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Things Mischa “Ish” Love will miss when she goes to Mars: lying on the living room floor watching TV, ice cream, her parrot Buzz Aldrin. Things Ish Love will not miss when she goes to Mars: mosquitoes, heat waves, missing her former best friend Tig.

Ish is convinced that she’ll be one of the first settlers on Mars. She’s applied to—and been rejected from—the Mars Now project forty-seven times, but the mission won’t leave for ten years and Ish hasn’t given up hope. She also hasn’t given up hope that Tig will be her best friend again (not that she’d ever admit that to anyone, least of all herself). When Ish collapses on the first day of seventh grade, she gets a diagnosis that threatens all her future plans. As Ish fights cancer, she dreams in vivid detail about the Martian adventures she’s always known she’d have—and makes unexpected discoveries about love, fate, and her place in the vast universe.

Love, Ish Details

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From Reader Review Love, Ish for online ebook

Brandy Painter says

I didn't read the synopsis of this before starting it. Mistake. I just loved *The Girl in the Well Is Me* so much that I saw it was a new Karen Rivers book and snatched it up. If I had read the synopsis, I would have been less eager. I still would have read it eventually though. Sadly, I just couldn't make it through this one (and not entirely due to the subject matter).

There were 8 (yes EIGHT) product brand names in the first 20 pages. Before anyone gets on me for being nitpicky, I only stopped and counted because it was so obvious and I was tripping over them. Nothing ages a book faster than that. But my real problem was the main character. I'm a big proponent of unlikeable characters, especially girls who are allowed to be unlikeable. There's a difference between unlikeable and completely unsympathetic though, and Ish falls into the latter character as she's introduced in the first few chapters. She is one of those girls who are DIFFERENT from all the other girls. She doesn't do princesses and clothes and make-up. She is a scientist. And VERY sneery and pretentious about the whole thing. And she is constantly lecturing the reader to the point that I felt the author was lecturing me through her. It was annoying even though I agreed with more than half of the lectures. I flipped to the end to see if I felt finishing it was worth it. For me it wasn't.

Tianna says

Okay, first of all, I would like to say that I only read the preview of this, in exchange for an honest review from NetGalley.

For a while after requesting to review *Love, Ish*, I didn't realise that I had read just the preview. I thought, stupidly, it was just a short story that ended very confusingly, without explaining anything. I was wrong. When I found out that it was the preview, I was very relieved.

From what I'd read, the story seemed interesting enough; young girl dreams of going to Mars and is silently coping with the non-responsiveness of her former best friend. But after I actually finished it, I realised... the preview doesn't even start on the super interesting part of the story! Only at the end did I find out that Mischa was diagnosed with cancer and just in reading that, my heart broke a little.

Mischa herself is definitely a fun character. She's intelligent (far more intelligent than I am and I'm seven years older than her!), funny and sarcastic - my kind of character. She also spends a lot of time fighting with herself over trying to convince herself she no longer cares about her former-best friend, Tig.

The story itself is really intriguing and though it's aimed for a younger audience, I would have absolutely no qualms about purchasing it for myself to read. Pshaw, who says age recommendations mean anything? I've even learned a few things, like what a biome is. I feel smarterer already.

I highly recommend reading it.

Ellie says

This book broke my heart. It was depressing as hell, but there were so many sweet moments that it was worth it. Also, almost nothing was resolved, but THAT'S LIFE. It makes sense for the circumstances, and it makes sense, not everyone gets to resolve everything in their life.

Highly recommend. Bring tissues... like, a whole box.

Colby Sharp says

Man. This book broke my heart. One of the saddest middle grade books I have ever read.

Chelsea says

When I read the synopsis of this story, I was really intrigued. I read a lot of books where the main character gets struck with cancer, but I think this is the first book that I have discovered where the character was only 12.

I really wanted to like this book. At first, I thought Ish would be really relatable to me, because of her interest in the environment and taking care of the planet. But, she just really quickly started to annoy me. She was just very negative (even before she knew she had cancer). She was always insulting everyone in the story. It just became very tedious.

So I love when characters are unique, but I get annoyed really quickly with characters that have absolutely zero qualities that are similar to anyone, and that is how Ish was written. For a good portion of the story, she resembles a robot (and calls herself a machine) more than a human. She doesn't seem to care when she hurts people, and it just doesn't make her likable.

I also felt like the author tried really hard to make her family super weird, and at times, it was really annoying. Her mom was almost as annoying as she was at some points in the story. Overall, she wasn't as bad, but still. Honestly, outside of maybe Iris, I didn't really like any of the characters.

I was just overall really disappointed with this story. I was really expecting a heart-wrenching tale of a young girl and her struggles with cancer, and it just left me down. I felt that it was really slow, and very boring. And I'm not sure how I feel about the ending.

This book just wasn't for me, and if you are considering reading it, I would check out some other reviews that are more positive.

*I received this book free to read and review, thanks to Algonquin Young Readers.

C.K. Martin says

I loved everything about Ish's unique point of view, from her feelings about former close friend Tig, her one perfect sister and other difficult one, and her obsession with Mars. This book doesn't pull any punches. Some

readers won't like that and others (like me) will admire the hell out of it.

Scott Fillner says

Such a moving story filled with strong emotion and a rich character. Ish just steals your heart and has you wanting to reach out to her throughout the story.

Kaitlin says

I have absolutely fallen in love with Karen Rivers' writing style. Period. End of story. Her characters are witty, endearing, and just so freaking loveable. Seriously, if you don't love Ish's quirky personality, her insightful observations, and her hilarious quips, you're just wrong. I'm sorry, but you are. And if you're not bawling your eyes out by the end of this book, then there's really no hope for humanity.

Amie's Book Reviews says

Most Middle-grade books, especially those targeted at female readers, seem to contain little more than what I call "fluff."

From their stereotypical pink covers to the oh so dreamy boy the main character has a crush on, Middle-Grade books for girls SUCK!!!

I LOVE that LOVE, ISH is different from any other book targeted at Middle-grade readers.

The cover of this book is awesome. It shows off Ish's long red hair, and the artist's decision to have her standing on the globe of Earth and looking towards Mars is 100% perfection.

I was not as happy with the description on the back of the book as I was with it's cover. It does not really do this book justice, but I have the feeling that this was done on purpose to grab the interest of the target age group. Once they begin reading and are pulled into the story, they will realize that this book is unique. They will discover that even though there are some very serious issues discussed in this book, they will want to keep reading despite the fact that they will be learning in the process.

Parents who do not try to keep their middle-grade children in a bubble and who realize that kids are a lot smarter than most people give them credit for, will want to buy this book for their sons and their daughters. Just because the protagonist is female, does not mean that this is a girl's book. In fact, both boys and girls will be able to relate to Ish and to her struggle to find her place in the world [or, maybe on Mars instead.]

The writing style of author KAREN RIVERS draws middle-grade readers into the story instantaneously. Her knowledge of what clothing and footwear appeal to this age group is an example of her attention to detail, sibling rivalry and the jealousies that seem petty to adults but feel so very important to tweens and teens are another example.

Ish's dream is to be the first woman/girl to live on Mars. In pursuit of this goal, she has read anything and everything that she could get her hands on that has to do with Mars and about the difficulties of colonizing a

new planet.

I love that this book encourages readers to dream big. Ish found a website where people can apply to be part of the first Mars colony expedition. She is only twelve years old and has already applied more than 40 times. She has received a rejection every time so far, but she will not give up hope. She plans to keep applying until they finally accept her. The message implied by Ish's actions is twofold. First, young people have dreams and aspirations and should be encouraged to follow those dreams, no matter how unlikely they seem. Secondly, the message to others is to be tenacious, and to not allow setbacks (or the opinions of others) to stop you from pursuing your dreams.

This book deserves a very high rating. There is so much contained in it's pages that is unlike any other middle-grade book on the market. In fact, even though the target readership is ages 10 through 15, I believe that readers of all ages will fall in love with LOVE, ISH and that upon completion, they will recommend it to their friends and families.

To read more about this book's contents and the issues it discusses, visit my blog at AmiesBookReviews.wordpress.com

I rate this book as 5 out of 5 Stars ?????

FAVORITE QUOTES:

"Living with Elliott is sort of like coexisting with a talking, breathing shard of broken glass. You never know when it's going to poke you in the foot and leave you bleeding all over the clean floor."

"My brain is basically a salad spinner, whirling unrelated ideas."

"The thing with chemo is that it is the worst and also, it sucks all the energy out of me, leaving me as floppy as a piece of paper. I feel like I'm constantly carrying something heavy, but that heavy thing is me."

Liza Fireman says

A girl that wants to go to Mars can be a potential to something good. But oh, no!

I read about 80% of this book, and I just couldn't get myself to finish it. The main protagonist is so annoying, such misanthrope that I just couldn't stand her. Mischa is 12 and she is saying about herself *Mom, I'm not fun..* All of her interest are boring things, such as environmental issues, and going to Mars to find people like her, and that's why she keeps away from people, because she doesn't want to be near them. She is commenting sarcastically on every single thing (from spelling intentional mistakes that exist in the world, to malls, to cellphones). If I has a bit more of a super small aspect to like about her maybe maybe I could find something good. But no, I just couldn't.

Here see for yourself if you would like someone that can't be a normal person for even one second, a robot per-se:

* *I wasn't going to tell him about the island of plastic floating around the Pacific Ocean, killing seabirds and whales!*

* *People look at their cellphones*

points for mars: no cellphones

* *Cinnabon is gross. Empty calories.*

* *22 is young, not aged, not dying. My frontal lobe will have finished developing*

Funny is also that she is self contradicting:

I'll be famous on Earth. Mischa Love was the first girl on Mars. Mischa Love changed everything.. Didn't we just say and she all the book brainwashed the reader with the fact that she doesn't even care what anyone thinks about her?!

When she does meet other girl in the mall by mistake, she behaves like a nasty snob. Who names each one of the people in a group of more than ten people? I make myself greet them: "Oh, hi. Ashley Ana, Sophia, Camilla, Bea.. Zoe Amber, Alex, Kaitlyn".

Her mom is no less annoying. Talking with her seriously about Mars as if she is going tomorrow. Won't you miss this? (and of course she has only negatives Cinnabon? Malls? Crowds of people? Definitely not 50% off sale at Forever 21.).

The mom herself is really awkward too, at some point she rehearses a song she learned in grade school with the punctuation: carriage return type writer mom recites a song with all the punctuation

Overall, no reason to spend time on this book. Story is boring, characters are annoying, it is jumping by loose associations and just tries to preach to the reader about many different topics.

Oh, and of course Mischa has red hair (and she lost a friend that moved and that's why she is not able of being tolerated for even a single moment). A notch over 1.5 stars. Skip!

This is not the way that we want to encourage girl to aspire for more. If anything, this will achieve the opposite. Who would like to be friendless and annoying like Mischa? If this is how someone is behaving if they want to be an astronaut/engineer/any profession that is a "boys" thing, you would not find many girls signing for it. Normal girls that are successful and have dream, and investigate should be the protagonists in our books. Nice girls, that are both fun and smart, and want to be whatever they want to be.

Ms. Yingling says

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Ish is surviving the defection of her best friend, Tig, by planning her future on Mars. There is a web site that claims to be taking applications for people to live in a colony, so Ish is planning her whole life around this, from the clothes she wears to the food she eats. The beginning of school is hard without Tig, who has moved to another town and not answered any of her e mails. It doesn't help that Ish is often at odds with her mother as well as her older sister, Elliot, who is still very angry about finding out that she and Ish were adopted.

When Ish starts 7th grade, she has to deal with the mean girls, as well as a new boy who calls her "Fish". That's insignificant, however, when she passes out on the first day of school. The reason: a brain tumor. Ish is not happy about the aggressive treatment, which leaves her bald and ill. One upside is that new boy, Gavriel, visits her in the hospital and becomes her friend. The downside is that Ish is very, very ill. Brain tumors, even when referred to as the Brussels Sprout or Nirgal, don't fool around.

Strengths: Rivers writes a very good hallucinatory scene, and this is certainly an artistic choice that sets her work apart from other middle grade authors. She uses this in *The Girl in the Well is Me* as well. Her characters are well developed, and the family supportive but slightly dysfunctional, which is realistic. There haven't been many books about children dealing with cancer lately, and they are something some readers like to investigate.

Weaknesses: Ish is the sort of character who has purposefully alienated herself from her peers at school, and I have trouble connecting with these characters. Also, while interesting, the hallucinatory scenes might make it hard for some readers to understand what is going on with Ish's cancer treatment.

What I really think: Buy this if *The Girl in the Well is Me* circulates well in your library. I will think about this one and purchase if I have some extra money.

Karen Parisot says

Twelve year old Mischa Love is one very determined young lady. Her ambition is to be one of the first humans to colonize Mars, and she is doing everything in her power to reach that goal. Then life throws her a curveball.

A new book for middle grade readers, Love, Ish, is an excellent read. Told in the first person, Ish is smart, funny and wise beyond her years. It's good to find a female character who is so into science and astronomy. The author has done an incredible job of weaving a lot of information about Mars into the story. I certainly learned a lot about the red planet by way of this entertaining tale. The book is about much more than Mars, though. It's about dreams and friendship, families and love, life and death. Highly recommend!

Donna says

Interesting story about a girl who is obsessed with Mars - she keeps apply to go. She also misses her best friend who moved. Ish collapses on the first day of school and finds out she has a brain tumor.

What follows is her dealing with it.

Ending is ambiguous.

Suzanne Maley says

Very sad but very well written.

Matthew Galloway says

I loved the way Ish is portrayed. It felt so real, that struggle people have when they feel like they don't fit in - that mixture of prickliness and vulnerability. Really, all of her relationships rang true. Rivers also did such a good job bringing strong emotions out in the reader -- Algonquin/Workman was not wrong when they included the note with this galley that I'd need tissues. (They even sent a pack with the book!). I couldn't put the book down, even though parts of it just made my heart feel so raw.
