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# No One Needed To Know



## Synopsis

Heidi's brother, Donald, is 16 and Autistic. She has always loved playing with him, but now she's 11 and her life is changing. She's embarrassed to have her brother around and doesn't want her friends to know about him. High school boys bully him. When the kids at her school find out about him, she gets bullied too. It's not fair. No one seems to understand. But Heidi needs to understand too. She can't change her brother, but she can change how she feels about him, and she can get people to see why her brother is special. A perfect book for people who enjoyed the bestselling children's novel *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio or the Newberry Honor Award winning novel *Rules* by Cynthia Lord. Winner! of the 2017 Literary Classics Awards Seal of Approval Winner! 2017 Literary Classics Awards - Silver Medal for Preteen Fiction Winner! 2017 Purple Dragonfly Children's Book Awards (Honorable Mention for Special Needs Awareness category)

## Book Information

Paperback: 138 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,952,595 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #1286 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #1454 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

"This middle grade novel tells the story of a brother and sister relationship; it's quirky, loving, there is tension, and it's complicated too... This book is heart-wrenching. D.G. Driver pulls you in immediately...I love a strong sibling relationship and No One Needed To Know has done

such a good job." Book Review Mama "I would definitely recommend this book to teachers and students alike, since it promotes activism and empathy, two characteristics that Heidi strongly displays in this book... There was never a dull moment, which I loved. All in all, a fantastic book that I highly recommend to literally everyone, no matter who you are!" Kid Book Reviewer "This is the best story about dealing with bullies and with a child with Autism I have ever read. I found myself crying from the sheer heartwarming moments in this story about a sister who looked out for her older brother... This was a wonderful story and I recommend everyone read it...This book was a truly beautiful reading experience. Bravo! FIVE BIG STARS!" Quill, Ink and Parchment review "All children need to read this book to learn about situations children in families with disabled children face each and every day. They also need to learn how to relate to these challenged individuals as feeling persons, not to pity them, but to understand, so they are not afraid. The situations in the book are realistic, the feelings genuine, and the outcome extremely reasonable." Monday Morning Indie Reviews "This is an important novel that is as much about anti-bullying as it is about autism awareness. I hope schools and educators discover this story and encourage their classes to read it and discuss its relevant themes." Lavender Inspiration reviews

This is my most personal story to date. It is based loosely on my own experiences as a girl with a brother with developmental disabilities who was four years older than me. He was an awesome playmate when I was growing up. I remember the horrible names kids in the neighborhood called him, but I also remember how he just smiled nervously and kept on with whatever he was doing. He is to this day one of the happiest people I know. I was bullied as a kid, too, and I don't think anyone ever forgets what it's like to have kids turn on you and call you names or pick fights with you on the playground. I wrote this book for people who have been bullied or no someone who has been bullied. I wrote this book for other siblings of special needs children. I wrote it for teachers and parents to share with their kids to help promote empathy and kindness. I hope you enjoy it.

Heidi is such a strong tween with more influence than she realizes. She stands true to her values and friendships. Although, she struggles with what her friends might think or do if they meet her brother, she begins to understand the kind of life Donald will have ahead of him. Her parents finally give her some answers that she has been looking for. Her teachers acknowledged the ignorance of her classmates and immersed the classroom into an experience that the entire class will never forget. Heidi has her own battles to conquer with bullies in her class and these were people she thought were her friends, but later turn on her. Heidi realizes that through all the bullying her and her

brother, Donald tackle and dodge that really only these things matters.. Being herself, family, her education, teachers, and those few friends that have a change of heart when it comes to a hard lesson learned. Forgiveness is essentially the key in moving forward. Heidi has a whole new approach and understanding towards her brother when they play together. This takes me back to 6th grade elementary school when everyone started to change and life began to get more complicated, confusing, restless. Emotions and feelings started to overpower our actions. We were growing, more curious than ever, a little rebellious, awkward. I truly believe that when you read this book it will take grab you and transcend you into that time and place in your life when you first learned about the specially challenged.

No One Needed to Know will pull out every emotion you pocess. Heidi is your normal everyday girl that just so happens to have an older brother with a learning challenge. When Heidi's friends find out abiut her brother, her world starts to change I highly recommend this book to everyone who has ever dealt with bullying. Parents, this book is a great way to open up the communication with your children about bullying. As a teacher I will be using this book to teach my students about bullying. This book needs to be on every middle school's library shelf. D. G. Driver hits a homerun with this book.

Thoughts: I came into NO ONE NEEDED TO KNOW with high expectations, and I am extremely happy to say that my expectations were far exceeded. D.G. Driver has crafted a beautiful, very real story that has touched my heart - and I'm positive will touch others'. When Driver offered NO ONE NEEDED TO KNOW to me to review, she explained to me that this story was based on her own childhood experiences. That's part of the reason I had such high expectations - I usually expect an author who can relate so easily to their own main character to be able to write a better story because of it. I'm pleased to say that my assumptions were correct - Heidi is a stellar main character. She's relatable, likable, and flawed, but in the type of way that makes the story seem more real, which is exactly the type of thing I like seeing in novels like this. A huge problem I always have with realistic fiction novels is that they have a cliché happy ending, with everything tied up in a neat bow - something that isn't very realistic. What was so memorable and touching about NO ONE NEEDED TO KNOW was, in fact, the ending, part of why I enjoyed this book so much. I would definitely recommend this book to teachers and students alike (as well as literally everyone else on the face of this planet), since it promotes activism and empathy, two characteristics that Heidi strongly displays in this book. The great thing, though, is that Heidi isn't necessarily this way right

from the start - as a reader, I loved seeing her evolve from a rather insecure girl who can't really stick up for herself or her autistic brother, to a strong-willed, caring girl who makes for a perfect role model. And although this story was short, Driver got her point across easily with great writing that made the story flow nicely from start to finish. There was never a dull moment, which I loved. All in all, a fantastic book that I highly recommend to literally everyone, no matter who you are! Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest, unbiased review. All thoughts are my own.

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