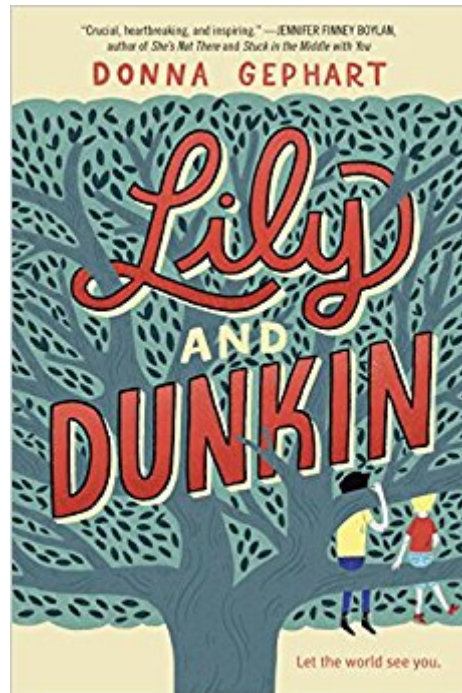




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Lily And Dunkin



Synopsis

"Gephart has written a story that will speak not just to one specific community, but to humanity as a whole." --VOYA For readers who enjoyed *Wonder* and *Counting by 7's*, award-winning author Donna Gephart crafts a compelling dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder. Their powerful story will shred your heart, then stitch it back together with kindness, humor, bravery, and love. Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

• 2017 Southern Book Award Finalist • Voice Award from the Palm Beach County Action Alliance for Mental Health • NPR's Best Kids' Books of 2016 • Chicago Public Library Best Fiction for Older Readers 2016 • New York Public Library Best Books for Kids 2016 • 's Top 20 Children's Books of 2016 • Top 10 Audiobooks of 2016, School Library Journal • YALSA 2017 Best Fiction for Young Adults • YALSA 2017 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers • ALA 2017 Rainbow Book List -- GLBTQ Books for Children & Teens • Georgia Book Award, 2017-2018 Nominee • Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Nominee, 2018 • Wisconsin State Reading Association's Just One More Page Selection, 2017 • Indie Next Pick Summer 2016 • Junior Library Guild Selection • Goodreads Choice Awards 2016 -- Best Middle Grade & Children's • 2016 Nerdy Book Club Award • 2016 Rainbow Awards -- Best Transgender Book • 2016 Spring Okra Pick -- the Best in Southern Literature

"Gephart clearly has a lot of heart, and she tells their stories with compassion." --Kirkus "A thoughtfully and sensitively written work of character-driven fiction that dramatically addresses two important subjects that deserve more widespread attention." --Booklist, starred "Gephart sympathetically contrasts the physical awkwardness, uncertainty, and longings of these two outsiders during a few tightly-plotted months, building to a crescendo of revelation [A] valuable portrait of two teenagers whose journeys are just beginning." --PW "This would be a fantastic addition to any middle grade library collection, and is highly recommended for all ages." --VOYA "Lily and Dunkin is a delight. Here's a book for anyone who's ever struggled with being different--or anyone who's ever loved someone who bears the burden of difference. . . . Crucial, heart-breaking, and inspiring." • "Jennifer Finney Boylan, author of *She's Not There* and *Stuck in the Middle with You*

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0680 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 352 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 82 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,708 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness #45 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #267 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of

Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

“Though in less skillful hands this might have turned into a problem novel, it is, instead, a thoughtfully and sensitively written work of character-driven fiction that dramatically addresses two important subjects that deserve more widespread attention.” —Booklist starred review

Donna Gephart's award-winning novels are packed with humor and heart. They include *Death by Toilet Paper*; *Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen*; *How to Survive Middle-School*; and *As if Being 12-3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President!* Donna is a popular speaker at schools, conferences, and book festivals. For reading guides, resources, writing tips, and more, visit donnagephart.com.

It's the culture that keeps you from living the life one was born to live. It's the closure that lets one begin to live again after a loss. And it's the comfort of a limb one can climb out onto--climb out upon that reminds us that the phrase, "life and limb" takes on new meaning depending upon how close one might be to a tree at the time. Gephart creates something very special in the characters of Tim (Lily) and Norbert (Dunkin) in this new-to-me-and-you but celebrated-by-early-readers within her

new book for upper middle-grade readers (description says ten and up). I read LILY AND DUNKIN in one day. This is not-so-odd as it is time for the annual push for Donalyn Miller (The Book Whisperer) and her #bookaday challenge. And I needed Gephart's book to get me back into that swing of daily reading again after closing up a very busy school year. I started reading the book in the morning and I kept coming back all day long to "read just a little bit more." The description of the book tells you what to expect from a chance meeting of a transgender and a bi-polar character at the end of one summer going into a new school year. What the description does NOT tell you--by way of humble brag--is that Gephart has written a new FREAK THE MIGHTY for a new generation of readers. Gephart works the symbiotic relationship well through the book even building in a little bit of tension for the reader as Dunkin violates some of the motifs of the familiar convention. But, what we do have--like the MG classic FTM--is a character defied by her own body matched up with a larger character having difficulty finding the words for the associated feelings that come of losing a loved one. But none of this is formulaic. What Gephart offers to readers is a story that is familiar to those who read symbiotic relationship, but, in LILY AND DUNKIN we get something that we don't get in OF MICE AND MEN or FREAK THE MIGHTY. We get parents. We get extended families. We get the pulling-toward and the pushback that comes of being in real-life families who struggle along with us. Who process the early buddings of a desire or a dream. Who champion our efforts. Who come to our aid when we call. Comical and tender, this is the middle-grade book you are looking for this summer. Think GEORGE meets FREAK THE MIGHTY meets JOEY PIGZA, but be ready for a book that runs the gamut of emotions that come of real-life issues that are not overly-romanticized by Gephart. The book also offers plenty of resources for more information on transgender-related issues as well as issues related to mental health. But, I'm really calling this a "January Book" (we'll be talking about the book a lot again. . .in January). Early predictions from Mr. Hankins.

Oh. My. Heart. This book. This book is so incredibly powerful and well done. The publicity on this book should be way better. I was wavering on whether to read it and then a local, youth librarian was reading it at our public library and called it "pretty good." Pretty good? Pshaw. This book is a MUST read for young people, and if it doesn't melt any reader's heart, then he's dead inside. It covers all the great topics in adolescent literature (and my favorite literature): bullying, family drama, LGBTQ issues, mental illness, grief.... And the best relationship in this book is between Lily and the tree. You'll fall for these characters, you'll root for them, and then you'll shove this book into your friends' hands.

I am thrilled that there are more and more young adult books available that positively address "issues" many young adults are facing on a daily basis-- mental illness in self and/or family, sexuality, gender identity, disabilities, self-esteem, etc. For many children and young adults, it helps to read about characters who are facing the same issues as they are; it helps them feel more "normal." Lily and Dunkin, the two protagonists after whom this book is titled, are two eighth graders who are dealing with a multitude of issues-- gender identity, family acceptance, mental illness in both self and family, moving, peer acceptance, bullying, self-acceptance, grief, and friendship-- yet the book does NOT read as "preachy" or as unrealistic in the number of social issues discussed in the book. Instead, Gephart breaks the reader's heart as she characterizes both Lily and Dunkin, drawing the reader deeper and deeper into both the pain and joy each character feels at different parts in the narrative. Nothing is perfect in the worlds of neither Lily nor Dunkin, which is what makes this novel so realistic. While both are accepted, and accept themselves, in some realms, they both face the opposite of acceptance in other ways. Both Lily and Dunkin are complex characters who are both incredibly typical and atypical at the same time. This is a novel that should be available to all young adults. Even if a certain young reader isn't struggling with bullying, gender identity, mental illness, grief, or friendship issues, I am 100% sure someone in their close circle IS dealing with at least one of those issues. Books like Lily and Dunkin help us all be more compassionate and understanding of those around us.

I couldn't put this book down. It moved me. I laughed, I cried, and the characters felt true. Told from two viewpoints, I rooted for each character from the first page. This could have been two separate books because each storyline was so compelling, with interesting, full-of-heart characters. Aside from being a book that should be in every middle school, it's also a novel that I recommend for adults as well. EVERYONE should read this book. I can't wait to discuss it with people who have read it. It's riveting from beginning to end, emotional, and a beautiful story of friendship and acceptance.

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