

SARAH HAGGER-HOLT



NOTHING EVER HAPPENS HERE



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION PACK

ABOUT THE BOOK

"I wonder what people would think if they could take the front off our house, like a doll's house, and watch us. All in the same house, but everyone separate. No one talking, but everyone thinking the same thing. Will we ever be a normal family again?"

Izzy's family is under the spotlight when her dad comes out as Danielle, a trans woman. Now shy Izzy must face her fears, find her voice, confront the bullies and stand up for her family.

Warm, honest and hopeful, this is a story about the power of family, friendship and being true to yourself.



REVIEWS

"Pitch perfect as far as I'm concerned. I wish there'd been books like this in my day."

Christine Burns, MBE - British Political Activist

"I can't wait for kids to read it - it's a book a lot of people need right about now"

Jay Hulme, award-winning transgender poet



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sarah Hagger-Holt is Campaigns Manager at LGBT equality charity Stonewall and lives with her partner and two daughters in the UK. She is the author of two adult non-fiction books and has written for the i Paper, the Huffington Post, and spoken on Radio 4's Woman's Hour about LGBT parenting.

The idea for *Nothing Ever Happens Here* was sparked by interviews that she carried out with LGBT parents and their children. Sarah's passion lies in children's books and in opening up important topics for discussion with young people.

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DISCUSSION NOTES



1. One of the key ideas from the book is that Izzy's family is just like any other. How is this shown and how is Dee portrayed to be just like any other parent across the novel?



2. Grace is a key character in the book. How does her friendship with Izzy shape the events of the novel?



3. Early on in the novel Izzy says, 'We're not a family that talks about every little emotion, or many emotions at all.' (p53) How do you think this affects how they deal with Dee's transition?



4. Each of the siblings reacts differently to Dee's news. What do you think this suggests about them as characters?



5. What does Izzy learn from Mr Thomas across the novel? Why is he an important character in her life?



6. When she's talking to Dee about her transition, Izzy says, 'He looks so sad that I want to reach out and hug him. But I'm still angry with him too. He's supposed to be the grown-up, not me. He's supposed to be the one comforting me.' (p62) Do you agree with her? What role do you think Izzy plays across the novel in relation to Dee?



7. Religion is a key feature in the novel. How does Grace's mum use religion to show why you shouldn't judge anyone for their differences? How is religion manipulated by other characters?



8. After seeing this headline 'Primary School Kids Forced Into Sex Change', Dee says, 'Just because it's in the papers, or on the internet, for that matter, doesn't make it true.' (p197) How does this link to the issues raised in the novel and the issues in our wider society?



9. In her TV interview, Dee says, 'Having a better understanding about trans people isn't going to make someone trans, but I hope it might make them a more tolerant person.' (p235) Why is this an important point? Why would it help everyone to have a better understanding of others in the world?



10. Mr Thomas tells Izzy to not forget 'How brave you can be, and how your bravery can help other people too, to be open, to be brave themselves.' (p250) How is bravery a key theme of the novel and what do you learn about the different ways that a person can be brave?



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BOOK CLUB EVENT

DATE:.....

TIME:.....