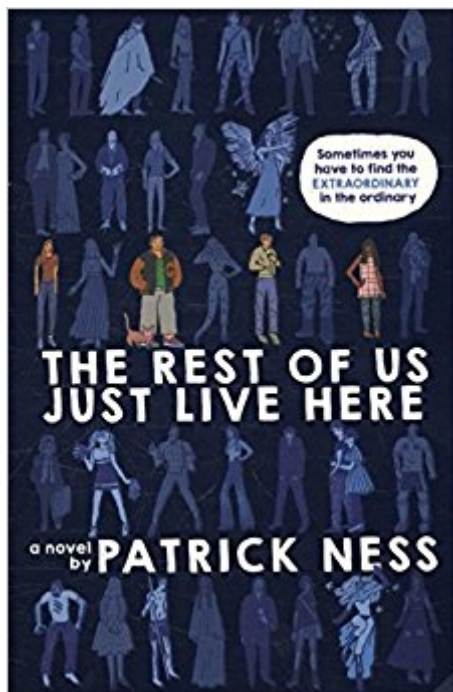


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# The Rest Of Us Just Live Here



## Synopsis

ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults \* [ALA Cooperative Children's Book Center CCBC Choice](#) \* Michael Printz Award shortlist \* Six starred reviews \* Kirkus Best Book of the Year \* VOYA Perfect Ten \* NYPL Top Ten \* [ALA Best Books of the Year for Teens](#) \* Chicago Public Library Best Teen Books of the Year \* Publishers Marketplace Buzz Books \* ABC Best Books for Children \* Bank Street Best Books List

A new YA novel from novelist Patrick Ness, author of the Carnegie Medal- and Kate Greenaway Medal-winning *A Monster Calls* and the critically acclaimed *Chaos Walking* trilogy, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* is a bold and irreverent novel that powerfully reminds us that there are many different types of remarkable. What if you aren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever the heck this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you're like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world, and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life. Even if your best friend is worshipped by mountain lions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up [Book Reviews](#) • In this highly satiric exploration of the "chosen one" genre, an incredibly normal group of friends are approaching the end of high school and their parting of ways. Mikey is just trying to get through the year and hopefully ask his longtime crush to the prom. Similarly, each

person in Mikey's close-knit circle of friends is battling a myriad of highly relatable issues: jealousy, various insecurities, and dysfunctional family relationships. The beginning of each chapter also contains an update in the concurrent story line centering on the "indie kids." These are Mikey and his pals' extraordinary peers, those from exceptional families who are exclusively chosen whenever there is a supernatural occurrence. They've fought off zombies and fallen in love with vampires, and now they're being targeted by the Immortals, a mysterious group looking for a permanent Vessel. In the end, Mikey and his friends come to grips with the ways in which they are both ordinary and extraordinary. This is a highly ambitious novel with an original concept, and the five main characters are all dealing with issues that will resonate with teens. Though the two plotlines don't always come together and readers used to more linear narratives might feel bombarded by information, the stream-of-consciousness narrative will please fans of Libba Bray's *Going Bovine* (Delacorte, 2009).

**VERDICT** Fans of madcap humor and satire and those seeking more thought-provoking alternatives to the usual fare will appreciate this unique and clever take on a familiar trope. —Sunnie Lovelace, Wallingford Public Library, CT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

—“Fresh, funny, and full of heart: not to be missed.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) —“Ness, a deadpan sci-fi novel pokes fun at far-fetched futuristic fantasies while emphasizing the important victories of merely living. This memorable, moving, and often hilarious read is sure to be a hit.” (Booklist (starred review)) —“Fans of madcap humor and satire and those seeking more thought-provoking alternatives to the usual fare will appreciate this unique and clever take on a familiar trope.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) —“Clever and laugh-out-loud funny, the supernatural side notes add tension and humor to the story. This is highly recommended for libraries serving young adults.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (starred review)) —“The result is a cleverly metafictional, occasionally humorous, occasionally poignant love letter to the kids most likely to get sorted into Hufflepuff or who might occasionally date one of the Scooby gang, but whose real heroism lies in living their daily lives bravely and compassionately.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review)) —“This clever sendup of traditional fantasy fare doesn't have nearly the body count as Ness's award-winning *Chaos Walking* trilogy, but it does have all of the heart, and then some.” (Shelf Awareness) —“In this often-hilarious (and just as often poignant) parody of fantasy stories from *Harry Potter* to *Buffy*, not everyone is a Chosen One, but “everyone's got something; everybody matters.” (Horn Book Magazine) *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* is the antidote to all things formulaic:

it's meta, playful, wise and true--and clever-as-hell. (emily m. danforth, author of The Miseducation of Cameron Post) Magical, mysterious and breathtakingly suspenseful, The Rest of Us Just Live Here is an absolute marvel of imagination, invention, and heart. I truly couldn't put it down -- proof, once again, that Ness never disappoints. (Michael Cart, author of My Father's Scar) "Hilarious! And so, so clever. All the characters are beautifully drawn. This is one smart, warm book, both entertaining and thought-provoking." (Monica Edinger)

So much of YA is the dramatic story about murder and tragedy among the popular kids. Vampires and werewolves and magic trolls in dungeons. This isn't that story. This is something else, running parallel. This is the story of Emily the Background Slytherin and her friends (OMG KEVIN RUN). Those kids in the background who might actually do the assignments for graduation, whose lives go on no matter what might roam the halls or blow up the school. But most importantly, this story is about a boy with OCD, a girl with an eating disorder, and has both racial and LGBTQIA+ representation. Friends of mine who also have similar anxiety to mine insisted that I read this book ASAP because of the discussions that take place and I'm so glad they did. From start to finish, the OCD rep is just so incredible. Mikey (I sort of cringe at this name because of those old cereal commercials) has severe anxiety/OCD where he gets into obsessive loops where if he doesn't do a task exactly "right" something horrible will happen. Life becomes catastrophic inside those loops, getting worse and worse, and he becomes stuck. Even though this is sort of a parody of YA fantasy, Ness does a wonderful job of blending his "Indie Kid" parallel with Mikey's. The build up to the climax is so subtle that you hardly know it is coming. I skimmed the chapter headings, but I thought they detracted from the actual story line, so I mostly just followed it through the main book. I loved that Ness gives Mikey such a strong support system in his chosen family instead of using the "hero comes to save him from his anxiety" trope. There's a lot of talk about how one of his fears is that he is the least needed person, or no one would miss him if he were gone. I feel that SO HARD. And even though Mikey acknowledges at one point that he KNOWS he is lucky to have so many people who love him, to someone with anxiety, it's so hard to convince ourselves that this is reality most of the time. I could go on and on about everything that was amazing about the anxiety/OCD rep in this story. I want to quote the entire psychiatrist

appointment to you. But, then you wouldn't have to read the book, and I really think you probably should go read it. It's going on my MUST READS list for sure, guys. So, yeah. Do it.

I really enjoyed this book. I like that there was two point of view in the story. First you have the side story that should have been the main story according to industry standards. Then you have the main story that should have been the side story. It was nice to see diversity in characters. It was nice to see ordinary people struggling with every day problems like depression, OCD, alcoholism, and anorexia. Just to name a few. Mr. Ness really painted a picture in my mind of how OCD effects someone emotionally and physically. I never really thought about it before this book. I can understand why people would give this book a lower rating. It isn't super action packed but it is thoughtful and also thought provoking. It was a little more mature then I thought it would be. Actually it is absolutely nothing like I thought it would be. I love Patrick Ness' stories and he has quickly become one of my favorite writers. He portrays characters well and really seems to do his research. I enjoyed reading about what happens to the normal people when indie kids are getting schools blown up and saving the world. I can relate in some way because I have thought about what happens to the rest of the world while the hero/heroine in a story has no regard for anyone and everyone at the same time. This book was deep and I would recommend it to anyone and everyone. Thank you for keeping it real in the end too and not making it into something that it could have been. I am so happy for the realness thrown in, which if you have read this book will sound hilarious considering Jared.

Thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I picked it during one of the Kindle book sales and was going to just put it in my giant TBR pile of books, but then I made the mistake of reading the first chapter to see if it was any good. Spent the next two nights reading the book. This was a great idea for a story - basically told from the viewpoint of what could be considered the NPC's (non-player character) if this was a video-game. People who fill in the background while the main characters do what they do. Turns out those background characters are pretty interesting people when you get to know them. I think that one of the reasons I like the characters is that I has some somewhat similar issues that they do back when I was in high school and often (back then) felt like I too was but one of a vast number of people in the background compared to the kids that were popular. And like the kids in this book, I thought that was OK as I too had what I felt as my own place in the scheme of things and friends to share it with. I'm hoping that this is the start of a series - I would like to see at least

another book set in this world. I'll be recommending this one to people.

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