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PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF THE STORY

The book starts with Jane Rosenal as a 14-year-old, decoding her brother Henry's behaviour with the girlfriends he brings home.

With Jane narrating throughout, the chapters then describe various points in her life: a vacation with her first serious boyfriend; her career struggle as an editorial assistant in the New York book-publishing world; her relationship with an editor 28 years her age; and the death of her father.

In between, an odd, unnecessary chapter is thrown in, narrated by the woman who lives downstairs from Jane. You keep expecting this chapter to eventually connect with the rest of the plot, but it never does.

This is a great book about struggles with relationships and finding yourself.

It shows that throughout life you don't need a man to make you happy, and being yourself is the key to success, not doing what people tell you to.

Finally, I'd like to say that Jane is the character of the book who has made me laugh a lot with sentences like: *I'd love to stay and talk, but I have to go shoot some heroin now.*

She's very ironic in her way of speaking and that's a thing which connects a lot with the book. A great book who has an easy reading, very clean and that makes you enjoy English reading.

All I can say is read this book! I guarantee you will love it.

ADVANCED BEGINNERS

Jane Rosenal who is 14 years old is a beginner in love stories. In fact, she hasn't had any boyfriends at the moment. That's why her only references about love and relationships are taken by from her elder brother Henry. His behaviour concerning girls were difficult to decode because he always had many girlfriends and it was difficult for a person who pretends understand love and love relationships to comprehend who a person can change so often of couple.

But this time, Jane was so worried because Henry was spending too much time with a girl called Julia. She was so jealous about it and seeing things such as her brother let a girl drive his car were things Jane hardly could bear.

When Henry introduced his girlfriend, Julia, to the family Jane thought she had lost her brother in the way that another girl was more important and took more time with him than his proper sister. It's like saying things will never be the same again.

That's why Jane's aptitude concerning Julia is very unkind until she starts having longer conversations with her. Then, she realises Julia does love her brother and feels so sorry about the couple when things turn wrong and they split up.

It is very complicate for a girl who is 14 to understand love things and even more when you get as a model your elder brother and he seems not to find a proper girl for him.

This time wasn't different: Jane did not understand why Henry and Julia finished their relationship at the time she was getting on well with Julia.

But, anyway, life's full of strange and unknown things and that is a thing Jane will prove as she grows up.

THE FLOATING HOUSE

Jamie is Jane's first serious boyfriend (they are three months old). The two of them go on vacation to St. Croix with Jamie's ex girlfriend, Bella, and her husband.

The situation is really funny because you don't recognise a serious relationship with a man in just three months and you don't go on holiday with the ex girlfriend of your serious boyfriend so often, do you?

Jane is a bit nervous thinking about Jamie meeting Bella and she can't stop thinking if she's gorgeous and things like that. I'd say she's a bit jealous and at the same time scared about the fact of Jamie's feelings rising concerning Bella.

The atmosphere between the two couples (Jane– Jamie, Bella– Yves) is right. They do several activities such as swimming, diving, playing strip–poker...

But as far as it could seem the perfect holiday, with your boyfriend and another couple, (all together getting on well, no rough...) the reality is far different: Bella is flirting all the time with Jamie using sweet words with him and pretending to be in private in many cases. Jane, of course, can't bear it but her surprise becomes bigger when she realises that Yves is picking up her at the same time. It's just crazy!

Finally, after arguing with Jamie about what happened they both take the conclusion that Bella was just trying to make Yves jealous making him guess she may be attracted by Jamie again. She often acted that way with men when she wanted something. She did act that way with Jamie before.

Luckily for Jane, Bella was in love with her husband Yves. She wouldn't have to worry about her no more.

MY OLD MAN

Jane's already 16 years old. She goes to Manhattan where her aunt Rita lives. The relationship between them is very close and they get on very well. The night before Jane leaves Manhattan the two of them go to the theatre where they meet Archie Knox (a guy

who had been with Rita time before). He was famous not just as the editor he was but as the fond of women he was).

Archie and Jane didn't meet each other again until Jane was 25. At that time Jane was going out with Jamie but the feelings about Archie was so deep that she broke up with Jamie. Jane moves into Archie's home.

THE BEST IMPOSSIBLE LIGHT

It's a spring day when Barney who appears to be 21 but is 24 and lives in Chicago goes for a visit to his parents'. He's separated from Julie, his ex – wife and since then he has had a lot of (girl)friends. This time he's with Laurel, an entomologist. All the family meet that weekend; the two sisters, Isabelle and PK, their mum Nina and their dad Ben. Isabelle's boyfriend, Giancarlo, also joins them. Barney and Laurel announce they're pregnant and that they're going to get married while having dinner. Everyone think it's a joke and laugh as it'd be. But all the laughter becomes silence when Barney tells everybody Julie's also pregnant and that he himself is the father. Everyone is amazed and can't understand anything. It's just unbelievable!

Isabelle is so angry with his brother and is the one who argues about the problem with Barney. Barney and Laurel are both taking the problem easy and they say they're going to help Julie with the baby's expenses.

THE WORST THING A SUBURBAN GIRL COULD IMAGINE

Although Rita dies, Jane still lives in her aunt's house.

Jane is a bit low because his father has waited a couple of years before telling her and Henry he has leukaemia. The reason why he did it was not to make his illness interfere with their lives.

Moreover, Jane has a new executive editor at H___ called Mimi Howlett who makes her feel insignificant and small because she has make Jane believe she's not as important in H___ as she thought she was. That makes Jane remember the feelings from her youth

when she was a girl full of doubts and worries concerning herself.

One night when Jane went to an audience she met Archie who hadn't seen since they broke up. Archie avoided Jane all night and she felt bad about it but afterwards leaving the audience, as she got home, Archie phoned her. They dated for dinner next night and started dating more and more again. Jane feels so good back with Archie but their relationship is based just in everything but in sex. On the one hand, she's a bit overburdened because none but Jane's best friend Sophie knows about being back with Archie. On the other hand, she doesn't feel comfortable at work; she has a lot of work to do and the relationship with Mimi isn't the best. That's why Jane tells about it to Archie and he helps Jane with the manuscripts she has to read to take notes to Mimi. As they have to spend a lot of time together to do Jane's work, she moves to Archie's home. Jane feels better there knowing she has help every time she needs it; she feels safe at Archie's.

Jane and Henry go to their parents' for a whole week in July. This time another girl is the one who's joining them in the car way to their parents: Rebecca.

She is Henry's last(girl)friend.

When Jane asks her dad why didn't he tell her about leukaemia before and so on –when they have that kind of confidential conversation– Jane finally tell Ben about Archie and being back with him again.

The days go on and dad seems to be okay so Jane goes back to New York where she doesn't find at first Archie at home and thinks he might be drinking again– but not. On the other hand, he's moled because Jane has finished reading Mr. Putterman (a manuscript) and has showed her notes to Mimi at work before letting himself supervise it. While this all is happening dad is hospitalised with pneumonia in Philadelphia, he is with artificial respiration. Jane has to travel again and a few days later she receives a call from NY: Archie's been hospitalised too because he didn't take

the insulin. Not many days later dad dies.

Jane still has doubts about her job and doesn't know if she should give up or not. But in the end she does. Jane has believed all her life she was in the right way but suddenly she had quit at work, her dad had died and her relationship with Archie was full of surprises: Archie told her he hadn't stopped drinking at all during the months they have been together and that makes Jane take another decision: to split up definitely with Archie even though he bought a platinum with a diamond ring and asked her if she'd like to marry him.

There finishes in some way a chapter of Jane's life. It's like finishing the line and putting a stop on it. Then, she'll surely start writing in another line, trying to find the proper words...

YOU COULD BE ANYONE

Jane has already started writing a new chapter in her new life when she meets a new man. She never mentioned his name and that's maybe because he either called Jane by her name; he used to call her as honey and things like that.

The new guy is handsome but not pretty, strong, generous, kind and always ready to please Jane in everything she wanted or needed. He also took Jane to Paris in her birthday. In that time Jane started having doubts about the relationship with that guy because even though the guy is what any woman expects a man to be, Jane's feelings aren't that clear. So when he proposes Jane to marry him, she just doesn't answer.

One day, Jane finds some kind of lump in her breast; she has cancer. She starts chemo and also losing her hair. That's why she decides to shave it. During this all, Jane's boyfriend is always there: helping her, spending loads of hours at hospital and giving her all the support she needs. When Jane has almost finished chemo the guy asks her to marry him again.

Jane now has everything clear: after knowing she has cancer, all the things in her life

that made her doubtful have turned little. Although the guy was marvellous and was always by her side, Jane, finally admits that she doesn't love him at all.

After all, no matter how much support you receive from someone because in the end it's just about you to search the necessary power and go on in life.

THE GIRLS' GUIDE OF HUNTING AND FISHING

Jane's best friend, Sophie, is going to get married with her boyfriend Max. For the special occasion Jane buys a black Armani.

In the wedding party she meets Robert, a friend of Max's who composes music for movies and advertisement. Jane and Robert get on well and they date for another day. In spite of this fact, Jane has lost her faith in finding a man who fits her, and knowing this, Sophie tells Jane she should read the book she's been reading *How to Meet and Marry Mr. Right*. Jane hardly believes in this kind of books but don't knowing exactly why she starts reading it. The most amazing thing is that Jane turns a bit paranoid with the book: she acts with Robert like it recommends becoming herself in a person she hasn't been before. The relationship with Robert goes on and he moves into a new house, nearby Jane's. On the other hand, Jane thinks she has finally found *the one* before she notices Robert is dating Apolliniare. She gets really angry and can't stand why Robert hasn't broken up with her instead of dating other women. But Sophie confesses Jane that Apolliniare is lesbian and that Robert, in fact, is confused because he doesn't really know if Jane is in love with him or if she's just playing with him.

One day Jane receives a call from Mac – a mate from school– and they date to have lunch and speak about how their lifes are going on. Mac seems to want more than words with Jane but she has clear the one she loves is Robert.

But Robert definitely tells Jane that he can't go on with their relationship until the real Jane, the one he fell in love with returns. Jane confesses her boyfriend she may have changed because of the book she's been reading and she excused herself telling that the

only thing she wanted was to act like a real lady and make things good concerning men
once in her life. Roberts understands. They start kissing and kissing... the reconciled.

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