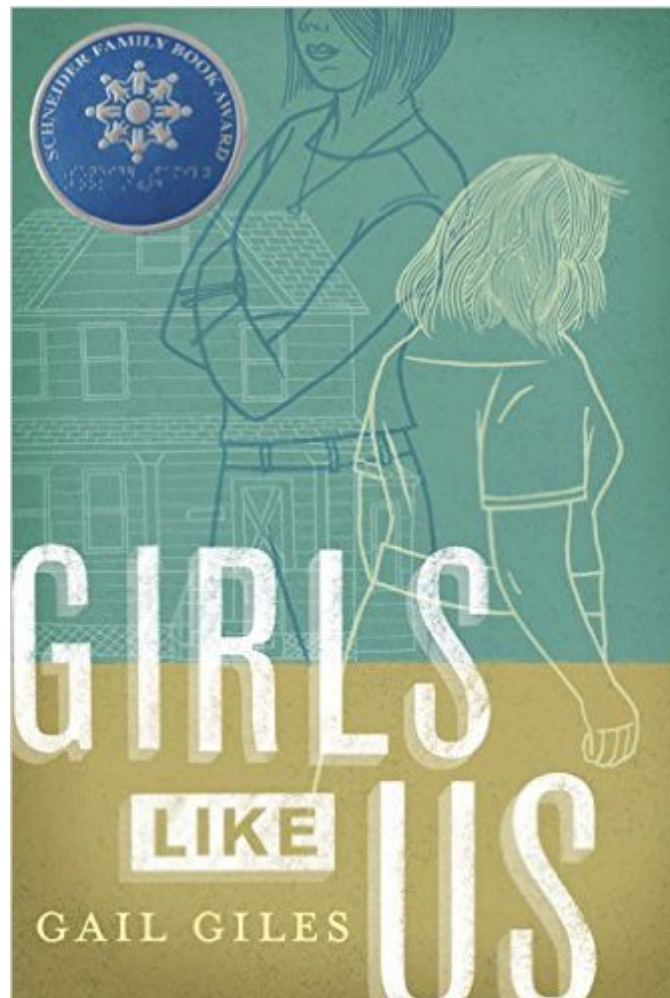


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Girls Like Us



Synopsis

A 2015 Schneider Family Book Award Winner With gentle humor and unflinching realism, Gail Giles tells the gritty, ultimately hopeful story of two special ed teenagers entering the adult world. We understand stuff. We just learn it slow. And most of what we understand is that people what ainâ™t Speddies think we too stupid to get out our own way. And that makes me mad. Quincy and Bidy are both graduates of their high schoolâ™s special ed program, but they couldnâ™t be more different: suspicious Quincy faces the world with her fists up, while gentle Bidy is frightened to step outside her front door. When theyâ™re thrown together as roommates in their first "real world" apartment, it initially seems to be an uneasy fit. But as Bidyâ™s past resurfaces and Quincy faces a harrowing experience that no one should have to go through alone, the two of them realize that they might have more in common than they thought â" and more important, that they might be able to help each other move forward. Hard-hitting and compassionate, *Girls Like Us* is a story about growing up in a world that can be cruel, and finding the strength â" and the support â" to carry on.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763662674

ISBN-13: 978-0763662677

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #548,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 inÂ Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes #121 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse #140 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs

Customer Reviews

Girls Like Us by Gail Giles is a sympathetic and unflinching novel about two cognitively-challenged young women. Their developing friendship is what most struck a chord with me. The violence perpetrated against them isn't sensationalized, but rather felt realistic and true to the theme that life can be cruel. Winner of the Family Schneider Award, *Girls Like Us* is an absorbing and powerful story about voices often not heard in literature. Told in alternating viewpoints, each chapter reveals

the perspective of the two girls on the situations unfolding them. At first, Biddy and Quincey seem to have little in common except that theyâ™re both graduates of their high schoolâ™s special education program. Biddy is white and is always shyly hiding behind her fat exterior. Kind-hearted and sensitive, she also remains scared to step out her front door, especially when men are around. In contrast, Quincey is mixed race and always has her defenses up. She also bluntly express whatâ™s on her mind and faces the world with her fists up. When the two are assigned to live together, with Biddy serving as housekeeper to an elderly lady and Quincey working at a local grocery store, slowly everything changes. Initially, their perspectives are totally antithetical. Take for example how they view their living arrangements. Biddy views Miss Lizzyâ™s house as something that came out of a storybook. She feels like a princess going up into a castle. Sheâ™s also excited to finally have her own room. In contrast, Quincey describes the house as being about âœas big as a hummingbirdâ™s nestâ• with only a shower instead of a tub. She decides though to make the best of the situation, as long as âœthat stick of an ole woman be leavinâ™ me alone.â• A pivotal moment happens when Quincey learns that Biddy canâ™t cook.

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