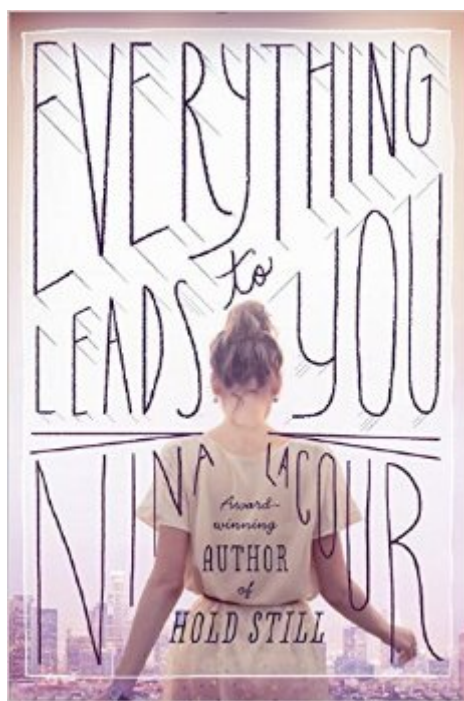


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Everything Leads To You



Synopsis

Just out of high school, Emi Price is a talented young set designer already beginning to thrive in the L.A. film scene. But her artistic eye has failed her in one key area: helping her to design a love life that's more than make-believe. Then she finds a mysterious letter at an estate sale, and it sends her chasing down the loose ends of a movie icon's hidden life. And along the way, she finds Ava, and at long last, Emi's own hidden life begins to bloom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

SPOILER Everything Leads to You is a fast read and an easy few hours of escapist romantic fantasy... as long as you don't look closely at most of the details. The book is well-intentioned, but most of it simply isn't believable. It wants to present a gay YA character where coming out is not the entire story (great!). It wants to present young people who have a work ethic and career aspirations and all gravitate together because they're into the same thing, in this case the movies (great!). But something's a little off all the way through. The main character is not credible as a high-school girl. In fact, every character in this story reads like they're in their mid-twenties. The book is set in LA: we understand that these kids will be emotionally sophisticated about how they present. But still - the characters all know when to say something and when not to overshare. They're all remarkably mature. There are no messy scenes (anywhere) with the ex-girlfriend. No one behaves badly, ever, or in a way where you say: yep, that's the kind of messed-up stuff teenagers do (the one time the girls do act out, their actions are free of consequences). In an effort to present a cleaned-up, escapist fantasy of life in LA, the book actually shortchanges its characters, all of whom are

interesting and all of whom could have benefited from a little more grit in the lens. (In contrast, a somewhat older book, *Girl Walking Backwards*, is a good example of a "new adult" story where the authentic messiness of the characters' lives contributes to a sense of genuine suspense - without elaborate mysteries. The sometimes uncomfortable realism brings us nearer to the characters: whether or not we can identify with them, it makes us care about them. That's all that's needed.

I loved this book. It was an honest look at love, heartbreak, and friendship. It is beautiful. To be honest, the thing that drew me to this book was the cover. It is absolutely beautiful. I had cover lust when I first saw it, and wanted the book because of it alone. Just everything about that cover. I bought this book because of the cover alone, and it was the best decision I made. I'm so much better with imaginary people and their imaginary lives. -pg. 79

The main character, Emi is in highschool, interning as a set designer that her on-again-off-again girlfriend, Morgan, got for her. After having been broken up with for the sixth time, she needs something to distract her from her heartache. When she and her best friend Charlotte attend the estate sale of the late Clyde Wilder, it leads them to Ava. She is unlike anyone that Emi has ever met, and soon, she finds herself with a crush on Ava. What's the use in waiting until the right moment if that moment never comes? I say. "What if the moment escapes you in a split second when your focus was elsewhere? -pg. 284

Besides the Emi's story, I learned more about the movie industry than I thought I would. It was a look into the magic that goes into the movie sets, and just how much work it is. I loved that. When books usually deal with the movie industry, it's with actors, actresses, producers, directors, etc. But this one was behind the scenes, and I loved that. For all that I loved Emi and Ava, my favorite character was probably Charlotte. She was there for Emi through everything. She is the friend that I hope I am to my friends-someone who is there through thick and thin, and is the shoulder to lean on and the person to vent to. I just loved her. I blew through this book.

I read this book very fast, eager with each turn of the page for something to develop and actually happen. Nothing much does happen. the premise is interesting - (LIMITED SPOILERS) : Emi, a girl newly graduated from high school in LA, is on the production design team of a film. Right off the bat, she and her close friend find a mysterious letter in an estate sale in the home of a Hollywood legend. In their final summer before college and the real world beyond high school life, the girls track down the leads that the letter gives them, in hopes to entertain themselves with this great mystery. In addition, they also start work on a small indie film project. Emi, it turns out, is apparently a production design genius at 18, and everyone LOVES every creative decision she makes. She

also has all these muddled feelings for a coworker she had a fling with, and ultimately falls for another girl by the end (the VERY end) of the story. In my opinion, her struggle with her feelings for the coworker are much more believable and realistic than whatever ultimately develops between her and the main love interest. This reads like a very long short story. If you're into that, go for it. The good: It's a fun little romp around LA - it seems at times that half of every paragraph is name dropping a main street, highway, or area of Los Angeles... "What? You're all the way out in Pasadena?? Okay, I'm on the 405 right now. Will take exit such and such and be there soon." Ultimately you know there is gonna be a lesbian romance element, so that's always a plus. And I liked that her sexuality wasn't really a focus in the book. The dialogue is pretty realistic for the most part. The bad: But ultimately it doesn't really go anywhere.

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