

## *The Upside of Ordinary*

Susan Lubner

Reviewed by: Reginald Elzey, Age 17

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

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The book is written for young readers with dreams. The main character Jermaine has the idea that she wants to become a celebrity movie star. The idea of becoming a movie star occurs when she is involved in a play and does a spectacular job which she receives a lot of attention. Jermaine lives in Maine which is a very long way from Hollywood she decides to film her own reality show as she believe her family is very different than other families. Jermaine soon realizes that her family life is not that interesting so she begins to stage events to make her movie interesting. Her family begins to become very agitated by her filming their every move day and night and became over the edge when she started staging events that she believed would make her reality film more interesting with a lot of drama.

During the process of making the movie, Jermaine became obsessed with staging events to make the movie more interesting. One of the events includes her best friend in a makeover which turned disastrous and the best friend has had enough of Jermaine's obsession and friendship is crushed. Her mother becomes very disturbed with the events of Jermaine's filming that she leaves the family which turns the family crisis into a mystery. Without giving too many details of the highs of the book the whole adventures to seek out fame and fortune as a movie star allows Jermaine to see that it is not all glamorous to become a celebrity and how it hurts the family and people you love, when you begin to seek out fame for yourself at the sake of the family being disrupted. During the course of events she learns that her family is very ordinary and that her desires to become a reality star is not what is best for her family. Jermaine learns a very valuable lesson about reality TV and how not all reality is good fame.

The book identifies some very valuable lessons based upon our dreams to become what is seen on television or when you let attention change your view of life, family, and friends. This is a very exciting book that is funny, witty, and serious which will keep the reader interested at all times. It teaches a lesson about family and no matter how strange we may see our family they are just ordinary people.

I would definitely recommend this book to young readers who are in the pre-teen development years. The author has created a book that allows the young reader to put themselves in the book as the main character and feel the vision based upon how the author has written the book. I enjoyed this book very much and found it very exciting. I would highly recommend this book to the young reader in pre-teens as a funny, serious, adventurous, and educational. The book has a good plot, life lesson, and great ending.

### Recommended Titles:

*The Voyage of Lucy P. Simmons*, by Barbara Mariconda

*Twelve Kinds of Ice*, by Ellen Bryan Obed

*Don't Feed the Boy*, by Irene Latham

*Stealing Air*, by Trent Reedy