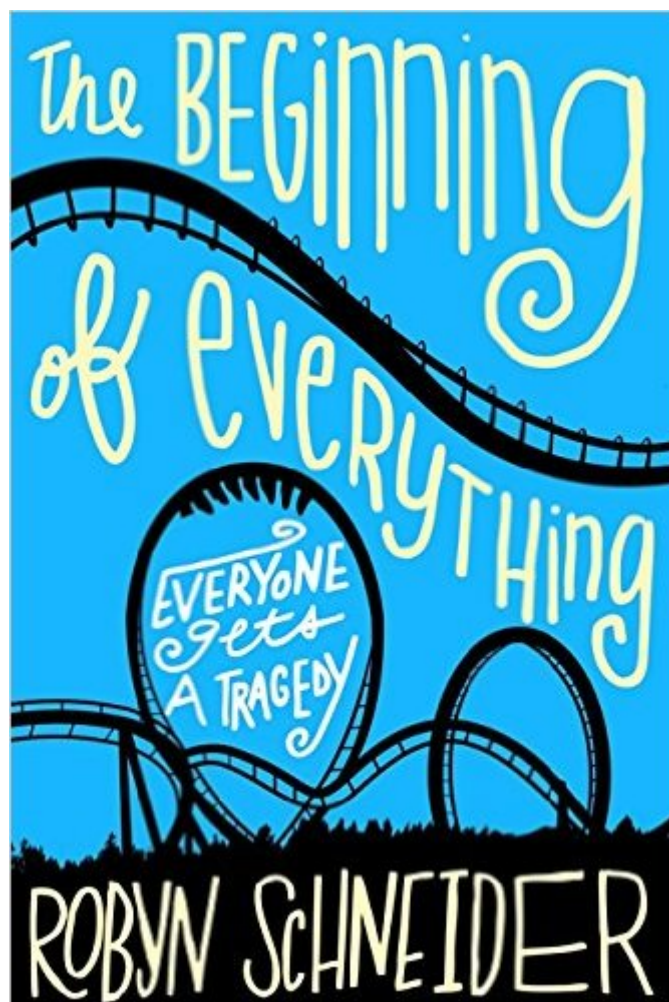


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The Beginning Of Everything



Synopsis

Robyn Schneider's *The Beginning of Everything* is a witty and heart-wrenching teen novel that will appeal to fans of books by John Green and Ned Vizzini, novels such as *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and classics like *The Great Gatsby* and *The Catcher in the Rye*. Varsity tennis captain, Ezra Faulkner, was supposed to be homecoming king, but that was before—before his girlfriend cheated on him, before a car accident shattered his leg, and before he fell in love with unpredictable new girl Cassidy Thorpe. As Kirkus Reviews said in a starred review, "Schneider takes familiar stereotypes and infuses them with plenty of depth. Here are teens who could easily trade barbs and double entendres with the characters that fill John Green's novels." Funny, smart, and including everything from flash mobs to blanket forts to a poodle who just might be the reincarnation of Jay Gatsby, *The Beginning of Everything* is a refreshing contemporary twist on the classic coming-of-age novel—a heart-wrenching story about how difficult it is to play the part that people expect, and how new beginnings can stem from abrupt and tragic endings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I went into this book with no expectations and I came out of it practically salivating at the mere thought of Schneider releasing a second book. This is a brutally honest coming of age story; a journey of self discovery mixed with severed heads, broken hearts, angst, a big black poodle, and wry humor that had me cackling throughout the novel. Overall, this book was a really sobering experience. This book represents life, the world we live in, how one can find themselves at the most inopportune times. This is what it's like to be a teenager and grow. And, damn, did my heart swell as

I turned the last page, unwilling to say good-bye so soon. This book is perfect for fans of John Green. Schneider uses similar dialogue techniques. By that I mean that all of the characters are sort of hyper-intelligent and if you can't keep up you can get lost in their plethora of explanations for the most randomly awesome things. After watching many of Schneider's vlogs on her YouTube channel, it's glaring obvious that these characters are similar to her personality. She loves those random facts that nobody else knows and she constantly wants to share them with the world. She's fascinated with weird German words, which do make several appearances in this novel. She is also a literature buff, but hey, aren't we all? These three aspects of her combine to create her characters in really interesting ways. They're constantly spewing these facts that I never would have found otherwise and I loved every second of it. I learned from this book, legitimately learned awesome facts to spring on my unsuspecting peers when they least expect it. And the best part is that she found the perfect time to insert these tidbits, so I never felt rushed or confused.

Robyn Schneider's *THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING* is all about tragedy. High school tennis star and BMOE Ezra Faulkner is injured in a hit-and-run accident the weekend before his junior prom. His knee is shattered, leaving him the teenage version of House - depressed, bitter, and dependent on a cane. He'll never play tennis again, his jock friends have moved on, and he can't figure out how to make his life work without them. As Ezra explains it, "everyone has a tragedy waiting for them, . . . a single encounter after which everything that really matters will happen." The car accident is Ezra's tragedy. It's also "the beginning of everything," as Ezra reconnects with Toby Ellicott, his old BFF from middle school (a quirky debate team nerd who Ezra dumped in 7th grade), and meets new girl Cassidy Thorpe, an "achingly effortless" free spirit who quotes Marvell and Shakespeare and quickly wins Ezra's heart. But this is a book about tragedy, so don't look for a happy ending. Ezra and Cassidy may be cute together (excruciatingly cute at times), but there's more to Cassidy's story than she's saying. At one point, about two-thirds of the way through this book, Ezra says of Cassidy, "I pictured her tragically; it never once occurred to me to picture her as the tragedy." That pretty much says it all. Not a whole lot happens in this novel, since it's less about plot than it is about character (and tragedy - don't forget the tragedy). Ezra gets hit by that car, his girlfriend (who cheats on him just before the accident) leaves him bleeding in the road, he misses prom (and most of the summer), and then he comes back to school to find that nothing much is left of the life he used to live. He gets close with Toby (I liked Toby; he was almost my favorite character . . .

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