



## Synopsis

My name is Amber Alessandra Leola Kimiko Miyamoto. I have no idea why my parents gave me all those hideous names but they must have wanted to ruin my life, and you know what? They did an amazing job. As a half-Japanese, half-Italian girl with a ridiculous name, Amber's not feeling molto bene (very good) about making friends at her new school. But the hardest thing about being Amber is that a part of her is missing. Her dad. He left when she was little and he isn't coming back. Not for her first day of middle school and not for her little sister's birthday. So Amber will have to dream up a way for the Miyamoto sisters to make it on their own... "[A] beautifully written story." -The Independent "One of those books that you simply won't want to put down... five out of five stars!" -The Guardian

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are lots of books out there that are supposed to read and feel like the first person narratives of 11/12 year old girls contemplating their step up into middle school. Some are heavily plotted or in

some way fantastical, and some focus on the slightly exaggerated problems of everyday life. The tone can be wistful, or snarky, or angsty, or precocious or played mostly for laughs. The "problems" they address can be over-the-top, gritty in an after-school special sort of way, humorous, or romantic and boy-centric. This book is a bit more emotionally grounded than that, and is one of the few books I've read that scores consistently high marks for the characters that have been created, authenticity, plotting, the honesty of the problems addressed, deadpan humor, and, for want of a better word, wholesome decency. Each character is reasonably complex; each has a reasonable balance of good and bad traits, and each is revealed, at some level, to be basically sound. The result is that the book feels earnest and real, addresses common problems and issues with honesty, and somehow comes out on top with a feel good resolution that doesn't at all seem phony. Our heroine Amber isn't perfect, but she's as good as she needs to be and better than most. Her Mom, grandmother and sister feel like real family members. The adults in her life are adults, with all of the pros and cons that go with that. Amber's sister, Bella, is a classic annoying little sister, but she has surprising depth and is allowed to be more than a cliché. The affection that binds Amber's family seems real. And this is balanced by the sadness that weighs down everyone as a consequence of Amber's father's absence.

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