



## The Look

*Sophia Bennett*

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# The Look

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## **The Look** Sophia Bennett

Ted doesn't think of herself as glamorous. But her gorgeous sister Ava is. So when it's Ted who's spotted by a model agency, at the same time that Ava is diagnosed with cancer, things have clearly gone very wrong. Ted isn't interested in modelling but Ava wants her to give it a try. Just how far will Ted go to please her sister? And what sacrifices will she have to make?

## **The Look Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2012 by Chicken House

ISBN : 9781906427917

Author : Sophia Bennett

Format : Paperback 328 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Realistic Fiction, Romance



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## From Reader Review The Look for online ebook

### Arushi says

I read this book last year. I do not like chick-lits so I should have known better than to pick this one. Thankfully, I had borrowed it from the library, so I did not have to regret wasting money on it.

From the synopsis at the back, I was expecting it to be a light read and something I could complete in an hour or so. However, it was the author's attempt at dealing with issues such as cancer, the fashion industry, finance problems and body image. In my opinion, the author **did not** succeed at this attempt.

Meet the main character of the book: Ted, who according to me, looks something like this-

She is tall, thin, gawky and has hair that look like a bird's nest.

However, one day she is spotted by a man from a famous modelling agency who thinks that she could try her hand at modelling. She as well as her gorgeous sister can not believe this and think that it is a scam.

By the way, her sister Ava is described somewhat like this:

So, no wonder they were shocked when Ted got picked over Ava.

However, they gradually consider that there might be some truth in the proposal and Ted (with Ava's help) starts attending photo shoots and spends time in modelling.

After a while, though, Ava starts getting sick and it is discovered that she suffers from cancer. Things change for the siblings as well as their parents as they have to endure hardships that they had never dreamt of.

The major turning point of the novel is (view spoiler)

Ted has to decide whether to stay with her sister or to go to New York and become a supermodel.

You wouldn't be a genius if you figured out what she chooses.

The other plot twists are equally predictable. (view spoiler)

. And oh, Ava has a love interest too. As if it wasn't obvious- stunning girl like that, how could she have been single? And her love overcomes all hardships, even cancer.

Seriously? **CLICHED, did I mention that before?** . I do not have problem with cliches but in this book, I could have predicted everything that was going to happen.

I did not have a problem with the writing. It was light and simple, which was good since the book was a chick-lit.

I did not find the characters amusing. I did not get attached to them at any point. However, I found myself reacting in this way at some places:

Really, Sophia? Really?

Anyway, I have ranted a lot for now. I have read a number of favourable reviews for this book on Goodreads but it wasn't my cup of tea.

If you want to read a good book about cancer, I suggest you read *Ways to Live Forever*. It will take you on a roller coaster ride of emotions unlike this book here.

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### **Serisop (Cioccolatoelibri) says**

Bellissimo.

"The look" è un contemporary che vuole affiancare la vita problematica di un'adolescente agli imprevisti della vita. Gli imprevisti possono essere belli o brutti, ma comunque ti sconvolgono l'esistenza.

Ted ha sempre pensato di non essere un granché, eppure all'improvviso ecco che spunta qualcuno che crede che lei possa essere una modella. E mentre questa notizia la sconvolge, arriva anche una delle notizie più brutte: sua sorella Ava ha il cancro.

Mi è piaciuto moltissimo leggere delle avventure di Ted nel mondo della moda. Penso che dia un bellissimo messaggio: non mettere mai il lavoro davanti alla tua famiglia. Inoltre il libro vuole anche farci riflettere sulla volubilità dei ragazzi adolescenti, sulla forza con la quale si può affrontare una malattia e sulla facilità con cui si può cadere nella trappola di qualcuno che vuole prenderci per il naso.

Se dovessi scegliere un libro da consigliare ad un'adolescente che sogna ad occhi aperti e che crede che nella vita per raggiungere gli obiettivi si debba fare tutto - e intendo proprio tutto - probabilmente sceglierai "The look".

Aprite gli occhi (e, come Ted, gli obiettivi delle vostre macchine fotografiche) e forse il mondo vi sembrerà diverso.

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### **jv poore says**

I love this book. So much, in fact, that this review is surprisingly difficult for me to write. I don't want to just gush about how much I enjoyed it, and I most certainly don't want to give away too much.

The Look is an outstanding tale of two sisters, each experiencing life-altering changes that no one could have predicted. They turn to each other. Seeing the evolution of their relationship was tremendously satisfying. While the girls are completely different, they are both charismatic and loveable, making the whole story almost tangible.

Ted Trout is tall, lanky with constantly disheveled hair, and a uni-brow. For most 15 year old girls, this would be a nightmare. She accepts it and goes about her business. Immediately, I loved Ted. Her matter-of-fact way of dealing with things is unique and intriguing. She often cracked me up. I think everyone will admire this cheeky girl who tends to go with the flow, without being passive. The reader almost feels proud as Ted begins to realize, then embrace, the fact that she is a strong and confident girl.

Ava is the older sister. She is gorgeous, sweet and totally smitten with her simply awesome boyfriend. All is right in her world until she learns that she has cancer. But wait---this is not a "cancer" book. Ava is intricate to the story, yes, but she is not the main character and her disease is not the central theme. Ava won't allow herself to be consumed by this, so she focuses all of her energy on Ted and the changes she is making.

To me, this book is about self-discovery. Learning that you can hear peoples' opinions, but you get to choose which advice to follow; most importantly, you get to determine the impact the words have on you. Mistakes will be made, but acknowledgment and an effort to correct will go a long way. Leaving your comfort zone is imperative for growth. You can try something new, hate it, yet still garner valuable insight. When you are honest with yourself and you follow your heart, you won't be wrong. We all have a confidence and strength inside of us, we just may need to work hard to find it.

Please, read *The Look*. I like everything about it, and I bet you will too.

This review was written for the Buried Under Books blog.

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### **Zev says**

I read the book flap and understood it would be a sole-perspective story from the non-cancerous sister's point of view. I frowned, but thought the ideas of sisterhood, closeness, and worry about illness would be recurring themes. I wanted medical emergencies, hard decisions (work or family?), heartwarming sister moments, and tearjerkers.

I got none of these.

Five pages into the story, I knew how it would end and rolled my eyes. When a statistic was quoted the first time, I groaned out loud and knew exactly how the book would end. I was right. There is absolutely no tension, worry, or drama around the cancer and how everyone thinks of it. This is a book about teenage modeling, from start to finish.

This book makes me think that the author clearly just wanted to write about a teen model and that this is partially wish fulfillment. Cancer is mentioned in less than one percent of the book. The book is so jammed with wish fulfillment cliches that this review would be novel-length if I were to list them all. The cancer was to make the non-cancer sister look better. I was appalled. She was jealous of her sister until her sister got sick, tried to convince everyone they were close, and--rrgh. The narrator is a whiny, entitled, ego-driven brat who doesn't understand that consequences exist. And why should she? There -were- no consequences for anything. I will point out that her entitlement and ego don't rear their ugly heads until she stops waffling about everything and actually does something. It's like a switch was flipped, and she becomes an airhead not too long after. Boring and grating. Then again, the character was only marginally interesting before all this. "Waaah, I have a unibrow and am tall." Um, razors exist if you don't like tweezing. Waxing. Sugaring. You have options, dude, and a sister who would love to help. Tall--I am five foot two, so grrr.

The cancer microscopic-subplot could have been cut entirely and the book wouldn't have changed at all. The cancer itself was a road to nowhere plotwise. Frustrating! I would read a fiction book about teen modeling, sure--if it had actual tension in it and if the characters had any realistic motivations that are mentioned for longer than a paragraph. But this book -tried- to have a cancer sister in it, too, and that threw me off. (grumble) At least I read it cover to cover so I could figure out exactly how correct I was.

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## **Ella B. says**

This book is a twisting thrill through the life of a hectic family. One who is barely paid, one who was just laid off, one who is a soon to be covergirl, and one with lymphoma cancer. They all sacrifice for each other, but none of them can see what they really need to do for each other. When a medical crisis happens, they all realize that they shouldn't be mourning the loss, but spending the time together that they have left.

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## **Djezelle says**

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### **Vivian says**

Fijn boek ❤ Niet heel erg bijzonder, maar wel een mooi, sfeervol verhaal dat lekker leest en over goede thema's gaat. Beetje een mix tussen *My Sister's Keeper* en *America's Next Top Model*. Uitgebreide recensie: <http://thebookreview.nl/recensies/con...>

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### **Vicky says**

**Original review:** <http://www.booksbiscuitsandtea.com/2012/03/review-look-sophia-bennett.html>

*The Look* is without a doubt one of those books that will make you roar with laughter one minute, shed a few tears the next but most importantly, it will make you think and re-evaluate your life. I loved everything about it, from the characters and the plot to Bennett's writing style - just brilliant.

Writing from a 15-year old girl's point of view is quite risky and it can go horribly wrong since many times these teenagers sound a bit too mature, too adult-ish and I can't seem to get over the fact that I didn't talk or think like that when I was their age, but Sophia Bennett pulls it off perfectly. Her ironic/sarcastic sense of humour definitely fits Ted's personality and it's one of the things that make this book as good as it is.

What I loved about this story, however, is the message that it's trying to convey to its readers. I liked how different Ava becomes after she learns about her illness. She transforms from this stunning and popular older sister into someone brave and more mature. It's interesting how different people think when they know they might lose the battle against the illness. I loved how she was behind Ted the whole time and encouraged her to go for it and give modelling a shot. It's as if she said we only live once and we shouldn't be afraid of taking chances...because what's the worst that can happen? In the end we only regret the chances that we didn't take and the decisions that we waited too long to take. *The Look* is an incredibly motivating and optimistic novel which will no doubt give hope to teenagers all around the world.

At the same time, it's not a depressing and heart-wrenching novel which tells the story of a girl who's trying to survive cancer, quite the opposite. Don't be afraid to pick it up if you don't like highly emotional stories because it's not like that. If you like contemporary / chick lit novels then I can guarantee that you'll love this one. The characters will really grow on you along the way and you'll be amazed how much they change by the end of the story and how much the two sisters' relationship itself changes.

The modelling world itself was very well researched and written - I've always had a soft spot for fashion so I was really excited about reading this book and it didn't disappoint me one bit. If I had to make comparisons, I'd say it's like *America's Next Top Model* and *The Devil Wears Prada* rolled into one, sprinkled with a pinch of humour and topped off with a great sisterly bond, witty and amiable characters, and gripping storyline. What's not to love?

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## **Cora Tea Party Princess says**

### **5 Words: Family, fashion, love, tragedy, brave.**

This book made me laugh and it made me cry. Often at the same time.

The Look masterfully weaves the world of fashion and modelling with high-school and the devastating effects of cancer on one so young. It's one hell of a read.

I felt a better person when I finished The Look, as though I myself had grown with the characters.

Ted is one hell of a great sister, an all round awesome girl. She suffers a little at school, but doesn't everyone? I only wish that the whole school thing hadn't ended so HEA.

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## **Chelsey Saatkamp says**

Pleasantly surprised by this one. I went in expecting the crazy drama of Meg Cabot but it was more like Sarah Dessen's YA characters meet a Jodi Picoult plot.

This book is less about the razzle-dazzle of the modeling industry and more about the close relationship between two sisters. From the synopsis I was ready for snooty, jealousy inspired conflict between Ted and Ava, but luckily we got nothing like that. The girls support each other the whole way through, and while Ted's modeling does cause a few issues in the family, there's never a petty blowup over it.

I also appreciated that the modeling industry seemed less like an Ugly Betty cartoon and instead showed the realities/boring minutiae of trying to land a job, and that there are nice people in the fashion world. There are over-the-top characters, sure (just like in the real world), but I think a model or a fashion lover could read this book and wouldn't be insulted by its depiction.

The romance was the worst bit - I kinda hated the love interest and his constant negging. But thankfully that element was such a small part of the book that it didn't ruin the enjoyment for me.

I will definitely check out Sophia Bennett's other works!

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## **Mery says**

Bagaimana jika selama lima belas tahun dirimu yang kamu tahu adalah kamu jangkung (hampir 185sentimeter), kurus, dan punya wajah bundar. Teman-teman memanggilmu Raksasa. Bahkan guru favoritmu menganggapmu cowok karena posturmu itu. Itulah yang Ted Troud rasakan. Di samping fisiknya yang berlebihan, dia punya kakak yang cantik dengan tubuh aduhai, bukan tubuh aduh duh seperti dirinya.

Makanya pas Simon yang mengaku pencari model mendatanginya alih-alih, Ava, kakaknya, Ted kalang kabut. Dia menduga kalau Simon sedang mabuk, atau penipu yang sedang mencari mangsa.

Ted dan Ava hidup pas-pasan. Orangtua mereka menyetop uang saku mereka karena Dad di-PHK, dan Mum-lah yang menafkahi mereka. Mereka sedang dalam tahap beradaptasi dengan keadaan baru mereka sampai Ava didiagnosa kanker. Dia harus mengikuti pengobatan dan kemoterapi. Satu-satunya yang membuat Ava bahagia (selain pacarnya, Jesse) adalah mendapati bahwa Simon itu sungguhan, bukan penipu.

Dengan bekal keyakinan dan dukungan dari kakaknya, Ted akhirnya mencoba memasuki dunia modeling. Bertemu dengan fotografer, agen majalah, dan juga si tampan Nick, putra si pemilik agensi :D Namun apa yang mesti dilakukan Ted ternyata tak semudah yang dia pikirkan, terutama karena dia merasa tak punya 'bekal' untuk menjadi model. Setiap go-see dan casting yang dia datangi tak membawa hasil. Satu-satunya pekerjaan sungguhannya adalah ketika menjadi model salah satu majalah remaja.

Dan ketika hari-harinya menjadi model perlahan-lahan menguap, Ted bertemu dengan perempuan tersohor di bidang modeling yang mengatakan kepadanya bahwa dia unik. Namanya Tina. Dan dari Tina-lah Ted meroket. Hanya saja semua terasa tidak benar. Ketika Ted terbang ke New York untuk menjalani nasibnya, Ava terbaring di rumah dan sedang sakit. Walau Ava-lah alasan Ted berada di dunia modeling, Ted merasa tanpa Ava di sisinya, semua tidaklah sama.

Namun untuk membahagiakan Ava, tentu Ted harus menjadi model. Menghasilkan uang banyak. Berpose untuk desainer-desainer terkenal. Dan membelikan banyak barang bagus untuk Ava. Tapi cukupkah semua yang Ted lakukan buat Ava? Alih-alih berada di sisinya?

hiks... sukaaa... :')

Pertama baca ini yang tebersit di ingatanku adalah acara scouted. reality show di E! yang isinya tentang model scout mencari model di mana-mana. Dan yang paling kuingat adalah tentang Amber dan Nicole. Amber gadis enam belas tahun yang ditemukan di mal ketika sedang berbelanja dengan ibunya. Sedangkan Nicole cewek dua puluh dua tahun yang percaya diri dan mengerti dunia model.

Di episode itu, Amber sama sekali ga ngerti dunia model, dan mau belajar tentang dunia model. Tapi dia cantik banget. Dan kecantikannya tuh justru dari ekspresi ga tahu apa-apanya itu. Kayak Ted di sini, justru karena dia masih ga ngerti apa-apa, makanya dia unik ^^

Tapi yang kutangkap dari Amber dan Nicole adalah, rezeki ya di tangan Tuhan hehehe.

Sedangkan dari buku ini, yang kutangkap adalah seberapa keras kau mencoba sesuatu, jika memang kau tak mencintainya, kau pun akan terperosok. Jadi kalau ada yang bosan dengan yang namanya zona nyaman, yah itu masalah kalian dengan kenyamanan. Bukan dengan zona itu sendiri.

Ada salah satu temanku yang bijaaaak banget berkata kira-kira begini: \*kalo salah jangan dijitak ya, teman\* :P

Semua orang bisa melakukan hal baru, siapa pun, dan menang karena berhasil melakukannya. Tapi yang terpenting adalah apakah mereka bisa melakukan rutinitas yang sama setiap harinya dan merasa menang akan hal itu?

Yah begitulah...

3.5 bintang buat buku ini.

Yang aku ga suka cuma kebanyakan typo dan ketidakseragaman pemakaian kata.

Seperti kata kamu dan kau. Aku perhatiin kalau kata 'kamu' digunakan untuk sepantaran. Tapi kadang si 'kau' ini nyempil-nyempil juga ya ^^

Lalu typo-nya lumayan labil juga, karena di suatu bab menggunakan 'antrian' dan 'mengantri', tapi di bab lain menggunakan 'antrean' dan 'mengantre'.

Ada juga kata 'sekedar' yang kayaknya luput dari mata proofreader. Serta 'menghempaskan' yang seharusnya 'mengempaskan', 'Canada' yang seharusnya 'Kanada', serta beberapa penggunaan tanda titik.

Apa lagi ya? lupa hehe. ga dicatat sih, cuma diinget-inget.

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### **Fien says**

Het boek gaat over 2 zusen die op een doodnormale dag in hun leven geconfronteerd worden met moeilijke keuzes die ze moeten maken. Terwijl de 2 zusen straatmuziek aan het maken werd Ted (de lelijker zus) gescout door Carnaby street. Ava ontvangt op een dag erg slecht nieuws. Ze krijgt namelijk te horen dat ze Lymfoon heeft waardoor Ted haar modellencarriere geen kans wilt geven, maar dit moet ze toch doen van haar zus. Ted voelt haar namelijk erg schuldig dat Ava ziek is en zij niet, en ze heeft namelijk ook geen toestemming gekregen van haar ouders om dit alles te doen. Ze besluit dan toch alles te doen maar dan zonder toestemming van haar ouders. Vanaf haar eerste test begon haar mogelijke modellencarriere die ze al dan niet zal kunnen volbrengen. Het is een erg mooi boek en het leert je meer over de modellenwereld en hoe te leven met een zus met kanker. Je moet er wel erg goed bij nadenken want ze springen van het ene naar het andere gedurende het hele boek. Het is wel een hele grote aanrader omdat je er wel veel levenslessen kunt uithalen en het ook gewoon super mooi geschreven is en vermeld wordt.

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### **Luna says**

The synopsis and cover are misleading. I was expecting this sugar-sweet story with a little drama and a happy yet predictable ending. That's not at all what I got. Instead we have a very well thought out story focusing on Ted and her family with the modelling being about half of the overall package.

At times I found Ted's continued insistence that she was ugly grating, particularly after the modelling took off but I did warm to her in the end. Ava is wonderful, I really worried about her as the cancer took hold. I also thought that her friend Louise was brilliant. The relationship between the two sisters is touching and my favourite scene is when they went to the hairdresser.

The modelling part of the story was educational. I started out rather like Ted, with having very little idea of what was involved or knowing designer names, to understanding that there is a lot more work to all of this.

My only complaint is that I found Nick surplus to requirements. The story doesn't need a love interest it's good enough without it. Also as a character I didn't like him much either, so that didn't help.

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### **Beverley says**

I LOVED The Look and I would encourage all teenage girls to get it when it comes out. I think it is perfect for Sophia's older teenage fans (like me!) and is a wonderful step-up from the Threads books. Sophia Bennett has once again conjured up a beautifully glamorous masterpiece, full of dreams, hopes and

heartbreak. And yes, it does live up to the bright pink page edges!

To see the full review follow this link:

<http://a-reading-daydreamer.blogspot....>

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### **Bhavya says**

#### **2.75 stars**

Cool, fun, light summer read.

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