

## *Flipped*

Wendelin Van Draanen

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There are multiple sides to every story. Told in shifting and flipping perspectives, this happens to be the story of Juli and Bryce. And just as every great tree grows from a baby sapling, as every clucking chicken develops from a chirping egg, every story has its beginning. Their story began with a moving truck when free-spirited Juli Baker gains the unrequited acquaintance of her new neighbor, reserved Bryce Loski. Judging by mere appearance, you could say that they stood at opposite ends of the spectrum, or, er, street; the Baker's messy yard and plain home sharply contrasted with the Loski's well-kept lawn and composed house. But whether it be by oblivion or good nature, this distinction does not stop Juli from overstepping her invisible boundaries and tumbling into Bryce's life.

To Bryce, Juli is a nosy, persistent, outshining nuisance. But to Juli, Bryce is blue eyes and beautiful hair. Until. . .they aren't. As the two inevitably grow together—they are neighbors, after all—and their lives further intertwine like the branches, Bryce and Juli learn about both themselves and one another, finally seeing things below surface level, where the roots lie, where the sunshine pores in. Truths are cracked open, lessons are learned (outside of the classroom), and everything is *Flipped*.

From Van Draanen's magical writing style, to her silly and childlike mind, my heart was touched all throughout reading this book. . .And I can't tell whether it be from its breaking, or stretching. I was hooked by her sense of humor, as well as captivated by the storyline and character development. Though it may seem repetitive to recount the two points-of-view, it was *crucial* that readers knew the whole story, understanding there are multiple sides to it. The only thing I did not like about *Flipped* was. . .probably not finding this gem sooner. I believe that if I'd only read it when I was younger, life would have turned out much more different than now. That is why I'm writing this book review and recommendation now, in this moment. Because *that's* what matters.

I recommend this as a gift to pre-teens, as even Van Draanen acknowledges most teens' reluctance to read a "kid's book". But, coming from a seventeen year old, I believe this is a lighthearted, refreshing novel that absolutely every one of all ages should have a chance to read. (Some of the adults in the book could learn a lesson or two. . .)

### **What to read next?:**

*Confessions of a Serial Kisser* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

*Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell