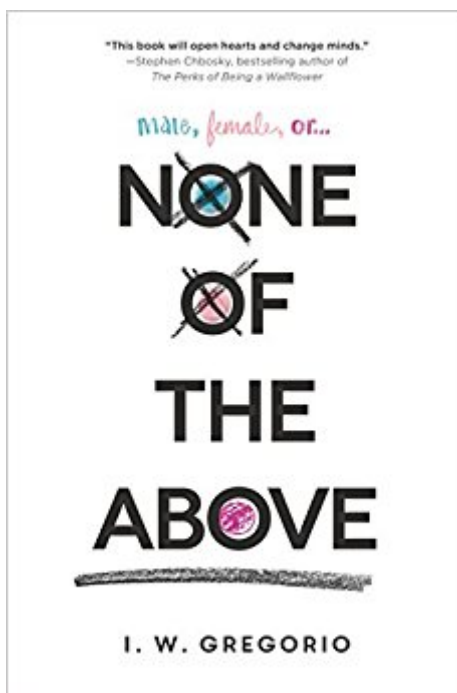


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None Of The Above



Synopsis

“None of the Above is a powerful story of discovering one’s true identity. This book will open hearts and change minds.”—Stephen Chbosky, bestselling author of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Now in paperback • this relatable and groundbreaking story for the LGBTQIA+ audience is about a teenage girl who discovers she was born intersex . . . and what happens when her secret is revealed to the entire school. Perfect for fans of *If I Was Your Girl* and *Ask the Passengers*. When Kristin Lattimer is voted homecoming queen, it seems like another piece of her ideal life has fallen into place. She’s a champion hurdler with a full scholarship to college and she’s madly in love with her boyfriend. In fact, she’s decided that she’s ready to take things to the next level with him. But Kristin’s first time isn’t the perfect moment she’s planned • something is very wrong. A visit to the doctor reveals the truth: Kristin is intersex, which means that though she outwardly looks like a girl, she has male chromosomes, not to mention boy “parts.” Dealing with her body is difficult enough, but when her diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, Kristin’s entire identity is thrown into question. As her world unravels, can she come to terms with her new self? Incredibly compelling and sensitively told, *None of the Above* is a thought-provoking novel that explores what it means to be a boy, a girl, or something in between.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition (April 4, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062335324

ISBN-13: 978-0062335326

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 108 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #179,692 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying #325 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings #461 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Kristin Lattimer embodies the all-American teenage girl. She’s sporty, well-liked,

cool but humble enough to be shocked when elected Homecoming Queen, with two loyal best friends and a loving boyfriend. Even in the wake of her mom's death from cervical cancer, Kristin's future is looking pretty bright. Until her first time having sex with Sam goes painfully awry, leading to a doctor's appointment that reveals she is intersex. Suddenly, Kristin's life is thrown wildly off-kilter as she struggles with her condition and its impact on her self-esteem, academic life, and most important relationships. The novel is engaging and well paced, with smart young characters. However, their witty banter and sage insights don't always seem to capture a youthful voice. The novel's pedagogical intent threatens to overwhelm the natural rhythm of speech, making these 17 and 18 year olds sound like medical mouthpieces from time to time. Gregorio's helpful author's note explains that numerous AIS perspectives and sources were consulted in the writing process; it is evident that research was done to give this fictional account realism and nuance. Links and resources about being intersex are provided for further reading. While the text occasionally reads like a fictionalized medical record, this book serves as a useful introduction to the discussion around intersexuality, particularly from a youth viewpoint.

Ashleigh Williams,
School Library Journal --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"None of the Above is a powerful story of discovering one's true identity. This book will open hearts and change minds." (Stephen Chbosky, bestselling author of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*) "[A] provocative and enlightening first novel...will strike a familiar chord with any reader who has felt estranged." (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) "I couldn't put this book down—it opened my mind in ways that few books have done before." (Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*) "Noble, daring and necessary." (I.W. Gregorio's groundbreaking debut is a bittersweet, painful and ultimately life-affirming voyage of identity." (Elizabeth Wein, award-winning & NYT bestselling author of *Code Name Verity*) "Like the beloved physician she is, I. W. Gregorio brings rare knowledge and acute empathy to the illumination of an anatomical difference—and to the teens who discover, in the nick of time, the saving grace of knowing and being one's truest self. A book unlike any other." (Beth Kephart, award-winning author of *Going Over and Small Damages*) "None of the Above is a sensitive, beautifully written story, told with heart (break) and humor. Gregorio deftly explores the isolation of being neither in a highly relatable way. Bravo!" (Kristin Elizabeth Clark, author of *FREAKBOY*) "Engaging and well paced, with smart young characters—a useful introduction to intersexuality." (School Library Journal) "Sensitive,

informative and a valuable resource” (Kirkus Reviews) “None of the Above rises above most young adult fiction because it has potential to evoke significant change...[A] compelling and touching narrative.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) “[A] remarkable novel...Eye-opening and important.” (Booklist) “Kristin’s struggle with her identity is wrenching and authentically conveyed.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

Such a good book. I personally don’t know much about what it means to be intersex, so I loved learning more and reading Kristin’s story. I gave this book 5 out of 5 stars. So I actually bought an ebook copy of this book for a diverse book event several months ago, but I wanted to read a hardcover copy instead of using my Kindle, due to eye strain. I reserved a library copy when I saw this book on the list for #ReadProud. It’s been on my TBR list for way too long, so I had to rectify that situation. Kristin was such a great main character. I learned a lot about what it means to be intersex because of this book, so yay for that! I love being able to open my eyes to new things, to be able to understand things more, to keep my mind open/accepting of everyone. My heart hurt for some of the things Kristin had to endure. People, especially teens, can be so cruel. I’m glad she had a great support system built of family and friends to turn to. I definitely cried during emotional parts in the book. So fair warning, you might cry too. I just know Kristin is going to be okay, especially because her support circle got bigger as the book continued. It really goes to show you that some people are actually good. There was some romance in the beginning of the book, and then some at the very end. I like the romance at the end better. The ending was perfection. I was beyond happy that Kristin was in a better place emotionally, and that things were starting to look up for her all around. I can’t say for certain, but I think Darren will be an addition to my book boyfriend list. He was super sweet, but I feel like I didn’t get to see enough of him. I wanted more! I also really loved his mom. Kristin’s dad was another great character; he’s kind of intense after what happened with Kristin’s mom (no spoilers), but he’s so accepting/supportive after Kristin received her diagnosis. More parents should be like him. In addition to these characters, I loved Gretchen, Jessica, and a few others. I didn’t make many status updates on Goodreads while devouring this book in two days, but here’s a quote I loved: “One day I would find my own place. I couldn’t run there, though, because it didn’t exist yet; I had to build it myself, out of forgiveness, truth, and terrifying gestures of

friendship. *It's a beautiful journey.* Final note: An amazing book! I'm so glad I picked this book for the final #ReadProud weekly challenge. Get yourself a copy of this book ASAP. It'll open your eyes and your heart.

The premise: Kristin is a normal girl, in a normal high school, with lots of friends and a boyfriend. When her first sexual experience with her boyfriend Sam doesn't go as planned, she visits the gynecologist and discovers that she is intersex. In her case, she has all the outward identifying features of a girl. She IS a girl. But Kristin has no uterus or cervix and has undescended testicles. Suddenly, her world is shifted. Who am I? is a common question as a teenager. Kristin only becomes more mired in this question when her sex and gender are questioned, by herself and publicly. When her school finds out, she becomes the object of abject ridicule and derision. The theme of the book is the process in which Kristin realizes her AIS doesn't change who she is and she can find her own place in the world, just like anyone else. Some minor criticism: I see the process of Kristin deciding on surgery a bit too quick. Yet, in Kristin's need to validate herself as a girl and feeling more comfortable in her own skin, I see why she was in such a rush. The decision for Kristin to forgive her BFF Faith so quickly for spilling the secret to Sam is also difficult for me to accept. There wasn't much mulling it over. More character development with Kristin and her friends would've helped round out the story more, showing more depth to the characters. However, the story is written from a teenager's perspective, and a teenage narrator realistically is not writing or thinking like an adult. If I read my journals from high school, I certainly wasn't as insightful as I am in adulthood. This book is geared for a Young Adult audience, but equally engaging and educational for adults who want to read from a teen perspective. The praises far outweigh the criticism in this book. Kudos to Gregorio to portray unconditional support from Kristin's family. It is refreshing to see that the father-daughter relationship did not falter after Kristin's diagnosis was revealed. The medical terminology and introduction to what being intersex is explained so that anyone can understand it. There is much, much more being intersex, Kristin's type considered more straightforward than others. There are "inbetweeners", or partial versions of AIS with a fleeting mention. Gregorio's book is meant to be a springboard, a point where one can do more research and discovery if so inclined. All the more important to help promote support in communities. Kristin's story uncovers the deep fear that people feel about things they do not understand, and how terrible and ugly they can be to others because of it. People are faced with these reactions every day when they are considered different and out the majority, whether it be about race, homosexuality, being transgender, or religion. I hope that this book can be a start for some to build a legacy of

acceptance and understanding for people who are "othered": we are all but variations on the theme of being human, no matter our chromosomes, genitals, skin color, religion, or able-bodiedness. I.W. Gregorio, write another book. I will read it!

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