

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Illustrator

Reviewer

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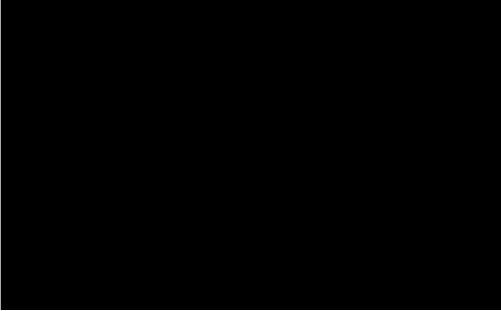


Book Review: WHEN WE HAD SUMMER

Every summer, teenagers Daniella, Carly, Penny, and Lainie look forward to their time together in a small seacoast town in Jersey. They have been friends forever and have dubbed themselves the Summer Sisters. The best and most challenging part of this time together at the beach is the annual To Do List, tasks for them to complete that are all different—some serious and some silly—but all rewarding in the end. But this summer is going to be different. Carly, their leader and mastermind of the List, passed away unexpectedly during the past winter. The three remaining sisters make a pact to make it the best summer they can, but they just aren't feeling it. Daniella, who is also Carly's cousin, makes a discovery while going through some of Carly's things. When she opens Carly's favorite handbag, Daniella finds a To Do List already written for the upcoming summer. This gives the Sisters the drive and purpose they need to take on the list for Carly.

The author addresses Carly's death and the girls' different ways of coping with grief in a gentle but realistic manner. As the girls struggle to work





through the List, life continues to throw challenges at them in the form of disagreements that threaten to break up their once strong friendships. Their trials lead them to realize the value of life, even though it can change in a heartbeat. The author gives the readers a good look at life with all its ups and downs, and the courage to weather the storms.

