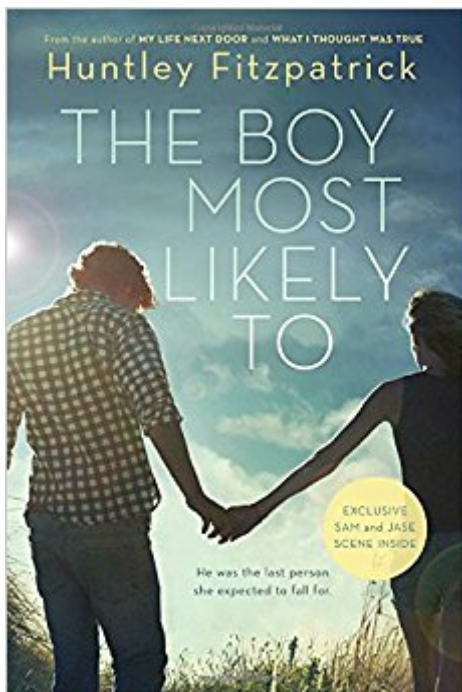


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# The Boy Most Likely To



## Synopsis

The romantic companion to *My Life Next Door*—great for fans of Sarah Dessen and Jenny Han. With bonus Jase and Samantha content in the paperback! Tim Mason was The Boy Most Likely To find the liquor cabinet blindfolded, need a liver transplant, and drive his car into a house Alice Garrett was The Girl Most Likely To . . . well, not date her little brother—his baggage-burdened best friend, for starters. For Tim, it wouldn't be smart to fall for Alice. For Alice, nothing could be scarier than falling for Tim. But Tim has never been known for making the smart choice, and Alice is starting to wonder if the "smart" choice is always the right one. When these two crash into each other, they crash hard. Told in Tim's and Alice's distinctive, disarming, entirely compelling voices, this novel is for readers of *The Spectacular Now*, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, and *Paper Towns*.

## Book Information

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Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—While readers met Alice Garrett and Tim Mason in *My Life Next Door* (Dial, 2012), that novel centered on Jase Garrett and Samantha Reed. This time, the focus shifts to Alice and Tim. Tim continues to attend Alcoholics Anonymous, while Alice still tries not to fall for him because of his checkered lifestyle. As he struggles to keep his life together, he has every reason to fall off the wagon when Hester, a girl from his past, reenters his life with a son she claims is his. Tim is forced to grow up in a hurry and figure out what is the right thing to do. The relationship between Alice and Tim blossoms as Tim's true character is revealed. This novel will speak to any teen who has ever

had to make a hard decision. The author delivers a strong message without being heavy-handed, and the well-thought-out ending is considerate and will broaden teens' perspectives. This book is best suited for mature readers because of the strong language and sexual innuendo. Fans of the previous volume will have a greater appreciation for this companion novel. VERDICT Purchase where *My Life Next Door* is popular. —Karen Alexander, Lake Fenton High School, Linden, MI --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for *The Boy Most Likely To* "Oh, Huntley Fitzpatrick. You always know how to give my feminist heart a little romance. Thankfully we get to go back next door . . . with *The Boy Most Likely To*, a [companion] to the swoon-filled *My Life Next Door*." —Bustle "Heartfelt . . . The well-defined characters, splashes of humor, and emotional entanglements of Fitzpatrick's previous works reappear in full force." —Publishers Weekly "Pitch-perfect . . . Like Dessen or Blume, [Fitzpatrick] doesn't shy away from real high school life." —South Coast Today "Utterly irresistible — a love story you'll fall hard for." —Deb Caletti, author of National Book Award Finalist *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart* "A book everyone should read, regardless of age. A big-hearted, brave story filled with keen emotional insight, struggle, and utterly beautiful writing." —Kristan Higgins, New York Times bestselling author of *If You Only Knew* "A mesmerizing romance between two teens, completely lost in opposite ways, who find themselves in each other. I couldn't put it down." —Jennifer Echols, award-winning author of *Forget You* and *Going Too Far* "A wild, chaotic, crazy-awesome ride with characters who feel as familiar as home. When I hit the end, I wanted to start over and read it all again." —Trish Doller, author of *Something Like Normal* From the Hardcover edition.

Cover: As I had anticipated, the visual distance between the male (Tim) and the female (Alice) and the tentative grasp of their hands fit *THE BOY MOST LIKELY TO* perfectly! The designer nailed it! From page one, Huntley Fitzpatrick throws the reader into Tim's emotional turmoil, which made me feel completely invested in him! Then there's Alice. She is compassionate and fiercely loyal to the ones she loves. Readers will admire her for it. Her attraction to Tim, her struggle to let him into her heart is so authentic, that I found myself aching for her, for them. The blend of raw, realistic situations with the power that love has to heal, is a GIFT for readers! This novel is emotionally raw, is beautifully written, is revealing of characters' deepest flaws and greatest strengths, is vivid in its setting, is a window into the dark side of alcoholism and the struggle for sobriety, shows that binge drinking can lead to dire consequences and can indeed make you an alcoholic, proves family doesn't

have to be blood relationsproves that negative self-talk is destructiveshows how the past can and will catch up to you, but there is always opportunities to redeem oneselfshows how taking responsibility for your actions is hard, yet something to be proud ofshows the power of loyalty and how the bonds of friendship can make you better, stronger, happiershows how words can have the power to be destructive or the power to healshows how someone can overcome awful parenting and become the person he or she wants to beshows a distinction between healthy and unhealthy boyfriend/girlfriend relationshipsshows how critical mentors are and that seeking them out doesn't make you weak, but smarter, strongershows that when you can't or won't ask for forgiveness, there is very little chance of reviving a friendshipIS SO AUTHENTIC. There is so much that I loved about this novel!dual narration!the deep emotions Tim's situation bought outAlice embracing her body type and being proud of it, instead of ashamedevery time Tim thought "Oh Alice." Sigh! Swoon!the struggle Tim faced and overcame minute by minuteTim's loyalty to his sisterthe acceptance Tim found with the Garrett family, who love and accept him as if he's one of their ownthe newspaper delivery scenes with JaceTim's inner longing to have a relationship like Jace has with SamanthaAlice's confrontation with Senator ReedTim standing up with Alice to Senator Reedthe shock that comes from how low Tim's father can sink as a parentthe shocking reason why Tim misses his first date with Alicethe strength it takes for Tim to confront his demonsthe compassion Alice has for Timthe respect Tim has for AliceGrape Nuts!!red-headsthe scene that's reminiscent of the "Three Bears"bikinisrunning on the beach barefootthe gifts Alice gives to TimAlice's tight relationship with her dadpesky and adorable younger siblingskissing behind the bushes - watch out for that flashlight!the ENDING!Once again, I commend Huntley for creating characters that have such depth. Heart. This novel is IMPORTANT! I hope schools will embrace it as part of their DARE program. It's eye-opening and painful and heartbreaking and definitely swoony!

One of the most solid writers in this genre, that I've come across. The story is satisfying with a good character "journey". I enjoy Tim's self-deprecating humor and honesty about his choices and their consequences. His struggles with addiction are somewhat realistic, if far too easily resolved. But this is a light story and so doesn't dig too deeply into its heavier themes. I do find it jarring that no one who knows TIM questions the situation he is in with regard to responsibility for the safety and well-being of another human, and I'll leave it at that, to avoid spoilers...but seriously, why is there no oversight involved? Several adults fail to question the advisability of what Tim is left to cope with, in any serious way that engages the safety of Cal. I loved watching Tim develop that relationship, and I loved that the issue of responsibility and relationship in that situation was addressed from the other

side of the gender line. But I'd hate to think that any teen readers (are these actually read by teens?) might come away with the impression that it's that idyllic or easy. Also, the supposedly 17 and 19 year main characters act like they're at least twenty five, developmentally. Tim might be thirty, and just beginning to pull his head out of his...in the way that a lot of males do around that age. Not 17. Nevertheless, the writing is so good that I was willing to talk myself out of disbelief and just enjoy the ride. Definitely recommend as a diversion, if not a picture of actual life.

I loved EVERYTHING about this book. If you're a regular reader of my blog or Twitter feed then you probably know by now that I'm a HUGE, SUPER, MEGA-FAN of Huntley Fitzpatrick. As in, she is one of my most favorite authors EVAR! So, naturally, when I heard that a companion novel to *My Life Next Door* was in the works, I immediately started making unintelligible high-pitched noises that could only be described as sounds of pure glee! Basically, what I'm trying to say is, it should come as no surprise that I'm absolutely obsessed with *The Boy Most Likely To*! As in, next level, another universe levels of love for this book. I promise to try to keep my fangirling and flailing to a minimum, but I'm certainly not making any promises! When I first met Tim in *My Life Next Door*, I knew I wanted to get to know him. I knew that behind that aloof, snarky and self-destructive addict, was the heart of a young man desperate for affection and a reason to be a better person. My suspicions were confirmed in one of my favorite scenes from *My Life Next Door*, in which he shows just how tender and sweet he can be. I knew from that moment that I NEEDED a Tim book in my life.

I'm so happy to tell you dear readers, that *The Boy Most Likely To* is the Tim book you've been desperate for. Everything about his story is touching, raw and emotional. It's heart-breaking and heart-mending all at once. Fitzpatrick is a master at creating characters that are so real and relatable, and in Tim we find a deeply flawed, but also a deeply loveable character. His journey throughout this book is nothing short of amazing and the perfect little moments mixed with the overwhelming big moments complemented each other and created a perfectly balanced story of self-discovery and self-acceptance. Tim faces a pretty life-changing event at the beginning of this book, and the way in which he processes and alters his way of life for this change made me love him even more. In this book, Tim becomes a man. All of these words of love for this book, and I haven't even mentioned Alice Garrett?! She's another character I

adored from *My Life Next Door*, and her sassiness and strength are further explored in this book. What she brings to Tim's life, and vice-versa, are really what *The Boy Most Likely To* is all about. The power that comes from knowing you have your "person" in life. Someone who accepts you, but pushes you to be a better person. Who understands you, yet challenges your way of thinking. Tim and Alice face some serious odds, but the way in which they grow from being in another's life is ultimately what makes them stronger as individuals. Let's not forget about the Garrett family as a whole. What you loved so much about them in *My Life Next Door* is back and better than ever in Tim's story, and I just couldn't get enough of their family dynamic in all of its perfection. Pasty, George, Harry, Duff..and the entire Garrett crew absolutely make my heart melt, and I was so thrilled to get another heaping dose of their perfect little ball of chaos. Oh and, PS, there's plenty of Jase and Samantha too! Which is always a very good thing! Bahhhh ha-ha-ha-ha!! I love how my past self expected my future self to pinpoint ONE moment in this book that gave me the most feels. I mean, there's no way. I was so consumed with feels for this entire book. The whole damn thing! But, isn't that what Huntley does best? Give us these amazing novels that get to the heart of what really matters? She writes these beautiful words that make up the most beautiful moments, and I just want to thank her endlessly for sharing those moments with the rest of us. PERFECT BOOK IS PERFECT! HUNTLEY FITZPATRICK JUST GAVE ME ONE MORE REASON FOR ME TO LOVE HER WITH *THE BOY MOST LIKELY TO*! TIM'S STORY WILL LEAVE YOU IN A PUDDLE OF EMOTION, AND FLOATING ON CLOUD NINE!

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