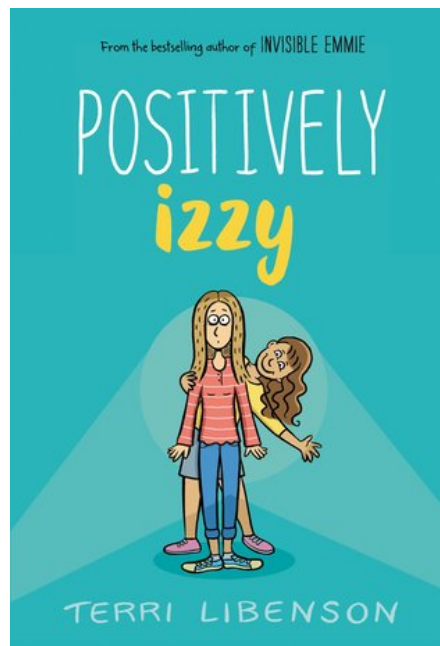




Positively Izzy

Terri Libenson

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Award-winning comics creator and author of the bestselling *Invisible Emmie* Terri Libenson returns with a companion graphic novel that captures the drama, angst, and humor of middle-school life. Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier, Jennifer Holm, and Victoria Jamieson.

Middle school is all about labels.

Izzy is the dreamer. There's nothing Izzy loves more than acting in skits and making up funny stories. The downside? She can never quite focus enough to get her schoolwork done.

Bri is the brain. But she wants people to see there's more to her than just a report card full of As. At the same time, she wishes her mom would accept her the way she is and stop bugging her to "break out of her shell" and join drama club.

The girls' lives converge in unexpected ways on the day of a school talent show, which turns out to be even more dramatic than either Bri or Izzy could have imagined.

Positively Izzy Details

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Author : Terri Libenson

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From Reader Review Positively Izzy for online ebook

Sandy says

I didn't catch the twist on this one till I was about halfway through and then I ended up reading this graphic novel twice so I could truly appreciate it. Honestly, I wonder how many teens/children will really get the twist on this book. I enjoyed the "play" on this book but I think more hints could have been inserted in the novel to make it more enjoyable.

There are two stories taking place in this novel constructed of both graphic novel and narration. As you read the novel, there is a clear distinction between the two, on which story you are reading.

One story is about Izzy who lives with her sisters and her mom. Izzy loves drama but school work, not so much. When her mother discovers Izzy's failure to keep up with her schoolwork, Izzy feels like her world is falling apart. I liked how this story came together in the end and Izzy's family. The other story is about Bri, who is smart but doesn't care about drama. Bri's mother is the drama teacher at school. At the last minute, Bri is asked to fill in for someone, on stage. I enjoyed watching Bri deal with this new experience and I liked the conclusion.

The illustrations were bright and colorful and the text was easy to read. I liked that the author used two different styles, to write the two different stories within this graphic novel, so that it is easier to tell the stories apart. I think you need to read this novel a few times to fully appreciate it (once you understand the twist in the story). Again, I wished the author would have added more in the writing to help uncover the twist as I feel some individuals will not see it and that would be a shame. I would recommend to older elementary and middle school readers, so they can understand the twist or perhaps uncover the twist to other readers, if they don't discover it after they read it (so they can fully appreciate the novel).

Penny Peck says

Like the earlier book INVISIBLE EMMIE, this graphic novel has some text passages, so overall, it will appeal to DIARY OF A WIMPY KID fans, but gives a female perspective. There are two alternative stories told from two points of view: Brianna, the middle school brain, and Izzy, who is more artistic. They are best friends but very different; Izzy is the middle of three sisters with a single mom who is a nurse, and Brianna is the only child of two teachers at their school (her mom is the drama teacher which figures into the plots). It is a little difficult to keep track of the various characters but it will have a wide appeal and is very relatable.

Erin says

I wanted to like this. I recommended Invisible Emmie to several parent friends for their kiddos. This ARC left me confused. The two intertwined stories left me having to go back several time to understand who was being discussed and how they knew each other. I think the intention of intertwining two stories is interesting - this fell super flat.

katyjanereads says

SPOILERS

1. I love that this author always has a twist and Brianna's mom being Izzy was perfect.
 2. I laughed out loud when the theater kids were talking about a girl who was performing and her retainer came out. Brianna said, "Why the heck was she wearing it?"
 3. This was a great little story of growing up and finding your way.
 4. I also liked the message that you don't just have to be one thing. Not just brainy or artistic or dramatic. You can be many things.
-

Shoshi Azran says

It was good... but not like her first one!

Mehsi says

[Izzy. And also thanks to that review I now see that tho

Liz says

This was an improvement from the authors first book 'Invisible Emmie,' and will appeal to those Raina and Diary Of fans. I will however, be forever scarred by the fact that the spit residue on a guy's face who one of the main characters is crushing on she describes as "like a twinkling star" ::shudder:: I also was irritated that to my recollection we never find out Izzy's real first name. Also can we just stop using 'Irish twins' and just say that two siblings are close in age and leave it at that. 'Irish twins' is pretty derogatory. This also goes for any other ethnic iteration of this phrase.

Tory says

I 100% did not get this one. "Invisible Emmie" was such a great look at anxiety in tweens and incredibly relatable -- and this book just didn't make sense. I had to keep flipping back and forth to remember who was who, and then the ending left me utterly baffled. Can anyone tell me why Bri's mom's name is ALSO Izzy??? I don't get it!!!!

EDIT: Okay. I figured it out. SPOILERS AHEAD!

These stories are told from different timelines. Izzy's story takes place in the past, and she grows up to be Bri's mom. Bri's story takes place in the present. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL, and it was NOT readily apparent to me in the least. Especially since our big "reveal" gives us the info "oh, have you heard about the time your mom [Izzy] ran away?" Well, as the reader, this was a complete non sequitur, since Izzy didn't RUN AWAY: she snuck out for a night. Definitely not the same thing, and not helpful in deciphering the twist ending.

Jennie says

I enjoyed this graphic novel until the ending and then I had to rethink the whole story. You have two characters, Brianna and Izzy. Yeah have alternating sections and the writing and pictures are different, which I enjoyed. At the end of the story I was totally confused, and had to read other reviews to figure it out. Story was about Brianna who is smart and gets drafted to be in a drama show by her mother, and Izzy who loves performing, but schoolwork is not her thing. Her teachers keep telling her to focus!

Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says

This book gets life as a middle school kid. Like, really gets it. I loved it so much. I loved the humor, honesty and heart. I loved that I could relate to the story as much as a middle school kid could. These two girls are very different and when things come together amazing things happen. I loved that it was deeper than just a cute book about middle school though. It was also about being yourself, but also stepping out. It is about life and all the good and bad and making it through both. I cannot say enough how much I loved this book. It was brilliant and cleverly written and illustrated. A must read!!!

Josephine says

I was so confused when I finished this book... Just read it and then you'll know why.

Becca says

I reeeeeeally liked the plot of this graphic novel, even more than *Invisible Emmie*. It was fun getting to know Brianna better and see a bit of Emmie, and I enjoyed Izzy's part of the story too.

Both Izzy and Bri's character development was good and I definitely didn't see the big twist at the end coming (even though it was fairly obvious, after the fact). I'm looking forward to re-reading this book in the near-ish future to experience the story again, from the beginning, and see how everything plays out, knowing what I know now. ;P

I'm definitely interested to see what Terri puts out next too. I've come to really love and appreciate both her art and writing style, and the way she crafts her stories and characters. <3

Chloe says

Probably more like a 4.5 stars but I really loved this graphic novel too! It's a companion to *Invisible Emmie* and follows her best friend, Brianna, as well as a girl named Izzy. Brianna is known as "the brain". She is super smart and quiet and prefers studying over putting herself out there. However, one day her mom (the drama teacher) says there is an emergency and someone has gotten sick or dropped out of an upcoming play

that's going to be done in the talent show-- would she step in and do it!? She is terrified, but she says okay. It's a scene with a boy named Dev, and with his help she gets through it. Their friendship is really sweet and fun to watch develop.

Izzy is the middle of 3 sisters. She has a really hard time focusing and does not do very well in school. She likes drama and theater, but the rest of school is a struggle. She gets in trouble for her grades and her mom says she can't participate in the play (at the talent show) but then she sneaks out and goes anyway. Her mom catches her, but her sisters stand up for her and so she's allowed to participate (and then be grounded afterwards).

In the end, the big twist (like Katie being an imaginary drawing of Emmie's in the first one) is that Izzy is Brianna's mom! I should've seen it coming- Mom's a drama teacher, Izzy is only good at drama- but I was still surprised. Again I love the way that the author captures the feel of middle school and has very realistic characters. My only complaint with this one is that I felt that Izzy was a little weak. I had to pick this book up and down a lot and sometimes I'd struggle to remember exactly what Izzy's story line was supposed to be and what her character was like. I wish there was a little more to her or her story, but it was still good anyway.

I'd definitely recommend and can't wait for the next one to come out!

Theresa says

Quick, entertaining, and satisfying middle school story that alternates between text and graphic novel formats. Two very different characters with parallel storylines that eventually intersect. Fans of Drama by Raina Telgemeier will like this too.

Gavin says

it was soooo good
