

## **Every Other Weekend**

**Abigail Johnson**

**Reviewed by: Drishti Upadhyaya, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Every Other Weekend tells the tale of two teenagers whose lives are seemingly on a downward spiral until they crash into each other. Adam, who once had a picturesque home life, can't recognize what his family's become ever since his older brother died. Jolene, who's known nothing but an unstable home life driven by her divorced parents, can't help but hurt people before they can hurt her. When the two have to spend time with each other every other weekend, they quickly become friends for the sake of ease, but it grows to be genuine as they learn to understand each other and themselves.

Abigail Johnson is great at writing sympathetic characters, but not necessarily likeable ones. I was a lot more interested in the side family characters than the main ones, but they grew on me the more I read. I liked how their friendship developed but the romance, while clearly intended, didn't feel really natural to me. I could see it coming a mile away the second they met, but it felt like a romance for the sake of the plot, and not one that grew into itself. I preferred them as friends, but thankfully the relationship isn't the focal point. The family dynamics are really interesting and make up for the novel's flaws completely.

Every Other Weekend is perfect for teenage readers in high schoolers. There are a lot of heavy themes including abuse and assault, but most of it is implied or off screen. There are a few graphic scenes, however, so be careful if that is triggering. This is a great book to get from your library! It's a quick, though not necessarily light, read that'll get you invested pretty quickly.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Concrete Roses by Angie Thomas

The Upside of Falling by Alex Light

Lucky Caller by Emma Mills

Tweet Cute by Emma Lord