



The One Thing

By Marci Lyn Curtis

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Maggie Sanders might be blind, but she won't invite anyone to her pity party. Ever since losing her sight six months ago, Maggie's rebellious streak has taken on a life of its own, culminating with an elaborate school prank. Maggie called it genius. The judge called it illegal. Now Maggie has a probation officer. But she isn't interested in rehabilitation, not when she's still mourning the loss of her professional-soccer dreams, and furious at her so-called friends, who lost interest in her as soon as she could no longer lead the team to victory. Then Maggie's whole world is turned upside down. Somehow, incredibly, she can see again. But only one person: Ben, a precocious ten-year-old unlike anyone she's ever met. Ben's life isn't easy, but he doesn't see limits, only possibilities. After awhile, Maggie starts to realize that losing her sight doesn't have to mean losing everything she dreamed of. Even if what she's currently dreaming of is Mason Milton, the magnetic lead singer of Maggie's new favorite band, who just happens to be Ben's brother. But when she learns the real reason she can see Ben, Maggie must find the courage to face a once-unimaginable future...before she loses everything she has grown to love.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—After losing her eyesight to meningitis, 16-year-old Maggie is angry and bewildered. A rising soccer star, she refuses to adjust to her new life, which includes Merchant's School for the Blind, where an ill-conceived prank lands her on probation. Maggie's parents seem distant, and her friends from school have forgotten about her. Then one afternoon, Maggie slips on the floor, whacking her head in the process. When she regains consciousness, standing over her is Ben, a wise-cracking 10-year-old whom she can actually see. More strangely, Maggie can only see when Ben is with her. After eliminating the possibility that she is in a coma, Maggie bonds with Ben and his family even though she is ignored by his older brother Mason, the lead singer for a local band called The Loose Cannons, who thinks she is pretending to be blind just to get near him. By the time Maggie figures out why she can see only certain people, will it be too late to avert another tragedy and put together the pieces of her broken life? The story is fast-paced, with Maggie's intermittent vision serving as an intriguing mystery. Maggie is a solid, well-developed character and shows tremendous growth in the story. The dialogue and Maggie's inner thoughts are hilarious and provide insight to the challenges anyone, especially a teen, must experience with a life-changing medical event. VERDICT Teens who enjoy stories about people overcoming adversity, complete with a satisfying conclusion, will enjoy this novel.—Anne Jung-Mathews, Plymouth State University, NH

Review

"Music enthusiasts who enjoy a smoldering romance will love this novel." "Booklist"

"Maggie's voice is sharp and quick-witted, and Ben's persistent exuberance provides an excellent foil...Funny, sweet, and hopeful." "Kirkus Reviews"

"This book shows the struggle of redefining yourself after losing what you think of as the one thing' that makes you who you are. It is not preachy or overly optimistic about the challenges Maggie faces, but it has humor and characters that are well developed (even the adults). Give this to students who like Me, Earl and the Dying Girl or anything with humor and music." "VOYA"

"The story is fast-paced, with Maggie's intermittent vision serving as an intriguing mystery. Maggie is a solid, well-developed character and shows tremendous growth in the story. The dialogue and Maggie's inner thoughts are hilarious and provide insight to the challenges anyone, especially a teen, must experience with a life-changing medical event. Teens who enjoy stories about people overcoming adversity, complete with a satisfying conclusion, will enjoy this novel." "School Library Journal"

About the Author

Marci Curtis grew up in Northern California, where she went to college and met an amazing guy in a military uniform. Two college-aged kids and one dachshund later, she lives in Maryland, where she laughs too loudly and eats peanut butter off spoons.

Say hi to her on her website, Marcilyncurtis.com, or on Twitter, @Marci_Curtis.

Users Review

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