



## The Kidney Hypothetical: Or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days

By Lisa Yee

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Higgs Boson Bing has seven days left before his perfect high school career is completed. Then it's on to Harvard to fulfill the fantasy portrait of success that he and his parents have cultivated for the past four years. Four years of academic achievement. Four years of debate championships. Two years of dating the most popular girl in school. It was, literally, everything his parents could have wanted. Everything they wanted for Higgs's older brother Jeffrey, in fact.

But something's not right. And when Higgs's girlfriend presents him with a seemingly innocent hypothetical question about whether or not he'd give her a kidney . . . the exposed fault lines reach straight down to the foundations of his life. . . .

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**Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—It all began when Higgs Boson Bing's girlfriend asked if he would hypothetically give her a kidney. Until then, Higgs (named after the infamous God particle) had everything: great grades, a popular girlfriend, and an acceptance letter to Harvard. Now with only seven days until graduation, everything is falling apart. He immediately loses his girlfriend and his best friend; he learns that his teachers and classmates never really liked him; and even his acceptance to Harvard is called into question. Yee starts strong with Higgs's situation immediately spiraling out of control. The underlying issue of Higgs dealing with his older brother Jeffrey's death, and subsequently trying to live up to Jeffrey's achievements, adds substance. The story begins to suffer when Monarch, a manic pixie goth girl, shows up. She merely serves as a device to help Higgs see the error of his ways and loosen up a bit. After her arrival, the story becomes a bit unfocused. The hijinks that ensue with Higgs and Monarch creates a laundry list of plot elements that tend to detract rather than add. Fortunately, the author redeems herself with a hopeful, yet not happily-ever-after ending that, while expected, is still satisfying. This is a story that has a few missteps, but still gets a lot right.—Kimberly Castle-Alberts, Hudson Library & Historical Society, OH

Review

Praise for *The Kidney Hypothetical*

"As Higgs' life unravels, every single one of his accepted beliefs has to be re-examined. And the miracle of this novel--the wonderful, hilarious miracle of this novel--is that Higgs actually does this. In a culture that insists that nothing matters more than appearance, Higgs actually looks at himself deeply and (and here is the killer in this novel) honestly." -- Gary Schmidt, author of *The Wednesday Wars* and *Okay For Now*

"I love Lisa Yee's writing! You read along, smiling and chortling all the way, and then WHAM! she hits you in the heart. Watch out Higgs Boson, you're a Lisa Yee character. You've got seven days – seven days to shed who you think you should be, and become the person you're meant to be." -- Amy Timberlake, author of *One Came Home*

"Lisa Yee has written the best worst week of school ever. Just when you think Higgs Boson Bing's life can't get any worse, it does, in increasingly funny and poignant ways." -- Emily Ecton, author of *Project Jackalope*

"Lisa Yee is one of those people everybody loves. At any moment, she can say something witty, completely off-the-wall wacky, or shockingly deep. Reading *The Kidney Hypothetical* was exactly like hanging out with Lisa -- wildly entertaining, emotionally affecting, and over far too soon." -- Jordan Sonnenblink, author of *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*

"Lisa asks what it means to live an authentic life, and she does so brilliantly with humor, pathos, and truth." -  
- Kerry Madden, author of the Maggie Valley trilogy

Praise for *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*

"An utterly charming debut, as well as being the kind of tour de force that leaves one breathless." -- *Boston*

*Globe*

"[A] heartfelt story full of wit." -- *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Funny, charming, and heartwarming, with something to say about the virtues of trust and truth telling, this deserves an A." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for *Absolutely Maybe*

"Moving from middle grade into YA fiction, Yee brings both a flair for comic timing and a sense of pathos.... The characters are complex and their friendships layered -- they sweep readers up in their path." -- *Publishers Weekly*

"Maybe's search takes her to unexpected places, and readers will absolutely enjoy the ride." -- *Horn Book*

From the Inside Flap

Higgs Boson Bing has seven days left of his perfect high school career.

But was it really so perfect? Sure, Harvard was in the bag. He brought home straight As, top scores. He'd been dating the prettiest and most popular girl in the school.

It was, literally, everything his parents could have wanted. Everything they wanted for Higgs's older brother, Jeffrey, in fact.

But something's not right. And when Higgs's girlfriend presents him with a seemingly innocent hypothetical question about whether or not he'd give her a kidney... the exposed fault lines reach straight down to the foundations of his life.

Suddenly, it seems someone is trying to bring him down -- and succeeding. Higgs is ripping defaced posters of himself off the school walls, trying to get his best friend to talk to him again, and is accused of cheating on his Harvard admissions application. When Higgs hangs out in an abandoned Airstream with a tattooed girl named Monarch, she decides he's led a buttoned-down existence for too long, and is determined to change it. Whose life is this anyway?

Higgs has seven days to find out.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jose Longoria:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to endure than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular *The Kidney Hypothetical: Or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days* book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Leon Moses:**

*The Kidney Hypothetical: Or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days* can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could

increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *The Kidney Hypothetical: Or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days* yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial considering.

**Donna Canales:**

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