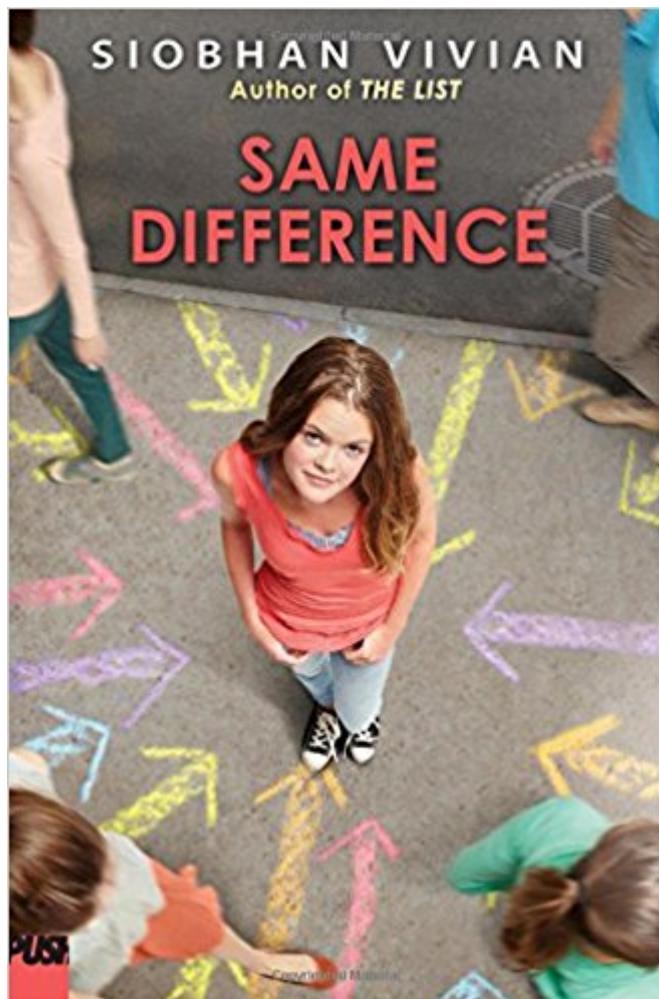


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## Same Difference



## **Synopsis**

Sometimes a girl just needs a change . . . The last thing Emily wants is another summer of tanning and pool hopping in Cherry Grove. Now that her best friend has a boyfriend, everything feels different in a way she doesn't quite understand. So when offered a spot at a prestigious art program in Philadelphia, Emily jumps at the chance to leave her hometown for a few hours a day. But it takes more than a change of scenery and a new group of friends to discover yourself. As Emily bounces between a suburb where everyone tries to fit in and a city where everyone wants to be unique, she struggles to find her own identity. And while the rules may change, the pressures remain the same. Friendships can be hard to navigate. Boys can be both mysterious and predictable. And the line between right and wrong can be a little blurry. . . .

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Emily's life reeks of the ordinary: she lives in suburban New Jersey in a posh gated community and hangs out at Starbucks with her friends in a town where most of the buildings are old, and if they're not, they're eventually made to look that way. When Emily heads to Philadelphia for a summer art institute—complete with an eclectic cast of funky classmates and one dreamy teaching assistant—she faces the classic teen dilemma of whether to choose the familiar over the new and exciting, while figuring out who she really is: Emily from Cherry Grove or Emily the aspiring artist? (I look like two halves of two different people mashed together, she reflects during a trip to

the beach. Is it possible to be a poseur in both worlds?) Vivian (A Little Friendly Advice) serves up the story with vivid description and dialogue; the author's talent for scene-setting and evocative imagery is especially effective for a story about a girl just discovering her eye as an artist and herself as a person. Ages 12-14. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Grade 6-9 •Emily has it all: a perfect house, a BFF who lives across the street, and a neighborhood Starbucks that serves the girls twin frozen mochas before they order. When Emily enrolls in a summer art program in Philadelphia, what could go wrong? The fact that very little does happen is part of the problem here. The teen and her life are just a tad too sunny to be real. She navigates her way through the big city, the artsy crowd, an edgy new friend, creative demands, and a forbidden first love. All this is a refreshing change from her scripted suburban life. She dumps her best friend for the excitement of it all. Some of Emily's choices, the people she trusts, and the circles in which she travels are just plain dumb— even for a naive and sheltered kid. She works as hard to reshape herself as she does to create her art. And all to great success. There are no major crises here, just affluent coming-of-age stuff. The edgy artist, Fiona, whom Emily befriends, is the most interesting character and she fades out of the story. The premise of Emily's potential, her creative talents, and her spirit of growth and risk-taking are all well and good. It's the small conflicts that never seem satisfactorily resolved that makes Emily's near misses and great luck feel contrived and sugarcoated. •Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I got this book on my Kindle and I was reading it so much the battery died!!!! Lol but it was awesome. I didn't expect to like it this much honestly. I'm in the stage where I'm moving from "kids books" to "teen books" (it's a hard stage!!!!!!) and this book was perfect. I haven't read A Little Friendly Advice or The List but I plan to. The author has a cool way of writing. She's descriptive, but not overly descriptive. She's straight-forward. I can really see inside Emily (the main character's) brain. There's nothing too inappropriate in here. It has some romance but really what teen book doesn't?? There's a few bad words, but only about five or six. That's the only part I didn't like, the bad words. The characters used them for no reason at all! Well, I guess that's teenagers for ya. But otherwise it is completely appropriate and I totally love it! I'd recommend it to anyone 12+.

Siobhan Vivian's characters have a depth, which makes *Same Difference* truly engaging. The story line is relatable, yet offbeat enough that it doesn't mirror every high school girl in America's life. Emily is torn between who she thinks she wants to be - a popular high school girl who hangs out with the right crowd and fits in - and the person she truly is - an artist with a unique perspective on life as well as art. She struggles with and resists the opportunity to evolve, both as a person and as an artist. What makes the story interesting is the rich characters that Vivian creates. They are likable, flaws and all. They are so well developed that even once the book is back on the shelf, you find yourself wondering what has happened to them. I highly recommend *Same Difference*.

This is an amazing book that is rich in detail and description, with an interesting plotline that drives the book forward. All of the characters are extremely well-developed and the reader can easily empathize with the main character as she struggles to fit in in her rich suburban neighborhood in New Jersey while at the same time trying to stand out in the colorful Philadelphia art world. The best part of this book is the picture that the author paints of both worlds, that allows the reader to visualize the scenes in vivid detail. I would highly recommend this book to any teenage reader from ages 13-20.

Love this book now and forever

good read for my 13 yr old granddaughter

Recommend this to teens, anyone who likes David Levithan. Good story about finding and understanding yourself and others. Creative and realistic.

It had a good moral of being your self and finding out who you are on the inside who you really are

She loved the first book that she read from this author so I figured I would get more of the books. She can't seem to put it down. Good stuff for her.

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