in a freak car accident. Surprise #2: Jackie has to move cross-country to live with the Walters-her new guardians. Surprise #3: The Walters have twelve sons. (Well, eleven, but Parker acts like a boy anyway) Now Jackie must trade in her Type A personality and New York City apartment for a Colorado ranch and all the wild Walter boys who come with it. Jackie is surrounded by the enemy-loud, dirty, annoying boys who have no concept of personal space. Okay, several of the oldest guys are flat-out gorgeous. But still annoying. She's not stuck-up or boring-no matter what they say. But proving it is another matter. How can she fit in and move on when she needs to keep her parents' memory alive by living up to the promise of perfect? Ali Novak wrote *My Life with the Walter Boys* when she was just 15 years old. First a hit on the online community Wattpad, this debut novel has already been read over 33 million times and is loved by readers around the world.

Book Information

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Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes

Customer Reviews

See more of my reviews on The YA Kitten! My copy was an ARC I received from the publisher via NetGalley. Give me a prompt and I've probably read a fanfic like it. Such things happen when you've been reading fan fiction for about six years. The premise of The Walter Boys is no exception; I've read at least three in which a girl's parents die and she moves into a house full of hotties. Did Novak's novel manage to impress me more than the fics like it? Sadly, no. It's got a compulsive readability about it, but it's often problematic and 98% of those problems go back to one person: Cole Walter. Jackie is an endearing girl, but not endearing because her parents are dead and she's stuck in this household full of jerkish guys and she's somehow surviving all of this. She's endearing because she's simply too dumb and naive for the real world. I wanted to take her and put her back in her Upper East Side apartment so she could live out the mindless, privileged life she knew. She does occasionally fight back when her new brothers get extraordinarily jerkish, but she's generally a bit of a doormat. Case in point, her choices in friends. Two of her three new female friends are only her friends solely because she is living with the Walter family. This is painfully clear. Those two girls are so obsessed with her brothers that the girls were 20 minutes from the due time of an art project and had nothing done because the two girls wouldn't shut up about Jackie's brothers and actually do some work. The third girl? She gets a handful of sentences and no development. She's barely Jackie's friend. Anyway, what does Jackie do with these girls who are clearly using her and don't give a damn about her? Oh, stay friends with them and ignore their agenda. GIRL, YOUR SPINE. WHERE IS IT?

I want to get all gushy over this book, but I'm going to try to restrain myself. Did you know the author wrote this book when she was 15 years old? 15?! If you're looking for a young adult novel with an authentic teenage voice, look no further. It doesn't get much better than this. There was so much to love about this book. The writing was fantastic, and as I said about, authentic. Jackie's inner dialogue was perfect and her interactions with the other characters felt so real. I adored Jackie immediately. I found her easy to connect with. And the Walter boys? Oh. My. God. Talk about a cast of interesting characters. From the standoffish to the swoony and everything in between, they were absolute perfection. They weren't carbon copies of each other. They each had a unique personality "good or bad" and there was more to all of them than met the eye. Watching Jackie

navigate her new life in Colorado, both with and away from the boys, warmed my heart. The only thing about this book that bothered me was the ending. I wanted more. Of course, at the time I finished, I didn't realize there was a sequel coming, so I was distraught that it ended like it did. But now I can anxiously await that sequel and see where life takes these characters next. I read the first couple pages on Wattpad and I neeeeeeee this book, like, now. *My Life With the Walter Boys* was neither light and fluffy nor overly deep. It dealt with the hard truth of grieving not only the loss of loved ones, but of the life you once knew, but did it in a way that I never found to be particularly difficult to handle. I definitely felt some emotions and my heart broke for the loss Jackie was dealing with. I laughed and cried. But mostly I smiled.

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