



A Little Something Different

Sandy Hall

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The creative writing teacher, the delivery guy, the local Starbucks baristas, his best friend, her roommate, and the squirrel in the park all have one thing in common—they believe that Gabe and Lea should get together. Lea and Gabe are in the same creative writing class. They get the same pop culture references, order the same Chinese food, and hang out in the same places. Unfortunately, Lea is reserved, Gabe has issues, and despite their initial mutual crush, it looks like they are never going to work things out. But somehow even when nothing is going on, something is happening between them, and *everyone* can see it. Their creative writing teacher pushes them together. The baristas at Starbucks watch their relationship like a TV show. Their bus driver tells his wife about them. The waitress at the diner automatically seats them together. Even the squirrel who lives on the college green believes in their relationship.

Surely Gabe and Lea will figure out that they are ment to be together....

A Little Something Different Details

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Author : Sandy Hall

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From Reader Review A Little Something Different for online ebook

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

THIS BOOK IS SO CUTE!

I have never read a story like this one. It is told in multiple POV's. They each have a part in the story and there are 14 of them. I thought this was really cool. We even have commentary from a bench and a squirrel which was cute and funny. I will add a couple of their excerpts in a few.

So the major players are, **Gabe & Lea**

The folks and things rooting for them throughout the book are:

1. **Maribel (Lea's roommate)**
2. **Bench**
3. **Sam (Gabe's brother)**
4. **Squirrel**
5. **Victor (creative writing classmate) - although he hates them because they won't get on w/ it.**
6. **Bob (a bus driver)**
7. **Casey (Gabe's friend)**
8. **Maxine (a waitress)**
9. **Danny (Lea's friend) - although, he has crush on Gabe too**
10. **Inga (creative writing professor)**
11. **Pam (Inga's wife)**
12. **Charlotte (a barista)**
13. **Hillary (creative writing classmate) - don't like her at all**
14. **Frank (Chinese-food delivery guy)**

Lea & Gabe notice each other before they even find out they are in a creative writing class together. When they get into the class you would think at one point they would talk or finally acknowledge they like each other. But, NO. And all of these people in the book are wanting them to talk and get together but they are both too shy.

Well, Hillary wants Gabe to herself and she's not a nice person so she can suck it. And Victor hates them so much and he ends up running into them everywhere he goes. He finally has it out with them about getting together and it cracked me up.

I will say it does take them to the end of the book to start really talking and finally get together. But the thing that was fun, listening to all of the people go on about them and them talking to certain people in the book about each other. It was just really sweet and cute. Just a fluffy book!

Let me excerpt SQUIRREL AND BENCH because they are funny.

Squirrel!

The best part of this time of year is all the acorns. Acorns are delicious and amazing and the best thing that anyone could ever eat. If you're not eating acorns you are seriously missing out. I tell my friends about the amazingness of acorns and sometimes they just stare at me like I'm crazy. But I'm only crazy for acorns.

I see a boy and a girl. The girl gave me peanuts once and she always looks at the boy a lot. He looks at her too. But they always look at each other at the wrong second. But today they look at each other at the right second and they both smile so wide it looks like they're laughing.

I hope they are laughing.

I hope they like acorns. Maybe I'll throw some acorns at them. No, that's a bad idea. I don't want to lose my acorns. I don't want to share. Call me a bad squirrel, but I do not like to share my acorns.

Maybe that makes me a good squirrel. The consummate squirrel. The very definition of a squirrel.

Bench (on the green)

I'm the oldest bench on this green and I get no respect.

I'd like to say there are worthwhile things about the job. And maybe sometimes there are. Sometimes you get a really perfect butt; however, all rear ends are not created equal.

The one currently seated upon me is the kind I appreciate; it's the kind of behind that I would invite back time and again, if I had the ability to speak. And the best part is that it seems to be attached to a person who wants nothing more than to sit. No chatting, no moving around, not graffiti or gum. I could get used to this.

[more from bench.](#)

Bench (on the green)

No one sits on me all damn winter except that idiot squirrel. And now it's snowing and I'll be covered in the stuff for weeks and then I'll be wet and I won't see a single butt for the whole duration.

All those ungrateful delinquents walk by hour after hour, day after day, week after week. Not one glance my way, not one single decent sitter in the whole bunch.

No one has time for benches in the winter.

If I could, I would grow spikes. That would show them, come spring when the birds are chirping and the sun is out. They would sit down and I would grow a spike right into their rotund rear ends. Then they'd stop taking me for granted.

I totally loved bench and I would sit on him in the Winter since that's my favorite time of year :-)

I fell in love with this cute little book. If your looking for something warm and fuzzy and a little funny then you will probably like this book too. ♥

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

Whitney Atkinson says

DNF.

The concept of this book is so, so, so, SO neat. But the writing of this is so elementary, I could barely get through 15 pages before knowing it would bother me for the entire book. I wish it were otherwise :(

Lucy says

Flat, stereotypical characters, overused romcom clichés, and a sentient, perverted bench are just a few of the myriad problems I had with *A Little Something Different*. Yes, you read that right. Among Hall's 14 viewpoints, there is a sentient, perverted bench. Let that sink in for a while.

The constantly shifting perspectives (of everyone from their bus driver to a squirrel on campus) is clearly meant as a quirky, interesting way to tell a story, but since Hall rarely spends more than a few pages in one character's head and doesn't allow them to think about anything but Lea and Gabe's non-relationship, every character reads like nothing more than the author's current mouthpiece. Hall forces her side characters into the role of narrators whose everyday thoughts and feelings are ignored because they're irrelevant to the story she wants to tell, and the result is painfully inauthentic.

The narrators we're supposed to like are warm, friendly romantics who somehow see a spark between Lea and Gabe even when they're sitting on opposite sides of the room. The narrators we're supposed to hate are perpetually angry for no apparent reason, and either dislike Gabe and Lea or represent a threat to the love story. The narrative's treatment of Hillary, a girl who also likes Gabe, is particularly awful - to the point where total strangers (characters the reader is supposed to like) find petty reasons to look down on her and are applauded for doing so.

The "chemistry" between the two leads is practically non-existent. We're rarely allowed to glimpse Lea and Gabe's connection. We're just told - through a series of painfully contrived monologues from complete strangers - that they have one.

I was drawn to *A Little Something Different* after reading so many glowing reviews about how funny and charming it was, but I think I must have been reading a different book. I did like the diversity of Hall's cast, and Gabe's commentary on living with an invisible disability, but that wasn't enough to redeem it for me.

Many thanks to Pan Macmillan for providing a copy of A Little Something Different in exchange for an honest review.

Publisher: Pan Macmillan

Rating: 1 star | ★☆☆☆☆

Review cross-posted to Paperback'd

Pearl Angeli says

Such a sweet and adorable read!

There are books that can simultaneously make you smile as you go through the pages, and A Little Something Different is one of them.

The story centers on two teenage main characters **Gabe** and **Lea** who share the same class in creative writing. They're attracted to each other, but because they're both being shy and awkward, they can't seem to initiate a move in order to get closer. As the story goes, we get to know some of the people that surround them who eventually try to root for them to be together.

I enjoyed this book quite a bit because of its cuteness and uniqueness. It's really **something different**. I've read some YA contemporaries but I've never encountered a book with so many POVs. And none of them are from the main characters. Yes, there were no narrations from either Gabe or Lea, but instead, just from the secondary characters such as Inga (the creative writing professor), Sam (Gabe's brother), Charlotte (the barista), Danny (Lea's friend), Bob (the bus driver), even the **old bench** and the **squirrel**! (*Omg, the bench and the squirrel actually have a POV! LOL*)... and many other characters.

I most certainly liked the overall cuteness of this book. It's a fun, light read and with simplistic writing-- something to keep a reader entertained. The romance was also light but very immersing. It kept me involved and engaged in. And despite the numerous POVs, it didn't confuse me, but instead, I found myself enjoying the witty dialogues and the fascinating characters. If you want a quirky, fun, and a *little something different* to read, I highly recommend this book!

Rating:

?Eryn says

1.5 stars

You might wonder how I can rate this so lowly if I read it entirely in *one* day. But that's just it. I was trying to finish quickly because I couldn't take it anymore. I was done with the mediocre writing, the bland and annoying characters, and the predictable ending that anyone could've seen coming.

This whole *book* just made me feel tense and indignant. Could Lea stop being so possessive? And could Gabe start acting his age - rather than behaving like a 10 year-old, all the time? Also, the other characters were ridiculous - they all acted and spoke the same way! So even though the book was written in fourteen different perspectives, it only felt like one.

Overall, this is not a book for someone looking for an "easy-read," like I was. The entirety of it is just pointless and not enjoyable. I only gave the extra half-star for the sheer creativity aspect. That's it.

Ariel says

If you liked Fangirl and want something similarly adorable, you need to pick this up.

If you want to see how multiple perspectives can be done properly and interestingly, you should pick this up.

If you want a cute, cheesy but lovely story, you'll want to pick this up.

Obviously the gimmick and selling point for this novel, the reason everyone mentions for picking this up, is the fact that there are 14 different perspectives.. and NONE of those perspectives are the main character. I didn't buy this, it was lovingly gifted to me, so it felt like I had nothing to lose and nothing to gain: I went into the book totally neutral... and it was lovely! Seriously. I would have read it in one sitting if I hadn't needed food, but I did read it one day. It was so fun and cute and the different perspectives WORKED. They worked really well.

I couldn't believe that we NEVER saw from the main character's' perspective, but I'm kind of proud of the author for not going there! Some things can't be done or achieved, but other things were done that can't be done in first person narratives.

Why only three stars? Because it was a three star kind of book. I'm glad I read it, it was lovely, but the plot wasn't anything new, the characters aren't going to stick with me, and I didn't feel that any theme was particularly important or ground breaking. And that's okay! It was still nice and fun and did something cool.

Jennifer says

This novel is about a love story, told in 14 different points of views. I read this in one sitting - I couldn't stop! This is probably one of the cutest and most unique books I've ever read! I highly recommend!

Rachel Reads Ravenously says

2 stars

I feel really bad rating this a 2, especially after the awesome Buffy reference, but this book really was just okay for me.

What I liked:

-The author's voice: she's a very witty and funny gal, and bravo to her for all of the different character POV's.

What I didn't like:

-This story was not in any way, shape or form believable to me. 14 different people all routing for this couple to get together? For an extended period of time? I'm sorry but it just didn't sell me. And I got really bored there in the middle.

I do think that Sandy Hall is a fantastic writer and would read her future books, but this story/plot just wasn't for me.

Mith says

Story about two cripplingly shy love-birds told from everybody's point of view, except theirs. Cute, right?

Only, not so much.

After what seemed to be the millionth POV of an utterly random stranger (with no connection whatsoever to the two leads) who *gushes* about how *special* the two are, and how there is just this *chemistry* between them and how they are *so sure* that the two are just *meant* for each other, I decided to throw in the towel.

So, SO much telling, absolutely no showing. Zip. Zilch. Nada. None.

Did NOT work for me.

Giulia says

“Sometimes it’s better to say something stupid than nothing at all.”

A Little Something Different by Sandy Hall is exactly what the title says. After constantly seeing it on my Goodreads page, I finally caved and bought the hardback on Amazon a few months ago. I couldn't resist it. I read it in two days, but it could have been easily read in a few hours. All I know is that I had heart eyes and manic "oh-please-kiss-already" interjections while reading this. The story is a cheesy romance turned into an epic retelling from the perspectives of others. I am not sure I would have liked it this much if it was written in the protagonists' perspectives. Now, onto the actual story.

The **story** follows Gabe and Lea. They go to the same university, attend the same creative writing class together and they even live in the same dorm. They like each other, but they don't know it yet. Their friends, their professor, the driver of the bus they always take together, the waitress at the Starbucks they always go to are even too aware of what is going on. The attraction between the two isn't a secret for no one but them. Everyone is ready to do what needs to be done in order to make the two understand they are perfect for each other.

“They sit there in the window of the coffee shop for almost an hour, not talking much, but looking at each other over the tops of their books, flirting somehow even without words. It would be gross if it weren’t adorable.”

What makes this book **unique** and what made me like it the most was the change of perspective. There are **14 different point of views** from different characters linked to the two protagonist in some way. They are the ones showing us the story while we don't actually see it. Does it make sense? The creative writing teacher, the delivery guy, the local Starbucks barista, their best friends, brother, the college bench and the squirrel. They are the narrators of this adorable story and this demonstrates just how much **this book is a little something different**. The POVs are insightful, funny, sensitive, acute, sweet and everything else in between.

“...their voices are quieter than the other groups around them, but their body language speaks volumes.”

Now, let's comment on the **cover**. How cute is it? I know it's pink with hearts, flowers and a cuteness overload, but I can't help but love it. I have to admit I was actually firstly really drawn to this book because of the cover. And I am happy to report they haven't changed it in the translated edition. *high five to the editors for once* Also, I love the coffee cups, books and take out box being added to the cover as a way of symbolizing the story as a whole.

My rating for this book would be a **3.75 stars**. It is completely and utterly adorable. Seeing two people fall in love from their perspective is cute enough, but see it happen through other spectators' eyes and you have utterly cute! However, these aren't the only good points. We see and get to know Gabe and Lea through 14 people, meaning we learn about them and almost become friends with the characters. The book is not fully concentrated on romance: it has **hilarious moments**, which I admired and loved as a whole. At times I found myself giggling simply because of the conversations and little things. I have to admit the bench and squirrel perspective being presented made it extremely hard not to be amused.

Another point I would like to make is **how much we are connected to other people**. Wanted or not, everyday we come across someone, even just for a second, and we might do not know it, but what if we made an impact on their lives? How about all the times we think about that person we accidentally bump into that day in the street? I think we all have thoughts about each other, even though we don't admit it and this story is a great example of that. Maybe the waiter at the bar we always go to has made up a story in his mind about you and that cute boy/girl who sits alone.

Maybe I am saying something totally stupid but, how cool is that we all have a mind of our own with thoughts, building castles in the sky? How could we make an impact on other people's lives with the power of our actions, even if it is just the smallest thing?

Well, these were some of the thoughts I had while reading this book, I thought I could awkwardly share them, because why not? Maybe someone else has had the same considerations.

Anyway, I found this book **an enjoyable, quick, and easy read**, which I would recommend to anyone and everyone wanting a light and fluffy read. Even if at times I am sure you will end up like:

Now, let's go it some Chinese food, shall we?

Giselle says

Awww! What a cute and sweet read. A Little Something Different is exactly that - a romance story that is different from any I've read before, and one that leaves you with a silly smile on your face. The perfect rainy-day read, that's for sure!

In short, this is a love story about two people who keep misreading each other. One is extremely shy, the other is quiet and reluctant, not realizing they're both into each other. What makes this book unique, though, is the way it's told. We don't go into this story with the perspective of our main characters, but rather

everyone around them, even including a squirrel and a bench who, unsurprisingly, talks a lot about butts. The number of perspectives is at a whopping 14, rotating every page or two. It may sounds like a lot, but the flow is remarkably smooth and easy to read throughout. We're meant to keep track of the two lovebirds, not the characters whose perspectives we're given, so it avoids being disjointing or overwhelming.

So many perspectives was actually fun in this case, too, because we got to see this romance unfolds via several point-of-views and different mindsets. So many people were rooting for them and noticing their attraction and chemistry, that it made you see it too. The downfall of not getting the main characters' POV is that I felt as if I was kept at arm's length - which came to no surprise. There were no toe-curling bits or anything very intense, emotionally, but it was still full of smiles and "aww" moments. There's also a good dose of humour thrown in.

I did have a few, albeit small, gripes. This may sound like a weird one at first, but sometimes, it felt as if it was *too much* about the romance. And I mean, all the time. We couldn't read even one paragraph without it being about them two; no matter the perspective, there was never any side-joke or comment that were not all about Gabe and Lea. It was obsessive-like. Some voices were also more realistic than others. Victor, for instance, was inconsistent, and he was a character used for convenience, when needed. Lastly, Gabe was built as a bit of a mysterious character with some kind of secret. One that affected his daily life and self-confidence, that much was obvious. What it ended up being was a tad underwhelming. I felt as if he made a huge deal out of nothing. Maybe getting to know him and how he personally felt about it all would have helped, but seeing as it was fixed so easily and "invisibly", I don't get why he waited so long.

Whenever you're in the mood for a cute, short, and happy read, *A Little Something Different* is the perfect lighthearted book. It's full of romance and teen awkwardness, and the writing style promises a fun and original reading experience!

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An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.

For more of my reviews, visit my blog at [Xpresso Reads](#)

may ❀ says

A Little Something Different is, 'a little something different.'

Okay, wow that was bad, I should probably keep my day job.

So, told from fourteen different perspectives ((except the main characters)), *A Little Something Different* is a hella cute love story.

Basically, there are these two super cute human beings (Gabe and Lea) and EVERYONE in the world ships them but theyre SO FRICKEN DENSE they are completely oblivious to it.

So the whole premise of the plot just revolves around that and YES, it can be very tedious because it's kind of circular in that: *they show up in a place, they smile shyly at each other, and they both exit and nothing happens* and you're kind on the verge of ripping your hair out of your head after reading that for 200+ pages.

But don't worry, while you embark on this story, there's lot of humor to keep you occupied. And great perspectives. Including a bench ((yes a bench)) and a squirrel and the sweet old waitress and a snarky barista and many, many more.

It's super easy to read, which is always a plus ((like I binged it easily in one afternoon)).

ALSO, im in LOVE with the cover, like that beveled imprint of cuteness, I LOVEEEEEEEE.

So, it's cute, but it's not EXCEPTIONAL but it's interesting and kinda really funny and sweet.

"Sometimes it's better to say something stupid than nothing at all."

3.5 stars!!

Wendy Darling says

I'm pretty sure that if this book accidentally fell open in your lap, a million little hearts would fly up into a cloud surrounding you in all the sweet, good-natured adorableness that is this story.

14 POVs, yet none of them from the two lovebirds, and two of the POVS are so patently ridiculous that they should absolutely not work--and yet they do, they do, they do. So flipping cute!

3.5 stars very strong stars. And it makes my 2014 favorites list, even though other more highly rated books did not. Go figure! It makes sense to me.

Oh, and we're giving away a copy of the book! <http://www.themidnightgarden.net/2014...> Kim wrote the official review for the blog as well.

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

Allow me to use this review as an avenue to greet a wonderful friend (whose review I find way more beautiful than the book) a HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Someday hopefully soon, Pearl, I will love a book you love with all my heart but in the meantime, I hope this simple birthday wish for you would be enough to make you smile. **HAPPY,HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WONDERFUL PEARLY! MAY YOUR DAY BE HAPPY, SPECIAL AND MEMORABLE! MAY IT BE FULL OF AMAZING SURPRISES! HAVE A FANTAMAZEBOULOUS DAY!**

Review

The novel lived up to the promise of its title. It gave the reader *"a little something different."* The story is told in super multiple POVS except those of the main characters, Gabe and Lea. It's refreshing because most contemporary YA novels I've read are told in alternating POVs of the boy and the girl but this one is told by characters (both animate and not) surrounding the MCs including the creepy bench and the squirrel. Pretty quirky but I have to be honest about several things.

The multiple POVs in my personal opinion is spectacularly overdone and the premise, although cute, is quite too far-fetched because the 14 other characters' (some completely irrelevant to the story and to the MCs) voices revolve around one thing- the love story of Gabe and Lea as if they don't have a life of their own (except the squirrel, my favorite character), as if they simply exist to narrate the story of somebody else. I was groaning and rolling my eyes in disbelief half of the time and to be frank, half of the POVs can be deleted and I'd still get the same story with less groans and eye rolls and half the number of pages, pages which would have been more useful had they been used for character and plot development.

The writing is generally good and lighthearted but I couldn't shake the number of times I thought it was also kind of offensive. For characters who were supposed to be good people, I don't know why several times they came off as mean. This poor Hillary girl who didn't do anything except develop a crush on Gabe was the object of consistent contempt or perhaps they just needed a "villain" (because it sure did read like a fairy tale) and the closest there is for them is Hillary.

You'll get what I mean from the following excerpts:

"I was proud of myself because what I wanted was something more along the lines of disparaging Hillary and everything she stands for." (said the Creative Writing professor who acts so unprofessionally by putting as her primary semestral goal to make two people fall in love with each other and to revile any other student that will get in the way.)

"The skank queen." (said Lea's best friend)

"Except maybe Hillary. That girl is a ridiculous caricature of everything that's wrong with the world." (said Gabe himself)

I was ready to just simply enjoy this. I wanted this to be just a mindless read but one cannot be blind especially when one has already seen too much. It's true that the eyes see what they want to see and it's unfortunate that mine chose to see these things.

However, do not lose hope for the book because the rest of my friends who read this really enjoyed this and if you will use Pearl's pretty eyes, you will see a beautiful perspective on the novel and you will also get a chance to greet her a happy birthday. Just click here. ;)

Zoë says

This book was exactly what I was in the mood for: a cute romance book that didn't take itself too seriously. I loved the multiple POVs, from the romance-obsessed teacher Inga to the oldest bench on the college campus's green (yup, there is a bench's perspective in this book HAHAA!). The only issue I had with this book is that because it was from perspectives other than the main two characters, I wasn't really able to wholly connect with them and at some points the will they/won't they aspect of their shy relationship dragged. Despite this, I read this book SO quickly and had a lot of fun reading it! I literally laughed out loud several times in the dead of night when my family was all asleep. Definitely would recommend!
