



The Best Thing that Never Happened to Me

Laura Tait, Jimmy Rice

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Everyone remembers their first love.

Holly certainly remembers Alex. But she decided ten years ago that love wasn't about mix tapes and seizing the moment - though she's not exactly sure it's about secret dates with your boss, either.

But what if the feelings never really went away?

Alex wants to make every moment of his new job count. It's a fresh start in a big city, and he's almost certain that moving to London has nothing to do with Holly. Almost.

How do you know if it was meant to be... Or never meant to happen at all?

The Best Thing that Never Happened to Me Details

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From Reader Review The Best Thing that Never Happened to Me for online ebook

Julio Gabriel says

Aos exigentes de plantão, eu incluso, que, mesmo que se rendam a livros de romance, possuem certo receio com a quantidade exorbitante de clichês já desbotados pelo tempo de uso que possuem, lhes digo: leiam este livro! *A Melhor Coisa que Nunca Aconteceu na Minha Vida* é uma leitura bem leve, recheada de personagens cativantes e que sabe nivelar muito bem seu teor de comédia e drama.

Não é especificado qual autor escreve qual ponto de vista, pois o livro é narrado pelos dois protagonistas — e seria sexismo presumir que Laura escreveria como Holly e Jimmy como Alex —, mas é evidente o quanto a escrita de cada um complementa a do outro. Enquanto Holly possui uma voz mais alta e visivelmente cômica, usando palavras em CAIXA ALTA para criar ênfase, Jimmy é mais contido e faz uso constante de piadas de humor negro e referências retrô; e juntos criam uma narrativa tão divertida que a leitura flui de forma maravilhosa. Menos nas partes em que eu era lembrado que a GATA de Holly se chama HAROLD, aí eu tinha que parar para ficar um tempinho rindo que nem um trouxa, pois sou muito imaturo mesmo me julgue.

Se tem uma coisa que os autores adoram fazer é criar aquele personagem secundário que faz todo mundo se apaixonar e o esquece no meio do caminho para que os leitores peçam desesperadamente por mais até que lançam um livro só sobre ele que todo mundo faz cara de surpresa, mas bem no fundo já sabia que toda essa enrolação era intencional (começa com Co e termina com Ileen Hoover, sim). E adorei como esse livro se torna uma exceção a essa “regra”. Apesar de toda a trama girar em torno do reencontro de Holly e Alex, os autores souberam balancear muito bem a medida de desenvolvimento como casal e desenvolvimento como pessoa. Cada um tem sua subtrama e, em vez de desnecessariamente se desmembrarem em prol de focar apenas neles dois, elas se completam.

Algo que me irritou um pouco, e me fazia revirar os olhos vez ou outra, foi um foco muito grande numa vibe de “ai, eu o amo, mas não consigo contar para ele” para criar o empecilho de eles não terem ficado juntos no passado e o fato de isso perdurar até o fim do livro. E quando no final é revelado um segredo do dia em que Holly iria se declarar para Alex e acabou dando errado, mostra-se algo que foge muito do clima oferecido pelo livro e totalmente desnecessário ter sido adicionado à história considerando que é um assunto que não foi abordado antes ou depois da revelação. Para mim, deixa um ar de assunto inacabado, mas não é algo que mine a história como um todo.

A Melhor Coisa que Nunca Aconteceu na Minha Vida com certeza não é um livro que chame atenção por sua capa, ou até por sua sinopse; eu mesmo torci o nariz de antemão e embarquei com expectativa nula, mas surpreende por seu modo descontraído e diferenciado de abordar um tema que já se tornou tópico comum entre livros românticos. Como todo livro do gênero, ele possui sim seus clichês, e grande parte do que me fez adora-lo é que os autores abraçam esse fato e o abordam com evidente personalidade. Quase como se, na verdade, estivessem escrevendo um para o outro e fossemos apenas espectadores de uma longa conversa que eu não me importaria se durasse mais um pouquinho.

Luise says

All in all it's quite nice. I liked that there were some ways and turns that didn't go in an obvious and cliché way. The amount of "I love him/ her but it's not mutual so I won't tell him/ her" was a bit tiring, though.

Kacey Kells says

Written by two authors, this book gives two different perspectives of a same (love) story; it's like the two sides of a same coin.

We follow Alex and Holly, jumping through time (a literary device that allows the reader to better see the connections between the past and the present, so that we can easily understand their respective expectations and fears!).

Through their school days, Alex and Holly were best friends (first loves), but they went their separate ways. Holly came to London and ended up not travelling the world as she had planned but settled into a PA job and fell in love with her boss. Ten years later, it's Alex's turn to settle in London; but when they meet up again, they hedge round each other like strangers. Follows a series of misunderstandings and unspoken truths between them. Can they ever get back to where they were or are they now just too different? in other word: is love eternal? (Yes! It is!!!).

Melindaaaa says

První novoro?ní recenze na poslední p?e?tenou knížku lo?ského roku. Nejlepší v?c, která se mi nikdy nestala je zárove? možná nejroztomilejší romantikou za hodn? dlouhou dobu (o první místo se s ní pere S láskou Rosie). Aneb jak málo sta?í k tomu, aby se život za?al ubírat úpln? jiným sm?rem, než jste si naplánovali? :) <http://books-postcards-geocaches.blog...>

Talor Pickering says

I spent most of my time holding my breath during this book, even to the very end I was on tender hooks to find out what would happen next to leading lady Holly, and leading man Alex! I adored how the book was written, two authors, two characters, one heart-stirring novel! Laura Tait & Jimmy Rice brought us a realistic love story that was simply fabulous

Holly and Alex were best friends, they shared the ups and downs of high school till one day, when it came to the day Holly was leaving for university she decided it was time to admit her true feelings, but it all didn't go as planned. Bad advice, and fear got the best of them and the two friends were torn apart by their pride, flash forward eleven years and the story really gets going!

The trials and tribulations of the love game are rife throughout the book, you have got ex's, weddings, secret office relations and much more, I loved the the way the whole story unfolded things built up, tears overflowed! I just wanted to take Holly and shake her, slap her around the face, and tell her to wake up and see what was right in front of her and Alex well he needed the same and a bloody swift kick up the backside (I do realise that these are fictional characters and I can't actually do theses things, but I get quite involved

when reading a book)

What I will say is that the ending wasn't enough for me, it was one of those "NOOOOOOO THAT CAN'T BE THE END" moments I just wanted more and I really can't decide if that's a good thing or a bad thing, I'm going to say it's a good thing it leaves you wanting more! It leaves you asking questions like, is there going to be another book? I really do hope so because if not I may have to just invent what happens to Holly and Alex!

Agi says

I have first heard about The Best Thing That Never Happened To Me on Twitter and was immediately smitten by it, and when it arrived on my doorstep I was more than excited. And believe me, the book was worth the waiting and the whole buzz.

AND it always amazes me how two people can write one book. I am always wondering how they do this, is one of them writing one chapter and then the second the other? Thanks God, Laura and Jimmy explain this in the Q&A at the end of the book and my curiosity is now satisfied. But still, I can't stop wondering how did they do that the chapters are so seamless, intertwine with each other and there is not a single gap or forgotten plot. Brilliant!

Holly was dreaming of travelling around the world but she let go of those dreams and is now working as a PA and has an affair with her boss, Richard. Nobody knows about their relationship of course, although Richard is not married and doesn't have any children, he just thinks that it's better. And what he thinks, Holly does.

Alex wanted to be a teacher and he is a teacher, although he has pictured his job a little different, for example directing young, innocent souls towards the best authors and showing them the beautiful world of literature. But reality bites and he must struggle with arrogant teenagers who are totally not interested in learning and big ideals.

Holly and Alex haven't seen each other for 11 years and they didn't part their ways as best friends that they were. Actually, Holly was in love with Alex and Alex was in love with Holly but either they didn't realize it then or they did, but they did nothing about this. And now, after Alex moving to London, they meet again.

As I have already mentioned, the book is told from both characters' point of views and it was the next big thing in the book. It was great to see how both of them perceive the same situations and how wrong they often are about what the other is thinking. They were both brilliantly portrayed in their teenage years and also eleven years later, they were the same but not the same people, they have changed and the differences were perfectly spotted and emphasized by the authors.

I warmed to both Holly and Alex immediately. They were very realistic characters, very vivid, they popped out of the pages. They had very realistic problems, they lived normal life, and they felt like real people. The chapters told from the point of view of Holly I liked better, they were cooler, funnier and actually, her story was more interesting for me. Holly was also more carefree, more expressive than Alex, who was a little too considerable and too serious, but nevertheless, he had his funny moments as well. I loved the interaction between them, their banter, I had a feeling that they are real friends, that there is nothing forced between them and it was great to see how their friendship took again after all the years.

Other characters, like Holly and Alex's best friends Jemma and Kev were fantastic. Jemma with the way she was talking and her carelessness, Kev I have never thought I'm going to like at the beginning but then I have actually felt like he was my best friend.

The other cast of characters are also beautifully drawn, they are very expressive and each of them has his/her

own voice and they add spice to the plot.

I was hooked to the story from the beginning. It was so intriguing and written in engaging way and I just couldn't put the book down. There are some retrospections to the past and we can see how the feelings were developing already eleven years ago, and I have enjoyed those moments exactly as much as I have enjoyed the storyline about the present. Every chapter ended leaving me yearning for more, for explanation, curious what's going to happen next and the read was full of twists and turns, it was better than a rollercoaster ride, intriguing, with a great dose of drama, romance, love, tears and fun.

Both authors have a way with words, reading this book is like flying and I haven't noticed the passing of time. The pace is just right, the action wonderful, the storyline engaging.

There is actually not a single bad word that I could tell about the book. Nope. And that's fantastic, isn't it? So please go and get your copy, you will not regret it, I am absolutely sure!

Copy received from publisher in exchange for a review.

La Biblioteca di Eliza says

Sono 2 stelle e mezzo!

<http://labibliotecadieliza.blogspot.it...>

Alex e Holly si conoscono da sempre, sono migliori amici. Finito il liceo però perdono i contatti e devono aspettare 10 anni per rivedersi di nuovo, non nella piccola e sperduta Mothston dove passano l'adolescenza, ma nella grande e lucente Londra, dove entrambi si ritrovano a vivere. Tra i due riprende in fretta il rapporto che avevano lasciato, anche se i sentimenti che i due provano sono ben diversi dalla semplice amicizia. Holly però ha una relazione segreta con il suo capo e Alex ne ha iniziata da poco una con l'antipatica Melissa.

Insomma per i due non è mai il momento giusto! Hanno un'occasione mancata dopo l'altra, e anche i rispettivi caratteri non aiutano a risolvere la situazione. Fino a quando...

Mi sono scordata di fidanzarmi con te è una commedia romantica, dolce e carina, ma niente di più. Purtroppo la storia non decolla e a tratti è piuttosto piatta. Ci sono diversi elementi interessanti che potevano aiutare a creare un bel romanzo divertente e leggero, ma il racconto è troppo piatto e anche i suoi protagonisti non convincono. Ho trovato qualche battuta simpatica e dei momenti all'altezza delle mie aspettative sul finale, troppo tardi purtroppo per risollevare il libro.

Il continuo alternarsi dei punti di vista credevo sarebbe stato un problema, temevo, dopo aver letto le prime pagine, di trovare quasi due storie separate, raccontate dal punto di vista di Holly e da quello di Alex. In realtà la scrittura a quattro mani aiuta e fa sì che, sebbene non spumeggiate, la storia sia ben narrata, con i due punti di vista che danno un quadro a 360° di quello che succede. Peccato però che non ci siano degli episodi così indimenticabili che catturino l'attenzione del lettore.

Il finale è invece molto più interessante. Le ultime 80 pagine mi hanno divertita e catturata, anche perché essenzialmente succede tutto lì. Qui ci sono le battute più divertenti, qui i personaggi hanno una marcia in più.

Passiamo proprio ai personaggi. I due protagonisti, Holly e Alex, hanno pro e contro. Pro: sono due ragazzi

normali, nessuno è bellissimo, stupendissimo, sexy, e via dicendo. Finalmente un po' di normalità! Hanno dei bei caratteri, sono ben descritti. Contro: sono poco propositivi, come la storia non è frizzante e accattivante, così loro si lasciano molto condurre dagli eventi. Non so, non mi hanno molto convinta, a tratti li ho trovati noiosi, e nei momenti in cui potevano dare di più non lo fanno. Ad esempio, Alex si fa mille problemi con i ragazzi della scuola ma alla fine poco fa. Holly almeno sul finale decide di dare una bella svolta alla sua vita, prende una vera decisione, fa qualcosa! Quindi un punto in più per Holly!

I personaggi "di contorno" sono un po' più interessanti, pur rimanendo nella loro parte marginale. Mi è piaciuta soprattutto Jemma, collega di Holly, che non vuole, non sa e non è una segretaria; le sue battute sono le più divertenti e, anche se è un personaggio volutamente un po' sopra le righe, è quello che più rallegra la storia.

In conclusione, non mi sono molto appassionata alla storia, se non sul finale. In generale l'ho trovata un po' piatta, non difficile da leggere o particolarmente lenta, ma con pochi momenti interessanti o molto divertenti, come invece mi aspetto da questo genere di romanzo. Peccato!

Ameena Farooq says

Poignant, funny and definitely an ugly crier. Would read this book a hundred times over knowing what happens in the end. Alex is the kind of boy that only lives in books and in my brain though it wouldn't hurt if he were real. He listens without interrupting or judging, feels what most boys pretend not to feel just to look cool, over-analyses and has a knack for hygiene (lol I'm a hygiene freak?) Whereas holly is the complete opposite, thinks about something and goes through with it. Makes lists and doesn't ponder about a situation too much. As I was reading through this book, I feel like I grew with the characters, learnt from them, felt the emotions they were feeling and most importantly felt like I was them in one way or another. I guess that's the beauty of an excellent writer, not one but two actually!

Jeannie Zelos says

The Best Thing That Never Happened to Me. Laura Tait and Jimmy Rice

Review from Jeannie Zelos Book reviews.

I was looking forward to this book, but on reading it seemed to drag on slowly. I liked the characters of Alex and Holly, and the story is told in alternating POV, slipping back from present day to ten years previously when they were best friends, each wanting more but too nervous to take that first step and then a huge misunderstanding means they go their separate ways and lose contact.

Its well written, everything from the plot to the characters is realistic, it feels like something that could happen in real life...and maybe that's my problem, I need the dramatics and fire that rarely happens in reality, and this was a beautiful but very slow build up. I felt like I was waiting until the very end for something to actually happen. Though I enjoyed reading about their past and present problems, and seeing once again how easy it is for lovers to get separated over tiny misunderstandings, I needed more action, more highs and lows, more laughs and tears than was in this story. Thankfully not everyone does so if you're looking for a well written, gentle romance, with a few chaste kisses as the main action this is one for you. Just not for me :(

Stars:three

ARC supplied by Netgalley.

Tereeza says

P?esn? n?co takového jsem pot?ebovala, po všech dystopiích, detektivkách, thrillerech, cht?la jsem se p?iblble usmívat, smát se, fandit n?komu v lásce, být dojatá, zažívat infarkty - a p?esn? toho se mi dostalo. Nejlepší v?c, která se mi nikdy nestala vypráví o Alexovi a Holly, nejlepších kamarádech a jejich cest? životem. P?iznám se, nemohla jsem si pomoci a Alexe jsem si prost? spojila vzhledov? s Alexem z knížky S láskou, Rosie a celou dobu v n?m vid?la tím pádem Sama, a nezlobím se na sebe za to, prost? ho žeru! Ob? hlavní postavy žijí své životy, Holly upouští od svých d?tských sn?, Alex se za nimi snaží jít až moc horliv? a bohužel mu to moc nevychází.

Knížka je hlavn? o tom, že si snaží vzájemn? vyznat lásku, potla?it city, vyznat lásku a tak podobn?. N?kdy bych je nejradší propleškla, jak si n?co vyložili, zanalyzovali to a zase nic! Ale na druhou stranu to úpln? chápu, d?lám to stejně, fakt jsem se v tom úpln? vid?la a tady bylo krásn? ukázané, jak to nikdy nem?žeme rozšifrovat sami, jen ve své hlav?, vždycky k tomu pot?ebujeme i názory a myšlenky toho druhého, ne jen úvahy a p?edpoklady.

Jediné, co mi p?íšlo trochu p?ehnané, byl d?vod toho, pro? spolu ukon?ili kontakt, když p?ed tím tém?? nedokázali být bez sebe, ale t?žko ?íct.

Knížka má momenty vtipné, zaláskované, vážné i infarktové. Užila jsem si to naprosto. A Melissu taky nesnáším!

Cyndi says

I've used the word "cute" several times when describing this book to friends, because that's what it is in a nutshell. It's a supremely cute love story, and a very quick and easy read. I've read both books by these two authors now and enjoyed them both. This may come across somewhat sexist, but I'm surprised at how well Jimmy Rice writes romantic comedy. His chapters were always witty, and a tad self-deprecating, but never devoid of emotion. The comparisons he made between life and popular culture were smart and funny, even if I wasn't familiar with the subject of his comparison (Americans, get your Google ready). After I read the Prologue I put the book down and told my husband that I won't ever be a writer if I can't write something that good, and that's how all of his chapters made me feel. If this book was a game of tug-of-war between the two authors, Jimmy won hands down.

In conclusion, this is a very sweet story about love and friendship and I recommend it to any and everyone that likes to read about those two things.

Clau says

This was awful. I mean, the characters were childish (let's not forget they are 30 years old) and cowards. The whole story is pointless, and it ends just in that point when it should have started. It was boring and stupid in a bad boring way.

I hated it. DO NOT READ THIS SHIT!!!

Brittany says

It was alright. We never really saw the couple together and I'm not a fan of that. I want to see them together, why is that so hard?

SAM says

I had this book on my to read list since forever but first I had time getting it because it was a bit pricey in my country and after I got it, it took me a while to start it and I must say I'm glad I finally did.

Second chance romances and friends turned lovers are two of my favorite subjects in book so to have one that combined both of them was simply great but above all I think this story is about those little subtle moments that change our lives forever, how we never see them coming and we don't think much of them when they happen but even the slightest decision on our part can start a series of events that can change our lives.

I enjoyed a lot the way this duo of writers have with words, their style was fast paced but deep enough to have me interested in the story, our leading lady got on my nerves a little bit but I understood her actions as well.

The story is wonderful, entertaining and with heartwarming characters the only thing I didn't like was that I wanted more for the ending, after waiting eleven years all we got was nearly a page and I didn't feel it was enough, other than that the story was everything I was looking for.

Alexandra Pattinson says

Everyone in their 20s really should read this book.
