

The Opposite of Me: A Novel

By Sarah Pekkanen

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Twenty-nine-year-old Lindsey Rose has, for as long as she can remember, lived in the shadow of her ravishingly beautiful fraternal twin sister, Alex. Determined to get noticed, Lindsey is finally on the cusp of being named VP creative director of an elite New York advertising agency, after years of eighty-plus-hour weeks, migraines, and profound loneliness. But during the course of one devastating night, Lindsey's carefully constructed life implodes. Humiliated, she flees the glitter of Manhattan and retreats to the time warp of her parents' Maryland home. As her sister plans her lavish wedding to her Prince Charming, Lindsey struggles to maintain her identity as the smart, responsible twin while she furtively tries to piece her career back together. But things get more complicated when a long-held family secret is unleashed that forces both sisters to reconsider who they are and who they are meant to be.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Veteran journalist Pekkanen debuts with a promising yet pedestrian post-chick lit novel about a successful New York ad exec who's passed over for a promotion then unceremoniously canned. Workaholic Lindsey Rose leaves Manhattan for her family's Maryland home, resuming her role as the smart, capable daughter. Years of jealousy surge into overdrive at her beautiful twin sister Alex's engagement party when she watches her lifelong friend Bradley, possibly the guy that got away, begin to fall under her sister's golden spell. After the obligatory ugly duckling makeover, Lindsey, no longer the plain daughter, continues to hide her new look from her family. Away from them, however, a newly confident and gregarious Lindsey emerges, one able to parlay her advertising skills into a new position at a matchmaking service. It takes a terrifying medical diagnosis and a visit to her parents' musty attic to complete Lindsey's transformation. Though the story is Lindsey's, Alex also plays a large part, though her selfishness is so relentlessly portrayed, it's difficult to determine just who she is. The pace is slow, and the story just adequate.

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Review

"Pekkanen's wry voice and engaging characters—the bumbling parents are especially lovable—keep things fresh" —*People* (3.5 out of 4 stars)

"With her smart, soulful novel, author Pekkanen explores the place where self and sisterhood intersect." - *Redbook*

"It's warm, it's whimsical, and it's a winner." --*The Courier Mail* (Australia)

"Fresh, appealing...the story is at turns funny and poignant." — *Booklist*

"Pekkanen's involving debut is an honest examination of the limits we place on ourselves, with well-drawn female characters." —*Kirkus*

"If a book makes you think and be introspective, well that's magic, and *The Opposite of Me* has done just that. Pekkanen has hit the nail on the head with her unique premise and original observation on what makes us who we are...an absolute must read" —*New York Journal of Books*

"Fresh and funny and satisfying. A terrific book about sisters that actually made me laugh out loud. I was completely drawn into Lindsey's world and rooted for her from beginning to end." — Jennifer Weiner, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Best Friends Forever* and *In Her Shoes*

"Pekkanen's debut is heartfelt and richly drawn. With a delicate touch, she had me believing and sharing every laugh and every tear - it was a completely satisfying read. I look forward to more from this talented writer." — Beth Harbison, author of *Hope in a Jar*

"Sharp-tongued. . . a spot-on portrayal of the existential dilemmas of young adulthood." — *Washington Post*

"Sweet, smart, and funny" — *Cosmopolitan.com*

"This story hits the ground running and keeps going...an engaging read that delivers" —*The Free Lance-Star*

About the Author

Sarah Pekkanen is the internationally bestselling author of *The Opposite of Me*, *Skipping a Beat*, *These Girls*, *The Best of Us*, *Catching Air*, and *Things You Won't Say*. Her work has been published in *People*, *The Washington Post*, and *USA TODAY*, among other publications. She lives with her family in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Inez Morales:

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Martina Lassiter:

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