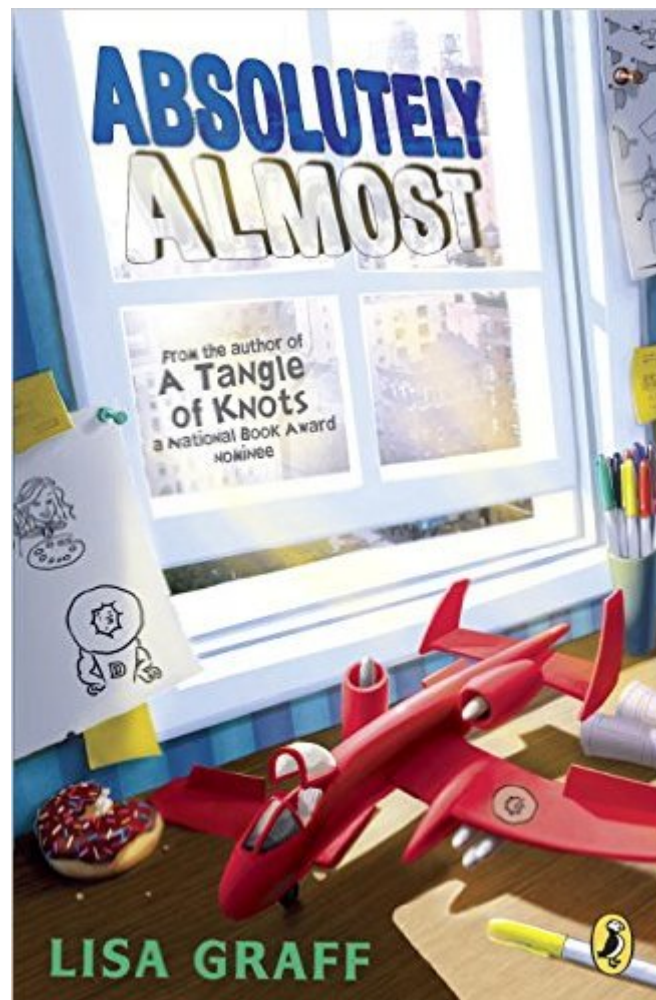


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# Absolutely Almost



## Synopsis

From the author of the National Book Award nominee *A TANGLE OF KNOTS* comes an inspiring novel about figuring out who you are and doing what you love. Albie has never been the smartest kid in his class. He has never been the tallest. Or the best at gym. Or the greatest artist. Or the most musical. In fact, Albie has a long list of the things he's not very good at. But then Albie gets a new babysitter, Calista, who helps him figure out all of the things he is good at and how he can take pride in himself. A perfect companion to Lisa Graff's National Book Award-nominated *A Tangle of Knots*, this novel explores a similar theme in a realistic contemporary world where kids will easily be able to relate their own struggles to Albie's. Great for fans of Rebecca Stead's *Liar and Spy*, RJ Palacio's *Wonder* and Cynthia Lord's *Rules*. Praise for Lisa Graff's novels *Tangle of Knots* (nominated for a National Book Award)\* "Combining the literary sensibility of E. B. White with the insouciance of Louis Sachar, Graff has written a tangle that should satisfy readers for years to come."--Booklist, starred review *Double Dog Dare* "Graff's...story is lighthearted and humorous, but honestly addresses the emotions associated with divorce. Her characters' voices, interactions, and hangups are relatable, as they battle each other and adjust to their families' reconfigurations."--Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

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ISBN-13: 978-0147508577

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,413 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Babysitting #23 in Books > Children's Books >

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in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In the stage musical of *Matilda*, lyricist Tim Minchin begins the show with the following lines about the state of children today: "Specialness is de rigueur. / Above average is average. Go fig-ueur! / Is it some modern miracle of calculus / That such frequent miracles don't render each one un-miraculous?" This song ran on a bit of a loop through my cranium as I read Lisa Graff latest middle grade novel *Absolutely Almost*. For parents, how well your child does reflects right back on you. Your child is a genius? Congratulations! You must be a genius for raising a genius. Your child is above average? Kudos to you. Wait, your child is average? Uh-oh. For some parents nothing in the world could be more embarrassing. We all want our kids to do well in school, but where do you distinguish between their happiness and how hard you're allowed to push them to do their best? Do you take kindness into account when you're adding up all their other sterling qualities? Maybe the wonder of *Absolutely Almost* is that it's willing to give us an almost unheard of hero. Albie is not extraordinary in any possible way and he would like you to be okay with that. The question then is whether or not child readers will let him. Things aren't easy for Albie. He's not what you'd call much of a natural at anything. Reading and writing is tough. Math's a headache. He's not the world's greatest artist and he's not going to win any awards for his wit. That said, Albie's a great kid. If you want someone kind and compassionate, he's your man. When he finds himself with a new babysitter, a girl named Calista who loves art, he's initially skeptical. She soon wins him over, though, and good thing too since there are a lot of confusing things going on in his life.

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