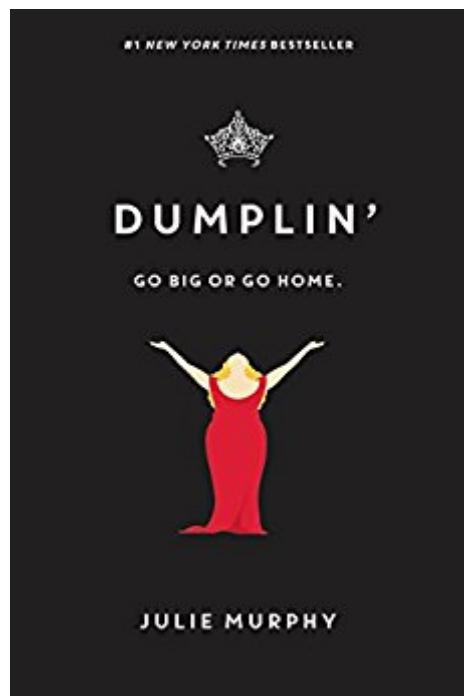


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Dumplin'



Synopsis

For fans of John Green and Rainbow Rowell comes this powerful novel with the most fearless heroine—self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson—from Julie Murphy, the acclaimed author of *Side Effects May Vary*. With starry Texas nights, red candy suckers, Dolly Parton songs, and a wildly unforgettable heroine—Dumplin,—is guaranteed to steal your heart. Dubbed “Dumplin,” by her former beauty queen mom, Willowdean has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American-beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked . . . until Will takes a job at Harpy, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn’t surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back. Instead of finding new heights of self-assurance in her relationship with Bo, Will starts to doubt herself. So she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant—along with several other unlikely candidates—to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any twiggy girl does. Along the way, she’ll shock the hell out of Clover City—and maybe herself most of all.

Book Information

File Size: 1160 KB

Print Length: 389 pages

Publisher: Balzer + Bray; Reprint edition (September 15, 2015)

Publication Date: September 15, 2015

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B00RLTBO9O

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #42,415 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #38

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Introducing Dumplin'; by Julie Murphy

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[View larger](#) Julie Murphy on Swimsuits Spoiler alert: every body is a beach body! Are you wasting away in the heat this summer? Are you tired of covering and taking shelter in dark, air-conditioned coffee shops? Well, slather on that SPF and pack that beach bag full of books, because weÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã „¢re sharing our tips for attaining The Perfect Beach Body! Who can go to the beach? 1.Zookeepers 2.Lunch Ladies 3.Doctors 4.Cab Drivers 5.Individuals Fluent in Latin 6.Anybody with a Body 7.Literally Anybody Find the perfect swimsuit for your body shape! 1.Find a store that suits your style and carries swimwear in your size. 2.Choose patterns, fabrics, and styles that make you happy. 3.Try on your selected swimsuits. 4.Choose the swimsuit that makes you feel good about your body. 5.Congratulations you have found the perfect swimsuit for your body shape! How to achieve the perfect beach body! 1.Put on your swimsuit. The more fabulous it makes you feel, the better! 2.Add your favorite pair of shades to the mix. You canÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã „¢t go wrong with red heart-shaped sunglasses! 3.Apply sunscreen. 4.Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and do ten *book shimmy* reps. 5.Pat yourself on the back! Your body is the perfect beach body! No matter your shape or size, remember that you deserve to enjoy your summer as much as anyone else. DonÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã „¢t waste time holding yourself back from a beautiful day at the beach or the pool. And remember: every body is a beach body!

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I really liked this book. I can see a lot of myself in Willowdean. She has all the same insecurities I have/had. I love that the males in this book don't just look at her body and dismiss her. I also like that they don't go the whole 'I like you for your mind' business. They both tell her she is pretty, cute, hot. It's refreshing. Like I said I see myself in Willowdean. Back in highschool and really still today, who am I kidding, I was the chubby girl. No matter how much I dieted or exercised I wouldn't drop

under a certain weight and I still won't. That's just how my body is built and I've come to terms with it. The same as Willowdean. She accepts herself for who she is and doesn't put herself down, a whole lot, for it. She only becomes insecure when she is with someone else who she doesn't see herself worthy of, even though he doesn't care what others will think. He only wants Willowdean. I think this is important for younger readers. I wish I had a book like this when I was younger so I could focus more on myself and not so much on what others thought. This book also helped me to appreciate my own mother more. She never once has mentioned my weight or asked me to go on diets. She has never put me down, only encouraged me to be the best I can be. I can also see what the flip side is with Willowdean and her own mother. I do not want to do what she does to my own children. I found myself a Bo, track and cross country legend. Complete with 12 pack and floppy hair. I am no where near in his league according to social standards but I ended up marrying him. So dreams can come true.

[...]Favorite Character Aunt Lucy  Even though she  is no longer alive, she still serves as a great example and supporter for Willowdean. Favorite Line Three stood out to me because there are some great one line zingers: "Plus, having sex doesn't make you a woman. That is so freaking cliché. If you want to have sex, have sex, but don't make it this huge thing that carries all this weight." Marcus mumbles something about PMS and to my surprise, from the kitchen, Bo says,  "Why can't she just be having a s***ty day? You don't need to make up some bulls*** reason why." (THANK YOU.) "There is something about swimsuits that make you think you have to earn the right to wear them. And that is wrong. Really, the criteria is simple. Do you have a body? Put a swimsuit on it." Fun Author Fact Inspiration for her first book came from a discussion/argument with teens in a library about where they would barricade themselves in said library if the zombie apocalypse came. Is this worth a book hangover? Yes  while we both had mixed feelings about, I think the character driven story makes it a fun, quick read. The positive representation of a fat and happy character  as well as her new friends  will be really meaningful for some readers.

This review is hard to write. I say that about almost all of the fat girl representation books because I get to see myself a little bit in all of them but this one... I cried for a majority of the book. If you've

read Dumplin' you know this isn't a crying book, it's a mostly very happy book. I was very happy. I'll admit there might be some spoilers because this book means so much to me to half way do a review of it. The book starts out with Willowdean, in the summer working her job at a fast food restaurant just getting out of 10th grade heading into 11th and spending as much time having fun as she can. The thing about her you learn early on is she's fat, and she's wonderfully honest about it, with herself anyways. She's going through grief over the death of a very beloved aunt that had died of a massive heart attack who was also fat and life isn't perfect. That's probably one of my favorite things about this book. Fat representation always wants fat girls to be happy with themselves and love themselves all the time and it's unrealistic. You can love yourself and still hate that you're fat, the dwelling on it and letting it ruin your day to day life is where the problem comes in. She acknowledges she's fat and sometimes she loves herself and others she hates it and that's absolutely normal. Also I'll mention she has one specific part that she really just dislikes about herself. It's her thighs and that's also the reality of being a girl, not just fat but female! Every girl I know has one part of their body they just don't like, and books like this discussing it and showing someone getting over it is vital. I love it so much. What resonated with me though is the relationship Willowdean had with her mother. Growing up I was the daughter of a former fat woman who hated herself until she lost the weight, and sometimes I still see that in her. We dieted my entire life together and I know that warped how I eat now because I refuse to be tied down to a specific menu and calorie diet because it causes so much stress on my life. So reading the backhanded compliments, the dating in skinny girls, it all felt so very real as something I lived with. Her mother ran a beauty pageant, and she rebelled and joined and had to fight her every step of the way but in the end she supported her. I loved that because my own mom though disagreeing with some of my choices always came through in the end. I loved every minute of their relationship on page because as angry and unhappy they can be with each other there is still love, unhealthy sometimes but still love. Also the friendships!!! Willowdean has a best friend named Ellen and that whole growing up and apart storyline just...adorable and honest to true life relationships. Sometimes you grow up and away from those you love but in the end you still have to be there for each other. Hannah was an angry delight, I loved her, Dominican Lesbian who never deserved the cruelty she got and often gave back. Her anger made me sad but also really happy to know you don't lay down and give up. Amanda had one leg shorter than the other and her talent for the pageant is fantastic. Her whole story is be who you are and never give up on your dreams. Millie who's parents did the exact opposite of Willowdean's mom tried to hide her still love her. Every one of these characters brought me joy and happiness and sometimes tears and sadness because it did so well of depicting real life. Honestly I cannot wait

for this movie, it's why I picked it to begin with and I fell in love with a book of my heart. All of this and I didn't hardly mention the love interest and the bad decisions teenagers make when it comes to boys. Though it was cute and I didn't necessarily agree with her pick I love the adorable lovey dovey story of first relationships.

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