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# Like It Never Happened



## Synopsis

Stereotypes, sexuality, and destructive rumors collide in this smart YA novel for fans of Sara Zarr's *Story of a Girl*, Siobhan Vivian's *The List*, and E. Lockhart's *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. When Rebecca Rivers lands the lead in her school's production of *The Crucible*, she gets to change roles in real life, too. She casts off her old reputation, grows close with her four rowdy cast-mates, and kisses the extremely handsome Charlie Lamb onstage. Even Mr. McFadden, the play's critical director, can find no fault with Rebecca. Though "The Essential Five" vow never to date each other, Rebecca can't help her feelings for Charlie, leaving her both conflicted and lovestruck. But the on and off-stage drama of the cast is eclipsed by a life-altering accusation that threatens to destroy everything—even if some of it is just make believe.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

3.5/5 stars Like it Never Happened is a young adult contemporary book set featuring a high school drama troupe. A group of five friends and the story of their high school years. I really enjoyed reading Like it Never Happened. It reminded me of 90s shows like *Salute your Shorts* and *Clarissa Explains it all*, though I am not really sure why. It is set in contemporary 2014/2015, but it really felt like a 90s throw back to me, and I totally loved that. Like it Never Happened is author Emily Adrian's debut novel, which completely astounded me. She is an excellent writer, and she seemed so well practiced. I can't wait to see what she has in store for us readers next. Like it never happened follows a group of 5 best friends, and their trials and tribulations in the theater at

their school. Right at the start of the book they make a pact to never date one another. But I knew that was going to change at some point. I was a little excited and a little disappointing all at once with the way things played out with Charlie. It was kind of bittersweet and all at once perfect (in a weird way.) My emotions ying yanged all over the place with this book. Emily Adrian did a fantastic job of capturing the essence of high school. I think that is why I had conflicting emotions. Even if something didn't turn out the way I pictured it in my head, it felt so utterly real. I loved Rebecca so much. She was me in this book. I am nothing like her, but while I was reading Like it Never Happened I became her. It was pretty freakin' cool. Charlie left me with mixed feelings. As did Tess a bit and Rebecca's sister Mary. Like it Never Happened kind of reminded me of Never Always Sometimes by Adi Alsaid, but only a little bit. There are classically high school characters that are rich and each have very distinct personalities. And let's not forget that they are all drama fanatics so there is a flair for the dramatic in Like it Never Happened, but this was such a great addition to the young adult genre. I really enjoyed Like it Never Happened.\*Disclaimer- I got a copy of this book for free in exchange for my honest thoughts. I was not compensated for my review.

I really enjoyed this book. I think the characterizations were stellar. It reminded me a bit of Lauren Bjorkman's books in that it was set in the arena of theatre and with the same great writing but Ms. Adrian's approach is more serious. The story is about the main character and narrator Rebecca entering high school and her experiences over the next 15 months which mainly focus on her 4 friends, all theatre people and called 'the essential five', as well as her older sister, previously wild and now settling down. What happens to Rebecca are (mostly) very normal things for someone as they enter adulthood, in this case; dealing with new friends, new romance, parents who seem out-of-touch, missing sibling. The observations of people, both teens and adults, interacting are sharp and subtle. I think that is one of the very many strengths of the writing - the teens act like teens, the adults like adults and Rebecca observes and interacts with both as a teen moving into adulthood.

Like it Never Happened was a bonding experience for me. I was like did Emily Arden read my teenage journals, no I'm totally kidding. I really enjoyed the book and for me it encompassed things that I have experienced so it was interesting. So this a group of theater kids and theater kids can be dramatic. When I was in High School my friend transferred to another school where she became a part of her own type of Essential Five. I was the token non-theater kid

that would hang out with them periodically. They were fun and adventurous and often times very silly. I would hang out backstage and watch their plays. One of the guys passed away very young and I remember riding around in his truck that I can't believe even worked. So this book found a soft spot in me pretty easily right off the bat. I felt like Emily easily captured the theater/art kid spirit and how it can be bonding and sometimes a little cut throat. You are all going for the star roles. I actually liked Rebecca, which I wasn't sure if I was going to at first. She was so matter of fact and just who she was. I loved the confidence she exudes and the way she has her own mind. We find out some things that make you realize that she is not going to crack under pressure. She does have some growing up to do in the department of empathy. She does learn some things but still has growing up to do, she is only 16. At first I wasn't so sure about the summer camp part but I realized as I kept reading how it had given definite input into Charlie. Rebecca too but mainly Charlie. The pieces of his personality just keep falling into place and normally I would be jealous of his relationship with Liane for Rebecca's sake. I felt like she could do better and this is high school. There is so much time for so many greater things. I loved the way the book focused also on Rebecca and her relationship with her family. Her mother, father and sister. I have three older siblings, two of which are 10 & 12 years older than me (I know seriously I need to stop comparing this book to my own experiences but seriously!). My oldest brother was so similar to Rebecca's sister! Except for one thing but it's crazy. So I was so glad that we get to see how she had seen her sister when she was young and how her sister and her interact now. It was a mixture of how other people had wronged her sister but she had also wronged herself. A good example of how you see things in the moment and how you see things when you grow up. So the drama that happens later in the book, actually happened to a guy I know. So I felt like I was so angry for him all over again. Even when the truth came to light for him just like in the novel it changed him. I loved how Rebecca handles things, even though she is the victim of rumors she is still confident and doesn't let it break her. Which is a good quality to have as an actress. I really bonded with this book and maybe it was because there were multiple things that I was able to connect with life experiences, either I had or know people who have had. When I finished I felt like, that was a satisfying read. It's hard for me to explain the writing type. It has that narrative that

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