

Anything but Typical
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Anything but Typical is about an autistic boy's life. The boy's name is Jason, and he has a brother named Jeremy. Jason explains what life is like being autistic, like how he hates loose belts or cannot control his anger. Jason also has trouble reading faces and emotions, and everyone seems to think he is disgusting. He claims he will never get a girlfriend, as most girls he meets find him disgusting. However, that changes when he meets a girl with the username PhoenixBird on a writing platform called Storyboard. Jason ends up going to the Storyboard Writing Convention, and PhoenixBird is also going. Jason then sets off on a plane and begins his journey of writing.

Anything but Typical is a great book. It shows the life of an autistic kid, the hardships he has to go through. It shows the world what it is like to be "different". The book had one minor problem, as there wasn't too much comedy, but this is a minor issue as the book was engaging and fun, with a good storyline. Jason is relatable to many teens, even if the reader is not autistic. Many teens feel they are too ugly or too disgusting to get a girlfriend or boyfriend, just like Jason. They find it difficult to fit in, constantly teased or looked down on. Anything but Typical teaches people about autism, but not about what it is, instead of what it does, and how you should treat people with autism.

I would recommend this book to teens and tweens. People of lower ages could read this book, but I doubt they would find it interesting. There isn't anything graphic, but there is lots of interaction between Jason (who is a boy) and PhoenixBird (who is a girl) through email. Jason calls PhoenixBird his girlfriend, and Jason does get teased. There is some strong language, but no profanity. I would recommend this book for everyone over the age of 10, and more specially ages 12-15. This book would be a great present for any teens who love reading and is a must-read for teens.

Recommended Titles:

El Deafo by Cece Bell
Out of my Mind by Sharon M, Draper
Wonder by R. J. Palacio