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Jade Fulton and Ethan Garrett are opposites in every sense of the word. Ethan is an all-American poster boy—a star athlete dating the most popular girl in school and a devout Christian. Jade keeps mostly to herself. She abhors joining “things,” hates everyone at their high school except her best friend, Gia, and considers herself agnostic.

When Ethan and Jade find themselves locked in an aerobics room overnight, their confinement forces them to push past the labels they’ve given each other. Jock. Loner. Jesus freak. Skeptic. Golden boy. Intellectual. Amid hours of arguing, philosophizing, and silly game playing, Ethan and Jade learn there’s a lot more to the other person than meets the eye.

After that night, life returns to normal and each goes back to their regular lives. Still, neither one can shake the unexpected bond they formed and they can’t help but question what they’ve been taught to believe, who they want to be, and where their hearts truly lie.

Things I'd Rather Do Than Die Details

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Author : Christine Hurley Deriso

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From Reader Review Things I'd Rather Do Than Die for online ebook

Emma says

The ARC of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

At first I couldn't really get into the story, I didn't like all the religious talks they were having and I was afraid it would be the major plot of the book. I'm happy to say it was not and that the book picked itself up after having a bit of a rocky start. The story deals with a lot of different themes, like for example race, loss, what family truly means. The whole Brianne's subplot was dragged on a little too much for my taste but in the end this book truly was an enjoyable read that I would recommend.

Alja Katuin says

A lovely feel-good YA!

Kylie says

** I received an ARC from Netgalley and publisher Flux in exchange for an my honest review **

This novel starts out with Jade working overtime when Ethan asks for 20 minutes of a workout, and they end up getting robbed and locked in a room together.

Of course that interested me right from the start because it seemed like a cool plot line. But alas, when they were rescued the story went south.

-The robbery really was an irrelevant event to happen besides allowing Jade and Ethan to meet. It seemed like that idea was thrown away after it happened but it definitely should have continued on for much longer.

-We didn't really learn much about any of the characters besides the two main. There would be times that a character would be like *"Oh yeah my mom's and alcoholic too"* and it's kind of just like ?????

-I didn't like the portrayal of Ethan's parents. His mom was made up to seem very weak in my opinion and we didn't get more backstory on how bad Ethan's father is. Also, his grandma saying how his father is such a great guy but then having a scene where he is abusive and it just did not make sense to me.

-I hated Jade's best friend Gia. She just seemed like a little puppy dog that was annoying as F***

-It was quite boring I found myself skimming the book a lot because nothing really changed or excited me at all.

I can go on and on but I don't want to continue. I save my 1 stars for books I DNF so, that's why I am giving it 2.

Jennifer Shanahan says

I really liked this book despite it's mixed reviews here on GR. I do not think this was a "Christian" or religious book. One of the main characters, Ethan, has a very strong faith and believes in God which I thought was really wonderful because a) I hardly ever see a teen male portrayed that way in the many books I've read and b) he is a TEEN male with a strong faith...refreshing and different, and c) he does begin to question his faith after talking to Jade and reflecting on his life. Ethan and Jade know each other but not that well when together they encounter a dramatic traumatic situation. They bond over during the time period they are locked together but neither of them will admit it for most of the book. There is a lot going on in both of their lives and they try to deal with it as well as they can. Jade is a strong person who knows what she wants but is willing to make sacrifices for her family. I was tearing up at the end reading about Jade's father-an amazingly strong wonderful person who obviously loves his family so much, and raised very strong, compassionate children as well. It is a quick read as I read it in a couple of hours but I recommend it because it is different than your average YA romance novel. It really makes the reader think about faith and God and why bad things happen. Thanks so much for ARC NetGalley and Flux.

Faith (BookSelf ~ You Are What You Read) says

I received this eARC from North Star Editions on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of this book in any way.

Dnf'd at 31%

I would first like to say that the religious aspects of this book were not in anyway a flaw and anyone who believes otherwise needs to seriously reexamine themselves because they're hypocrites. A lot of the religious stuff was a little preachy sometimes but that was obviously intentional on the author's part.

This book was not, however, particularly good by any means. Honestly, everything after the two leads finally get rescued from the gym was extremely boring and I lost interest quickly. The book did what it was trying to do well enough but it's just not the kind of story (namely, a contemporary romance) that I enjoy by any means.

Michelle Lecumberry says

"The main characters are both complex and delightful. An inspirational read that readers can appreciate." -- Booklist

I don't think this book was for me, it doesn't have to do with the story or the characters I think my beliefs and perspective are different from the author. I have to be honest I DNF the book the first 100 pages because it's not a bad book, it's just not the book for me. Clearly it has good aspects and Booklist a major and respected company gave their praise for this book so my opinion is my own, if the synopsis interested you please give this book a try and form your own opinion.

Tahlia says

DNF at 5%

This book seemed promising - an armed robber. Excitement!

No.

It is really badly written (which must be saying something as I only made it 5% of the way through before giving up) and split between two characters. It DOES NOT work and the flow is not cohesive at all. The dialogue is 100% cringey at best and I was very disappointed.

The last straw was when one of the characters (did not care enough to learn his name) was like "Oh no! The gym's getting robbed!"

Really?? REALLY??

don't waste your time.

Lara (Bookish_turtle) says

Two people who barely know each other held at gunpoint and locked in a gym overnight: I was so excited!

And it was really great, but it was essentially the only piece of plot in the entire book. So after all that great stuff, that was it. It was all downhill from there...

But even though nothing was really happening it was still not the most boring thing I've ever read. It was slow, but not terrible.

I felt that the dual narration was a bit unnecessary. I am not a fan of multiple narrators and this book was no exception for me.

Gia, the best friend, was alright, but just the way that she was written made me dislike her.

And Brianne, Ethan's girlfriend(ish) had a subplot that went on for WAY too long. It just kept dragging and you could see what was going to happen, but it just took forever and it was so yuck!

The MCs Jade & Ethan were okay, I liked them... But they are both completely oblivious to their surroundings and made some very silly decisions. They also are very indecisive, which I found annoying.

I thought this book is okay, but overall it is a very cutesy shallow read. Don't expect much more from it, because that's all it is. But for a nice summery read, it is quite good!

Many thanks to Netgalley and the publishers for providing me with a review copy! All opinions are my own.

Ash Luna says

This was my first read from Christine Huley Deriso going into it I was a littler nervous given the title of the book. Things I'd Rather Do Than Die is a little misgiving of the book but once I read it I couldn't have given it a better title.

Ethan is very religious and depends on his Faith every single day, being a male teen this says a heck of a lot about his character and I absolutely adored him.

Jade she is hilarious and a go getter who know who she is and doesn't really care what people thing. She was a character I liked and she made me laugh at time.

When these two encounter a troubling experience they create a bond like no other and the connection they make can not be forgotten. These two have ups and down and I couldn't wait to see how everything would end up. When I turned to the last page my heart was not complete, but I knew I was going to be ok and have to say this book is a wonderful YA summer for anyone!

I am planning on reading more Christine Hurley Deriso in the near future,

Nadhira Satria says

lmao I only found out that this is actually a christian book AFTER I got accepted on netgalley.

shit

Shelby says

I'll be honest, at a couple chapters in I wasn't too sure I was going to be able to get into this book. It didn't grab me from the start. However once I got about 5 chapters in or so it picked up for me. At that point I couldn't stop reading -- I just had to know what was going to happen. It was funny at times, sweet at others, and heartbreaking throughout. Jade was going through an awful lot and I really felt for her. This was Christian fiction but it wasn't so in your face that the religious stuff was all that it was about. There was so much more to it than that. I don't think you have to necessarily be a CF fan to enjoy this book.

Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for the advanced copy!

Manon says

2.5 Stars

I was provided an ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Right after getting this book from NetGalley, I read some reviews on Goodreads, none of them good. Mostly they were saying that this was a christian book and should have been tagged as such.

Being an atheist, I then dreaded reading this.

However, it wasn't as bad as I anticipated.

There were mentions of God and Jesus and shit but it wasn't preaching like I thought it would.

Still, I didn't love the characters and the story didn't do much for me. I rolled my eyes a bunch of times and I couldn't feel the pain the characters felt.

It felt clichéd and predictable to me...

I found the characters all kind of annoying too...

But it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be? And it was a fast read.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

Thanks to NetGalley for providing me a complimentary copy of THINGS I'D RATHER DO THAN DIE in exchange for my honest review.

DNF at 8% I didn't realize this was a christian book or I'd never have requested it. Also the premise of an armed robber choosing to rob a gym was a stretch.

Faizan says

I got the ARC from NetGalley

TBH, the book does not offer any special story.

It is just that too much-used drama of an invisible girl and a football player.

The biggest problem was the incompleteness of story arcs.

What about the real mother?

Was there some racial discrimination?

What was the deal with Jade's brother?

What about the Ethan's father's other family?

Just read this book if you want to read a light read... Don't expect something bigger.

The book is written in simple language, so that is good because the story does not demand the prose.

Please do read my complete review on my blog

jv poore says

The senior year of high school often starts with an almost-desperate desire to get through, get out and get on with life. Students have been sorted into pseudo-boxes; cliques are closed and relationships seem cemented.

Passing classes, prom dates and plans for after high-school are the parts everyone knows about, but there are some adolescents who long for such simple problems to solve.

Perhaps the parental situation is such that a teen is pulled from practices to pick up his intoxicated dad. Or maybe evenings are spent sobering up a mom that is mostly numb. A fantastic father may fall ill, leaving his daughter to worry that she and her step-mother will be even less related, in his absence. Serious and secret situations can be a very real part of growing up and that is perfectly portrayed in Ms. Deriso's *Things I'd Rather Do Than Die*.

Jade isn't easily defined. She "...is "other" on every checklist," and exists around the edges, with only her best bud by her side. Intelligent, with an obvious need for knowledge and openly agnostic, students see her as icy and unapproachable.

Everyone adores Ethan, though. The star quarterback that's "...always organizing Jesus-y things at school" with his gorgeous girlfriend by his side seems to have a smile for everyone.

Immune to the A-lister's charms, Jade seethes when Ethan dashes into the gym at closing time. Now, she has to work late so that he can work-out. But that will be the least of her worries.

Although an event may be life-changing, the differences are not instantaneous. One very long night of honest, albeit awkward, conversation nags Jade consistently, causing her to question her stringent beliefs and reexamine decisions. Even Ethan begins to question his faith—or at least the reasons it is so important to him.

I love tough topics being addressed with spot-on, diabolical dialogue that is simultaneously biting, humorous and thought-provoking. Although I have read about teens tangled in religion, it was always a battle between two different beliefs. I really enjoyed the unique, introspective spiritual consideration and the personal growth in this heart-wrenching, yet hopeful novel.

This review was written by jv poore for Buried Under Books, with huge thanks to North Star Editions for the Advance Review Copy.
