

The Opposite of Always

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During his senior year, Jack attends a college party where he meets Kate. Immediately Kate and Jack are drawn to one another; they bond over cereal and movies. As Jack and Kate fall in love, their relationship progresses and everything seems perfect when suddenly Kate begins distancing herself from Jack. Later, he finds out that Kate has sickle cell anaemia - a genetic disease - moments before her death. Heartbroken Jack mourns Kate until he finds himself back at the college party where he first met Kate. Stuck in a time loop, Jack must make decisions carefully in the hopes of saving Kate without putting the relationships with his friends and family in jeopardy.

I enjoyed how the main character Jack navigated the challenge of preventing the death of his girlfriend Kate which highlighted the infinite repercussions of each decision he made. As well as the dynamic between Jack and his best friends Jillian and Franny. I liked that humor was weaved throughout the story despite its heavier topics of death and loss. Also, I found that the time travel loop of the plot was repetitive at times however, I liked the ambiguity of the ending.

I recommend *The Opposite of Always* for ages 13 and up. Although this book is filled with a lot of humor and lighthearted jokes, it does deal with repeatedly experiencing the death of a loved one as well as the grieving process. I suggest that you buy this captivating book as a gift for your loved one.

Recommended Titles:

Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon

They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

Five Feet Apart by Rachael Lippincott