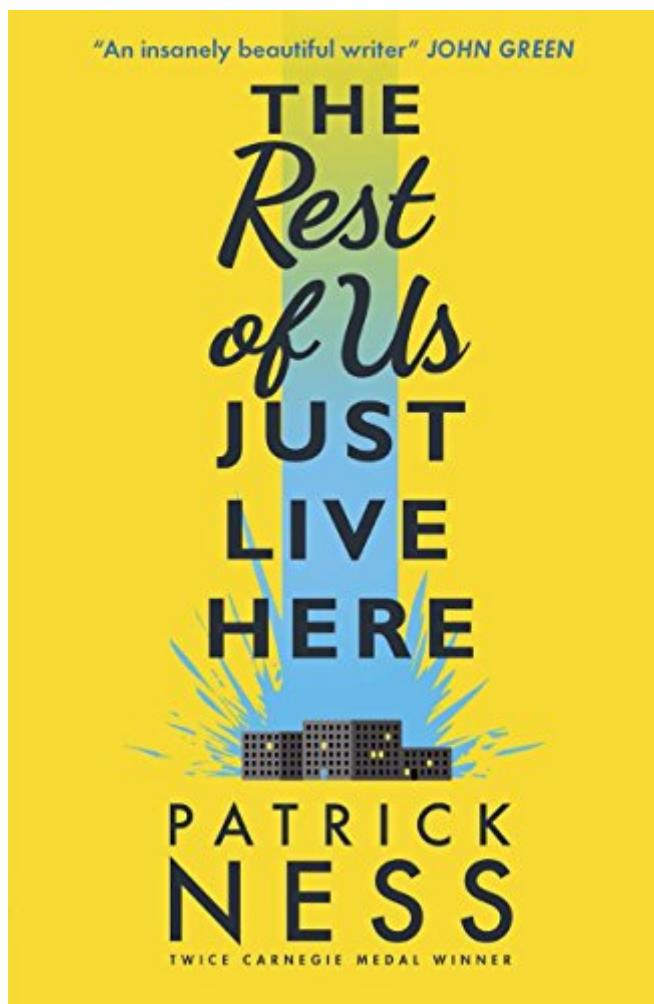


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The Rest Of Us Just Live Here: Shortlisted For The CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016



Synopsis

Award-winning writer Patrick Ness's bold and irreverent novel powerfully asks what if you weren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you were like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life. Even if your best friend might just be the God of mountain lions... An exceptional novel from the author praised by John Green as "an insanely beautiful writer".

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Customer Reviews

So much of YA is the dramatic story about murder and tragedy among the popular kids. Vampires and werewolves and magic trolls in dungeons. This isn't that story. This is something else, running parallel. This is the story of Emily the Background Slytherin and her friends

(OMG KEVIN RUN). Those kids in the background who might actually do the assignments for graduation, whose lives go on no matter what might roam the halls or blow up the school. But most importantly, this story is about a boy with OCD, a girl with an eating disorder, and has both racial and LGBTQIA+ representation. Friends of mine who also have similar anxiety to mine insisted that I read this book ASAP because of the discussions that take place and I *feel* so glad they did. From start to finish, the OCD rep is just so incredible. Mikey (I sort of cringe at this name because of those old cereal commercials) has severe anxiety/OCD *and* he gets into obsessive loops where if he doesn't do a task exactly right something horrible will happen. Life becomes catastrophic inside those loops, getting worse and worse, and he becomes stuck. Even though this is sort of a parody of YA fantasy, Ness does a wonderful job of blending his *Indie Kid* parallel with Mikey's. The build up to the climax is so subtle that you hardly know it is coming. I *had* sort of skimmed the chapter headings, but I thought they detracted from the actual story line, so I mostly just followed it through the main book. I loved that Ness gives Mikey such a strong support system *and* his chosen family *instead* of using the *hero comes to save him from his anxiety* trope. There's a lot of talk about how one of his fears is that he is the least needed person, or no one would miss him if he were gone. It's so hard to feel that SO HARD. And even though Mikey acknowledges at one point that he KNOWS he is lucky to have so many people who love him, to someone with anxiety, it's so hard to convince ourselves that this is reality most of the time. I could go on and on about everything that was amazing about the anxiety/OCD rep in this story. I want to quote the entire psychiatrist appointment to you. But, then you wouldn't have to read the book, and I really think you probably should go read it. It's going on my MUST READS list for sure, guys. So, yeah. Do it.

I really enjoyed this book. I like that there was two point of view in the story. First you have the side story that should have been the main story according to industry standards. Then you have the main story that should have been the side story. It was nice to see diversity in characters. It was nice to see ordinary people struggling with every day problems like depression, OCD, alcoholism, and anorexia. Just to name a few. Mr. Ness really painted a picture in my mind of how OCD effects someone emotionally and physically. I never really thought about it before this book. I can understand why people would give this book a lower rating. It isn't super action packed but it is

thoughtful and also thought provoking. It was a little more mature then I thought it would be. Actually it is absolutely nothing like I thought it would be. I love Patrick Ness' stories and he has quickly become one of my favorite writers. He portrays characters well and really seems to do his research. I enjoyed reading about what happens to the normal people when indie kids are getting schools blown up and saving the world. I can relate in some way because I have thought about what happens to the rest of the world while the hero/heroine in a story has no regard for anyone and everyone at the same time. This book was deep and I would recommend it to anyone and everyone. Thank you for keeping it real in the end too and not making it into something that it could have been. I am so happy for the realness thrown in, which if you have read this book will sound hilarious considering Jared.

Thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I picked it during one of the Kindle book sales and was going to just put it in my giant TBR pile of books, but then I made the mistake of reading the first chapter to see if it was any good. Spent the next two nights reading the book. This was a great idea for a story - basically told from the viewpoint of what could be considered the NPC's (non-player character) if this was a video-game. People who fill in the background while the main characters do what they do. Turns out those background characters are pretty interesting people when you get to know them. I think that one of the reasons I like the characters is that I have some somewhat similar issues that they do back when I was in high school and often (back then) felt like I too was but one of a vast number of people in the background compared to the kids that were popular. And like the kids in this book, I thought that was OK as I too had what I felt as my own place in the scheme of things and friends to share it with. I'm hoping that this is the start of a series - I would like to see at least another book set in this world. I'll be recommending this one to people.

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