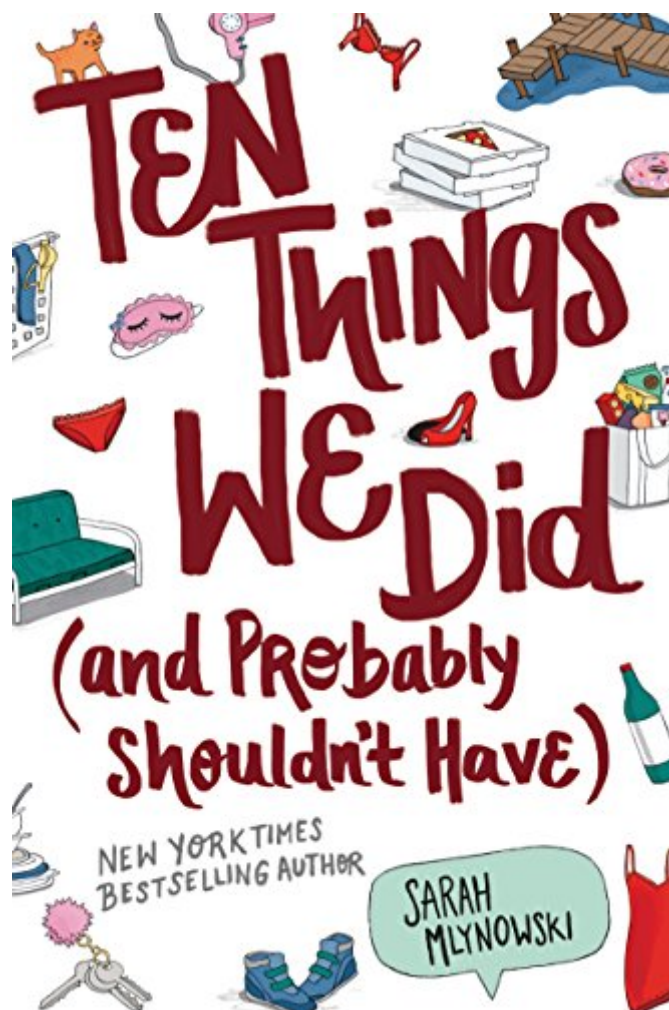


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Ten Things We Did (and Probably Shouldn't Have)



Synopsis

Praised by New York Times bestselling author Lauren Myracle as “hilarious, moving and flat-out fun,” and Kirkus as a “pitch-perfect rendering of the teen experience,” *Ten Things We Did (and Probably Shouldn't Have)* has captured the hearts of critics and readers alike. Fans of Sarah Dessen, E. Lockhart, and Maureen Johnson will love this hilarious and heartwarming tale of a girl on her own for the first time. If given the opportunity, what sixteen-year-old wouldn't jump at the chance to move in with a friend and live parent-free? Although maybe “opportunity” isn't the right word, since April had to tell her dad a tiny little untruth to make it happen (see #1: “Lied to Our Parents”). But she and her housemate Vi are totally responsible and able to take care of themselves. How they ended up “Skipping School” (#3), “Buying a Hot Tub” (#4), and, um, “Harboring a Fugitive” (#7) is a mystery to them. To get through the year, April will have to juggle a love triangle, learn to do her own laundry, and accept that her carefully constructed world just might be falling apart . . . one thing-she-shouldn't-have-done at a time.

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Customer Reviews

I have to admit that I put off reading this novel for a while because I was worried that it would be all about illicit behavior and sex, but I was pleasantly surprised to find out that it really wasn't. Yes, the parents are out of the picture due to some ingenious leg work by April and Vi, but it's not just a tale about girls and boys gone wild. It's really more so a story of love, betrayal, and coming of age in the real world. Growing up. And it's a really cute tale that took hold of me from the very beginning and didn't let go until I turned the final page. This was a fantastic read! Now, while I don't think some of the situations within the novel would actually come to pass, or are one hundred percent believable, I am able to easily overlook that because Mlynowski is such a superb story-teller! The situations the girls find themselves in are comical on the one hand, yet present real life morals on the other. And, the characterization within the novel is amazing! I was afraid that April would be a bit bratty and selfish after reading the first few pages, but I found that I really took sides with her and cared about her as the story unfolded; she's a very well written character that evoked protective feelings from me as I read. I'd like to meet her in real life; I think she'd make a great friend, and I truly enjoyed reading about her rollercoaster of a ride junior year as she begins to figure herself out. And yes, there is sex in this novel. But, it's tastefully done. This YA novel doesn't give the reader play-by-play erotic descriptions, but rather just brushes over the act, as it should. I was very thankful for this, especially as I'm noticing that many YA novels are now leaning towards more explicit descriptions of the act in their books, and that's not something I want to read about in my novels, especially a YA book. I also loved that sex is not glorified as the end all be all of April and Vi's lives, and that there are very real consequences involved. This made the story very endearing to me, as well as the superb characterization, hilarious situations, and fabulous morals. Mlynowski is an outstanding writer and I will definitely be reading more of her work!

I actually liked the end of the book but that was about the only time I did. April, Vi and friends aren't exactly bad characters but it was all just a little too out there. She doesn't want to move to Cleveland because of a boy so she winds up moving in with a friend who has no parental units whatsoever and getting a grand a month from her father at which point she had said friend start partying,

drinking and having sex. I guess it's a teenagers dream come true but honestly I got bored with it pretty quickly. Also I think April is the only one in the book, including the reader, who can't see something's up with Noah right away. I did like the kitten. There's also a misunderstood blackmailer, a misunderstood hit and run and a misunderstood hot guy. It's a party book basically kind of unbelievable at that. Too bad because both April and Vi have some real issues that are kind of addressed at the end I just wish the author would have found a way to maybe lose some of the silliness and have a little more depth. Honestly, my biggest problem with April isn't that I didn't like her it's that about midway through the book I no longer cared about her.

April's father decides to take a job out of state. Naturally, she doesn't want leave her friends and boyfriend behind. So what's a girl to do? Well, she convinces her dad into letting her live with a friend. That's where the lies start. Her friends' mother is out on the road traveling, but April's dad doesn't know that. Then April and her friends buy hot tubs, have parties,...basically get into typical teenage trouble. Through all these mistakes and lies, sixteen year old April starts to understand who she is and what she needs. So maybe in the end....it was worth it! My Take: So.....this book really stressed me out. What's funny about that statement is that I sure did a lot of things my parents didn't know about as a teenager, but this was pretty bold. Now that I'm a parent, I cringed thinking that some day, my little angel faces could do something like this too. So, I put the book down for a few days, opened my mind, and got back into the book. By that point I was about half way in and not only did I have a better frame of mind, but the story got better. I think I had to adjust to the writing flow of the book too. There is some jumping back and forth from past to present situations. April is, overall, a very sweet girl. I actually ended up feeling sorry for her and wanted to wrap her up in a mommy hug. The problem with that though (and lord knows I had to learn this myself) is that sometimes you have to learn the hard way. Could NOT stand Noah. Nuff said. However, Hudson.....dreamy! I think I would like a book just on Hudson and April! Overall, once I got past my own issues, it was funny, endearing, and enlightening.[...]

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