

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Better Than the Best Plan

Written by Lauren Morrill

Published by griefconvention

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Better Than the Best Plan

By Lauren Morrill

Better Than Therapy

Lauren Morrill's *Better Than the Best Plan* is a fresh, funny, romantic YA novel about a teenage girl who finds an unexpected silver lining in her life when plans get turned upside down.

Better Than the Best Plan

Better Than Therapy Tour

Plans are made to be broken.

Better Than The Rest

It's the last day of junior year, and seventeen-year-old Ritzy--short for Maritza--is pretty sure she has a great plan. Summer job--check. Hang with friends at the beach--check. Keep looking after herself as she's been doing since her mom bailed to follow her bliss--check. Or no check?

Better Than The Best

After someone reports that Ritzy is living alone, a social worker shows up and puts her into foster care. That's surprise enough. Even more surprising? Ritzy has been in foster care before, as an infant, and the woman who cared for her then takes her in again. But maybe the greatest surprise of all for Ritzy is that living with her foster mother, Kristin, in Kristin's gorgeous house, isn't all that bad. And neither is the cute, friendly boy next door. If Ritzy's mom hadn't gotten her back all those years ago, this is the life she could have had. But is it the life she should have had?

Better Than the Best Plan

Better Than Them

When Ritzy's old life catches up with her new one, she has some decisions to make. Can she plan for the worst, but still hope for the best?

this is a book that i read.

the above comprises just about all of the feelings i have on this at the moment, so...review to come when i have more of them?

2 stars

this book looks like summer incarnate so i am of course obligated to read it immediately

(thanks to FSG for the ARC)

Better Than The Latter

DNF.

At 150 pages in, I realized I just didn't feel anything for the story or characters. I really wanted to see this angle on foster care discussed, but the emotion wasn't there on the page.

Sorry, book. I'm moving on.

Ritzy is abandoned by her mom at the age of 17 and she is placed in a well-off foster home until she is legally allowed to be on her own. Her foster parents have rules and expectations that she never had to deal with when living with her mom.

And then she meets a boy who plays tennis and fights with his dad.

Super sweet read all about family, friends, and what's it like to live on "both sides of the tracks".

Better Than The Beatles

As a social worker who is used to books that portray social workers as total incompetent idiots who are too burnt out to care anymore, with whom kids never actually feel comfortable, and with no fashion sense to boot, I just want to take a minute to say thank you to the author for including a competent, well-dressed, put-together social worker who forms an actual bond with the main character in this book.

Also, this book was a fast read, and it was very sweet, cute, and endearing. There are a couple relationship things I would have liked to see get hashed out a bit more because maybe they felt a little bit too easy (i.e., Lainey) but for the most part I really enjoyed this book.

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...more

Ritzy is used to her mother's flaky demeanor and plans; so when she takes off to Mexico one morning Ritzy isn't all that surprised. When her mother is still MIA two weeks later, Ritzy begins to worry and then she really, really starts to worry when a social worker comes to place her in foster care. But foster care is something Ritzy wasn't at all expecting, especially when her foster mother is someone who has already cared for her. As she settles into this new life, Ritzy begins to relax and pretty soon she meets Spencer, the boy next door that has problems of his own.

When Ritzy's mother re-enters the picture after months of no contact Ritzy doesn't know what to do; she has fallen for Kristen and Pete but she still loves her mother. This book was a slow burn for me, but when I fell I fell hard. I loved how Morrill wrote about family; how family is sometimes blood, sometimes friends but family always, always puts what is best for you first.

Thanks to MacMillan for the ARC! ...more

Better Than The Original

Thank you to NetGalley and Macmillan for the E-arc copy of this novel.

I found myself loving this book the more pages I read. It is at the heart about family and the choices they and we make for ourselves as we grown up. Ritzy learns first hand that what we choose and how we deal with those choices will influence us going forward into our future. We love our family, Ritzy's birth mom, but that doesn't mean they make the best life for us. I love this book for teens who have the maturity to underst

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Adding this one to my extremely exclusive "Almost Like a Sarah Dessen Book" list...

Better Than The Last

I liked the originality of this plot: girl discovers she was once a foster child when she's 17 and abandoned by her mother just before her senior year of high school and is sent to the former foster mom again. Sarah Dessen fans should take note of Lauren Morrill books, this especially.

I thought this was an important and interesting topic well-rendered, and I enjoyed all the characters, but was somewhat disappointed by the ending. It felt quite quickly wrapped up - I was open to whichever choice Maritza wanted to make, but the way it was done felt a little lacking.

Better Than The Alternative

I received an ARC from a goodreads giveaway.

3.5 stars.

This is a quick read, but I don't think it's anything special. It feels like it should have more depth in the parts that deal with Maritza being put into foster care.

I won this book on Good Reads giveaway! I loved it! Perfect for your summer reading list!