



A Different Me

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Allie Johnston's secret wish since the day she was twelve is to have her nose done. But she hasn't told anyone--not her parents, or even her best friend, Jen. But when she starts visiting a plastic surgery discussion board on the Web, she finds people who get her, for the first time in her life. Her new friends, including two girls her age with vastly different backgrounds who share her obsession with changing their faces--but for very different reasons. A sharply written, insightful book about learning to be happy with who we are.

A Different Me Details

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From Reader Review A Different Me for online ebook

Sally Kruger says

Allie is ecstatic to learn that she is not alone. She is not the only girl who hates her nose!

For as long as Allie can remember, she has wanted to change one thing about her appearance. The shape of her nose, especially the bump, has disgusted her. She wears sunglasses in hopes of hiding it, and she is always looking for makeup tips that help hid imperfections.

No one knows how she feels, not her parents and not even her best friend Jen. But all that changes when Allie finds a website devoted to people considering cosmetic surgery. She meets Katrina and Mel. They also hate their noses and plan to do something about it.

After sharing her feelings with her two new friends, Allie is even more determined to make a change that she thinks will improve everything about her life. Will she have the courage to confront her parents about the subject? Will tutoring a girl named Amber help her realize what real problems look like and what's really important in life?

Author Deborah Blumenthal explores the increasing popularity of cosmetic surgery that is sweeping the country. A DIFFERENT ME is perfect for girls dealing with body image issues and is sure to stimulate quality discussion about related topics.

Alise (Readers in Wonderland) says

How many of us wish we could change something about ourselves? I guarantee all of us have wanted to at one time or another. This story struck a cord with me, because as soon as I read the synopsis I could relate to Allie completely. We might not be self-conscious about the same things, but some of the words Allie said in this book scared me. They scared me because they were strikingly similar to things I've said myself. How she felt at her lowest-I've felt the same way. Because of all that, this review is going to be a bit more personal.

This might be a hard book for some to relate to because Allie does go to extremes, but I can tell you that this happens. People do actually feel this way about themselves.

A DIFFERENT ME deals with a lot of different issues, not only body image issues but familial issues and much darker issues. This story is not without its faults, as it did seem somewhat unrealistic that all the people Allie was involved with had some sort of emotional trauma or issue but I guess it's not that hard to believe in today's society. Everyone has their demons. I can't say all these issues were talked about well, because some seemed a little randomly thrown in to further the main character's emotional journey and come to a conclusion.

The characters and writing seemed a bit vapid at times, there were some things I definitely did not agree with but I liked the overall message and there are some really good quotes in there. It's also very easy to feel Allie's internal struggle with her looks, as well as how she slowly crawls out of that hole.

"I'm more than the face in the mirror or the image captured in a photograph."

This book has really made me think about a lot of things differently. Am I going to run out and be immediately 100% happy with myself? No, not quite. But I do feel a tad more confident, and even that tad can make people feel worlds better about themselves.

Makenzie Gorda says

Deborah Blumenthal wrote the book *A Different Me*. The story is about a 14 year old girl named Allie who isn't confident in herself, or how she looks. Allie turns to the internet to look for people just like her. Allie met 2 girls that were very alike her. Allie, Katrina, and Melanie all wish for the same thing: a nose job. Throughout the story, you can tell that Deborah Blumenthal wishes to entertain you with a story that has a serious plot, but she adds humor, happiness, and many things you can relate to.

A Different Me's theme is very easy to figure out. Deborah Blumenthal is telling readers to be more confident in themselves, and love how they look. All throughout the story, Allie, Katrina, and Melanie talk about how unconfident they are. Katrina and Melanie both become confident, but that's only because of surgery. Before the surgery, Katrina said: "Still whenever I look in the mirror, I hate what I see,"(31). Katrina became confident after the surgery. But, Allie became confident without the surgery, and really found to love herself.

Deborah Blumenthal's style is narrative. The readers are given a serious story with the mix of humor and happiness. The story's plot is serious because it talks about self confidence, finding yourself, and learning to love yourself and how you look. The story also has humor, by making it a happier story. The story also gets happier because Allie becomes more confident in herself. Without surgery. "Dr. Miller.. please.. I want to cancel my surgery..." (258). Allie called her doctor saying that because she got more confident in herself and didn't want to get the surgery done anymore.

I liked *A Different Me*. The characters are relatable, and it's an easy book to understand. I was kind of skeptical at first to read this book. I was skeptical because I've never read a book by this author, and the book is about nose jobs which seems very weird at first. If I could change anything, I would change the ending. At the end, Deborah Blumenthal left us readers hanging. I don't like that because I need to know everything, and it leaves me hanging. This book is kind of alike some books I've read. This book is also different from many books I've read.

Kirsti Call says

I got a copy of this from netgalley in exchange for an honest review

What I liked: This book takes a normal teenage girl and her insecurities and guides us through her journey to self discovery. I really understood and enjoyed the MC. Her thoughts about her flaws seemed spot on. The exploration of what plastic surgery does to you as a person was well done and Allie's slow realization of who she wanted to be was realistic. The book is well written and thought provoking.

What I didn't like: I thought the parents would have talked to Allie a little more about the pros and cons to rhinoplasty before consenting to it. I wanted more input from them or more tension around that...but the book was still fantastic.

Angel says

The beginning of this book made me anxious: 15-year-old Allie's life focus is to get cosmetic surgery, to pay money for rhinoplasty to remove a bump on her nose. When that is done, her theory goes, she can feel okay with herself. After that necessary unease (who wouldn't feel sad for such an insecure character?), *A Different Me* unfolds into a crisply written, energetic tale, taking us on a realistic ride through a teenager's experience, from her shaky state of self-esteem to her bloom of confidence and faith in "her gut"—the latter sound advice from her mom. Her parents are a quiet, stable, thoughtful presence throughout Allie's trials, quite boring she thinks. However, her social life intersects with a surprising array of peers who defy their appearances of beauty, frumpiness, or boy-who-wears-eyeliner style. These friends reveal to her intense personal circumstances that in turn help Allie reflect and see that her own big picture, literal (close-up photos of her face) and figurative, are just fine. The cuss-word-sprinkled language is authentic (be warned or rejoice), as is the inclusion of vapid, girly shopping trips and numerous meals of pizza, perfect for YA readers to gobble up.

Dani-girl says

I gave this book a 3.5 out of 5 stars. It is an okay book. The topic of the book is what really got me interested in it and is really the only interesting thing about it. Not many fiction books deal with the topic of plastic/cosmetic surgery, so this was a nice surprise. The main character is likable but a bit dull. My biggest complaint is the writing wasn't that "good" and the characters were just cardboard dull. There was no real "personality" to many of the characters. But the writing!! Ugh, it really isn't that bad or anything it is just so plain and amateur. There is no feeling in her writing. There is not much anticipation, everything is just there. The writer tries to give meaning and depth to a lot of the characters through a class presentation on "truth" and their lives, but even that is just...there.

This book was an interesting read for those who are either considering plastic surgery or are interested in what goes in the minds of those who do.

Kanna P says

Kanna Parker

"A Different Me" by Deborah Blumenthal is a interesting book the shows the reader the point of view of a person that hates the way they look. This book shows how someone may act about their insecurities and how they view themselves.

In the beginning of the story we are introduced to the main character, Allie. Allie, has very low self-esteem and hates her nose. Her whole life she had dreamed about getting a nose job to perfect her face. While fantasizing about a nose job Allie meets two of her soon to be bestfriends. And they all have one thing in common, they all hate their nose. "If i can fix my nose and look a hundred times better, why not?" (pg. 31).

I felt connected to Allie because she thought that if she changed something about her not only would she be physically beautiful but she would also feel beautiful and more accepting of herself. I agree with this because I too think that your self-confidence will reflect on your physical beauty.

Deborah Blumenthal did a great job using a lot of detail when describing how Allie thinks the nose job will change her. Deborah Blumenthal does a superb job in putting you in the shoes of a unconfident person to help show you what they go through. I think this would be a good recommendation for a person who hasn't worried too much about their looks. This book teaches its readers the struggles a self-conscious person faces.

Lauri Rottmayer says

This was a really great book about a girl who is obsessed with having her nose "done".

Allie is 15 years old and all of her insecurities revolve around the fact that she has a bump in her nose. She wants desperately to have a nose job but hasn't told her parents. She joins a plastic surgery forum and meets two girls who feel the same. They become good friends. After the second friend has her surgery, Allie finally talks to her parents who agree that she can also have the surgery.

While all this is going on, Allie is assigned to tutor the most popular, beautiful girl in school. An unlikely friendship is born. After Amber's mother has some depression issues and Amber is pulled out of school, Allie is given David as a fellow student to mentor. Another unlikely friendship is born.

I love how Allie grew through these two friendships and, after seeing how she looked to other people, was able to see herself more clearly.

I think this is a well-written, positive book of growth and highly recommend it!

Michelle says

Trigger Warning: mild references to sexual abuse

Premise: I wasn't sure what to expect this book. I don't read a lot of contemporary novels, especially not a lot of women-focused ones and plastic surgery is something I've never even thought of before. I was pleasantly surprised by this book though. The plot is simple and focuses on characters finding themselves and looking at others deeper than what is on the surface and it executed that very well.

Writing: Well-written. The prose is invisible and you only see the story. There was one dialogue error, but that was it.

Characters: The best part of the story. You meet all these people and immediately you are tempted to lump them into a specific stereotype. There is Amber who appears to be the preppy "better than you" popular girl, then there is David the goth geek, Jen the awesome best friend, and many others. And slowly you get to see these people for who they actually are...and it's beautiful and unexpected. Learning who these characters are on the inside is the best part of the novel.

Journey: Enjoyable and a fast read.

Macy Felts says

A Different Me written by Deborah Blumenthal is about a girl named Allie. She's the geek, has low self esteem and doesn't like the way she looks. Allie similar to most girls these days , have come to the decision that she hates her nose so her first thought was, a nose job. That's a decision that she thinks is the only way to solve all her problems. She is the straight A student who looks up to and wants to be exactly like Amber the most popular girl in school also the model. I enjoy young romance or even books written about teenage lives and different scenarios.

Allie doesn't have many friends at school she has Jen her only friend. Although her and Jen are best friends she feels as if Jen doesn't understand how she feels about her nose and why she wants surgery. She makes two friends over this website for girls who want a nose job their names are Mel and Katrina. Amber the popular girl has to be tutored by Allie, ends up even though you may be the most popular girl, or even the prettiest it doesn't mean you have the prettiest life. She becomes good friends with Amber and Amber opens up to Allie and tells her about her life and how it isn't the best. Later on in the story Allie goes to Plastic surgeons to see what they can do. Her friend Katrina finally has her nose done that means both Mel and Katrina have had it done. So Allie feels as if things have changed and they don't understand her as much as they did before. She starts tutoring a weird kid named David in her class that takes pictures of everything and wears eyeliner. It turns out that he thinks that Allie is pure beauty and that he loves her for who she is. Allie starts to really like David and he likes her, this would be her first real boyfriend or crush, he rises her self confidence and decides to not go through with the surgery because David makes her feel good in her skin and that's all that matters.

I honestly really enjoyed this book, it gives a ideal state about girls this day and time. It teaches you that you may not like how you look but that's okay because as soon as you find someone who looks at you and thinks your pure beauty that you should feel confident about yourself. It also just gave you inside about a normal teenage girl trying her best to get through high-school. The only thing i didn't really like about the book was how it ended, I believe it could have gone on more. I wish she would write a series continuing the life of Allie and how she grows up to be and what happens in her life. This book involves you very much almost like you're in real life and part of the story.

I suggest young teen girls who may enjoy these young adult fiction books like me or even women who struggle with confidence issues that this would help them or put it in a different perspective for themselves or even girls who enjoy reading about how a girl in high-school goes through many struggles and still finds happiness in the end.

Will Wortner says

I was asked to read this for a review. It is far outside my normal genres, (But I never deny a request!) Having said that, it's not the first time I have read this far outside my norm by request, but this has by far been my most impressive read I was surprised by this book, and think it's deserving of 5 stars. This book will come highly recommended from me to its intended audience (Girls 13-18.)

I think the meaning behind the song "Demons" by Imagine Dragons and A Different Me are very similar. It is a strange comparison, but you'll understand that correlation after reading it. Both sum up a concept of

there is way more going on under the surface than you can possibly figure out from appearances.

I have never read anything from Deborah Blumenthal, but I could tell this was not her first book. The writing was on point, exceptionally so. Blumenthal managed to create not one or two, but an entire cast of characters that felt real and deep on a level that hard to attain. I was further surprised at the character development, specifically the main character Allie, as well as David and Amber. Being able to add such multi-level depth and development to multiple characters is no small feat. Allie begins as a typical high school girl, and her problems and value set are those of a high school. I felt like I was watching a person, not reading a character. Then through a set of outside influences, Blumenthal transforms Allie in a way that feels so natural that it is hard to believe the girl at the end was the same as the one in the beginning.

This book has the ability to leave a lasting effect on certain readers. The story is clearly meant for girls 13-18 and I think it will hit its intended audience right on the mark. All the characters signify many stereotypical personas encountered in high-school, then open up to levels of insecurities and deeper issues that many individuals deal with at some point in their lives.

Angelina Quiroz says

I enjoyed this book. I think it was a good book for me to read because its about a teen in this generation with alot of the same struggles every teen goes through. I loved how so many different people from different backgrounds are apart of this story. Like how the popular girl everyone wants to be, actually has a rough life and has to deal with so much. The one weird guy who wears eyeliner, he does it to get the attention towards himself and not his brother that has cancer. I liked how this book clearly shows that no one is perfect and everyone has there flaws. If you have people in your life that care about you and make you happy, you shuldnt care what haters think of you. You shouldnt go and judge someone, because you never know, they could end up being your bestfriend once you get to know them. I rated this four stars because i liked how relatable this book was but it was kind of strange and annoying that it was about Allie wanting surgery for her nose and how everything revolved around it. Other than that, i thought this was a good book and recomend it to teens my age.

Samantha says

"For years, Allie Johnston has wanted something she rarely discusses outside of an online chat group: a nose job. For her, a nose job could mean becoming beautiful, which in turn, would equal great self-esteem and happiness. When she meets two girls online who also want nose jobs, the three team up to support each other as they face the procedure. As Allie begins to seriously face the surgery and not just dream of it, she will have to decide if fixing her nose is what she is really after." Full review at Fresh Fiction: <http://freshfiction.com/review.php?id...>

Jennafer says

I'm sorry, but I didn't enjoy this book.

*****spoilers*****

I take notes with post-its as I go, and I go in order of the book. Enjoy.

Prologue:

You read it right. The motherf-*ing* prologue. A. Typo. WHAT?! A typo?! Seriously? And I quote: "Violins are playing in the background. At least I think I they are, but it's hard to hear because everything's getting floaty and fuzzy."

Did you catch it? "I think I they are"

I read it over and over and thought, maybe it's me. Maybe I'm not an advanced reader, but I had a couple of my friends read it and we agree. It's a damn typo. What a way to start off the book.

That's the first page by the way.

By page 70, I wrote "Bored." And that I was! I for the life of me could not get through this book! It took me almost two weeks! There are other factors that I believe play a part in this, but I will elaborate on that later.

Page 99. A quote I didn't appreciate. First line. "I think of the high I get when I've aced a test I've killed myself for." I understand what the author meant, I'm not stupid. But this book is about an insecure girl, and I mean EXTREMELY insecure, so much so that she feels plastic surgery is the only thing that will help. Don't you think something else would've fit better?

Something I noticed that I personally struggled with was skimming. I found that I would read the words, but not actually *read* them. You know what I mean. I kept having to go back multiple times to *reread* what I *read*. I did notice however, that when I sat down in complete silence, I flew through it.

Page 186. WHAT IS UP WITH THE QUOTATION MARKS? Did I miss something in English class that said it was okay to not put an ending quotation? Proof: ("A girl who is thinking of having her nose done says for her surgery isn't really about how she looks, it's about how she feels. She says her surgeon told her, "If you're expecting a nose job to change your life, don't do it.) WHY. Also, I noted that the speeches are very awkwardly written. Don't ask.

Page 231. Another. Typo. Quoted: "Florence never looks nervous. She looks prepared. I have no doubt that if someone swiped the cards off her desk, **if** wouldn't matter." GAG.

Sorry to say, but I have another typo to torment you with. Page 243. Quoted: "She turns to me for a millisecond and pretends to barf. **The** she looks at Harry..." Just... no.

The end? Predictable. As predictable as it gets.

There were *some* good characteristics about this book however. For starters, I personally love short chapters. LOVE. Another, it was pretty spot on and realistic. I don't relate to wanting a nose job, which is probably why it was so boring for me, but it was still an interesting read. Good blend of growing into the person you are, while having obvious *life things* happen in the process. My problem with this book was NOT the story. My problem was how it was written.

Do not recommend.

Sandy says

My life would be perfect if....I had a better job, if I had more education, or perhaps if I had could just say no more often. Most people have said or have had thoughts about having a perfect life but for Allie her perfect life would start if she had Amber's nose. This slender, straight feature sits perfectly on Amber's face and people are not drawn to its appearance, now if only Allie had one just like it. Allie has been obsessed with Amber's nose for a while and while she has brought up the idea of surgery to her parents that's all it's been, just a subject nothing more. Rhinoplasty, typing these words into her computer's search engine gives Allie hope. Connecting with two other teens with the same desire to have nose surgery, she finds a connection. From a desperate Allie, I feel brightness and spunk move into Allie; she comes alive and rejuvenated as she connects with her new friends. The three girls have a lot to talk about and their future plans all point to the same destination. At school, being paired up with Amber for tutoring, their teacher creates an incredible experience for the two girls. It's amazing how their teacher paired these two girls together on her own. For it's more than just an education Amber receives, it's an eye-opener for both of them. Allie also gets an eye-opener from David, the annoying boy with the camera. His obsession with his camera, the way he's always snapping pictures, getting his camera in everyone's way starts to get on Allie's nerves. David waits, he's patient, being a photographer he's used to waiting for the perfect moment, for when the perfect moment arises, David will then make his move.
