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# Side Effects May Vary



## Synopsis

For fans of John Green and Rainbow Rowell comes this powerful novel about a girl with cancer who creates a take-no-prisoners bucket list that sets off a war at schoolâ ”only to discover she’s gone into remission. When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend, Harvey, to help her with a crazy bucket list that’s as much about revenge as it is about hope. But just when Alice’s scores are settled, she goes into remission, and now she must face the consequences of all she’s said and done. Contemporary realistic-fiction readers who love romantic stories featuring strong heroines will find much to savor in this standout debut.

## Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition (July 14, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062245376

ISBN-13: 978-0062245373

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (153 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #29,304 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #88 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen #232 inÂ Books > Teens > Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

This has been one of those books that I have read mixed reviews about. There has been so much talk about Alice’s character that I was worried about how I would feel about her. But after reading this book, I could see why everyone had the opinion they had of her, but in my opinion Alice was just perfectly flawed. I knew that this book was going to bring out some major emotions, and I had prepared myself for that. I like a good book that makes me cry. Having a good cry every now and then is very therapeutic and after having the long intense month of preparing for my nursing boards a good cry is exactly what I needed. And this an amazing 1st chapter, that frankly has you crying by the end of the first few pages. It is difficult enough to be a teenage girl in today’s society. Frankly I don’t know if I would even survive high school these days. But being a teenage girl who is fighting Leukemia, that is probably the hardest thing I can imagine. This book is told in 2 perspectives,

Alice's and Harvey's. It had also is told in two time tables what I like to call Pre-Remission and Post-Remission. After months of intense chemotherapy sessions and watching her body deteriorating, Alice has accepted the fact that she is going to die. But being a teenage girl, who feels that she has been wronged by every aspect of her life, she wants to achieve a type of retribution and make those that have wronged her suffer before her passing. Yes, some of the things that she does is absolutely horrendous and even sickening. But what most reviewers did not understand was that Alice's actions were actually following a normal pattern of dealing with grief, which every person goes through and some get stuck in one phase longer than others.

We are The Unofficial Addiction Book Fan Club, to know more about this book, go to the post in our website. REVIEW: If you ever thought, just by reading the synopsis of this book, that this book could 'cause you an overdose of feelings, then you're absolutely right. Julie Murphy's debut novel is absolutely brilliant. To make readers feel everything the character is feeling and to make you live, you have to be an amazing writer. And she definitely is. Because she not only wrote a dramatic novel where the main character has a serious disease that's making her die and then she's cured, she also has to endure with everything she did when she thought she was dying and also to see the reaction from Julie's character when they told her she's going to live. That she has another chance. So this isn't only about dramatic cliffhangers throughout the whole book, it's also about revenge, about life and about love, too. The story is about Alice, a girl who is diagnosed with leukemia. Alice's just waiting for her "life-clock" to stop ticking when the good news come knocking on her door: she goes into remission. Alice should be happy about that, but if you were dying and some people might have make your life miserable, wouldn't you want some revenge before going into the afterlife? Well, that's exactly what she does. However, her afterlife might have to wait and now Alice has to answer for everything she's done this past year. With a marvelous bucket list full of revenge steps and her best friend who's in love with her, Alice has to face her new reality after having her life back.

Some people have compared this book to *The Fault in Our Stars*, and they're right ... if by the same you mean that there is a girl who has cancer and some romance thrown in for good measure. But that is as far as the similarities go, in my opinion. This book lacks the humor and the heart of John Green's popular book. Unfortunately, the success of this story hinges on how you feel about Alice, the main character of this novel. And unfortunately for me, I couldn't stand her. Alice is a girl who has gone through the horrific and painful experience of cancer and the treatments to cure it that can be almost as awful as the cancer itself. Her prognosis is not good, so Alice has spent a year preparing

to die, only to discover that she has miraculously gone into remission. The cancer is gone. Alice has a future. Great news, right? Well, for Alice ... not so much. While people sometimes take time when learning of a terminal diagnosis to go through a bucket list of experiences to help them leave this life having lived it to the fullest they could as long as they could, Alice chooses to make a bucket list of revenge plans that involve publicly humiliating the people in her life who have done her wrong. She burns one bridge after another in her life, dragging the ever faithful Harvey along for the ride. Harvey is AMAZING. He is the one bright spot in this otherwise dismal story. He is faithful and strong and caring and forgiving, almost too much. Alice uses him again and again, manipulating his emotions, knowing that he is in love with her and has been since they were children. Again and again he returns to Alice when everyone else has left her.

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