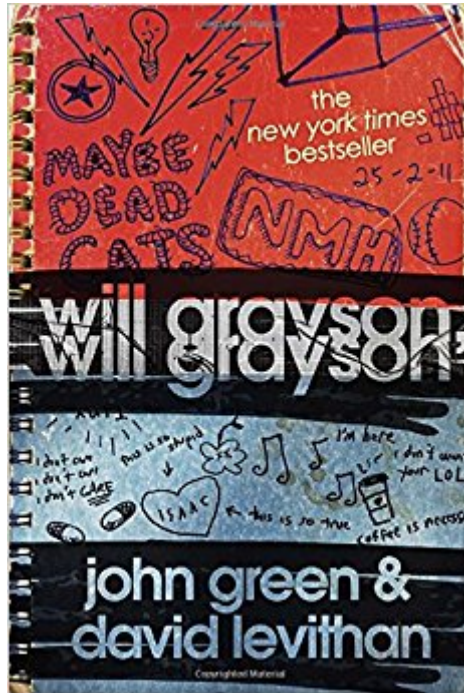




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# Will Grayson, Will Grayson



## Synopsis

One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson. Two teens with the same name, running in two very different circles, suddenly find their lives going in new and unexpected directions, and culminating in epic turns-of-heart and the most fabulous musical ever to grace the high school stage. Told in alternating voices from two YA superstars, this collaborative novel features a double helping of the heart and humor that have won them both legions of fans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, April 2010: What's in a name? A pretty fantastic book idea, for starters. At heart, *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* is about a couple of kids figuring out how to be themselves. Two of those kids happen to have the same name, and not much in common outside of that, but their serendipitous friendship sets the stage for a much larger, braver, and more candid story than the simplicity of the plot might suggest. The relevance for teens here is clear--high school is the only time in your life when you have the undivided opportunity to obsess over your every move, sentence, and outfit change--but the part about understanding who you are doesn't stop when you graduate. That's what makes *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* as interesting a pick for adults as it is for teens: the questions don't get simpler, but looking at them through the eyes of a 16-year-old brings a welcome sense of honesty and humor to this thing called life. No one's ever too old to enjoy that.

--Anne Bartholomew    Exclusive: David Levithan and John Green Talk About Names    *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* is about two teenage boys with the same name, whose lives intersect in

unexpected ways. The book originated with the thought of giving two different boys the same name, and to give that name some meaning. It also comes from David's own experience. So to give you an inside peek at the making of the book, we figured it would be fun to give you insight into our own names, as well as Will Grayson's. David Levithan To my knowledge, there are only two other David Levithans in the world — my dad's cousin, and a lawyer in South Africa who, as far as we can tell, isn't family. The last name Levithan is actually the invention of an immigration official when my great-grandfather came to America from Russia, it should have translated to Levitan. But somehow the h got in there. Now, whenever I meet another Levithan (which is rare), odds are good that he or she is related to me. That said, the story of Will Grayson, Will Grayson came from someone whose name is close to mine, but not identical. David Leventhal went to Brown at the same time I did, and people would confuse us often. This ended up being something of a joke, because David was an extraordinary dancer, while I was not an extraordinary dancer. So people would exclaim, "We had no idea someone as clumsy as you could be so graceful on stage!" and I'd have to say, "Well, un, that wasn't me." Finally, right before graduation, I contacted David and we met up. We became instant friends, and when we both moved to New York after college, we were always in each other's company. The similarity of our names often threw people for a loop and I thought, well, that might make an interesting story. Amusingly, David Leventhal's college roommate's name was . . . Jon Green. John Green I was named after my great-grandfather, John Michael Crosby, an itinerant minor-league baseball manager and occasional catcher. I like my name, but being a John Green can certainly be inconvenient, because there are a lot of us. Among many others, there is John Green the realtor in Mississippi (who owns johngreen.com, much to my chagrin), John Green the Australian botanist, and of course John Green the world-renowned Bigfoot scholar. This last John Green, who is so revered in the field of Bigfoot research that he is often called "one of the four horsemen of Sasquatchery," is kind of my mortal enemy. I once wrote a magazine article in which I passingly noted that Bigfoot is, you know, fictional, and John Green replied with a letter arguing that my anti-Bigfoot stance was besmirching the good name of John Greens everywhere. Such is the curse of being a John Green. Or a Will Grayson, for that matter. Will We decided that I (David) would choose our character's first name, and John would choose his last name. I liked the name Will because of its different, sometimes contradictory, meanings. As a noun, it can be so strong — where there's a will, there's a way, and whatnot. But as a verb, it's split. Sometimes it's just as definite (It will be done!), but that definiteness is

underscored by an uncertainty "œ you say it will be done, but it hadn't been done yet, has it? And put it at the start of a question ("Will you still love me tomorrow?") and it becomes the entrance for all kinds of vulnerability. That seemed right for the characters.

Grayson I liked Grayson because whenever I would hear that name, it always sounded to me like "grace in," which always struck me as a richly ambiguous phrase "œ is "grace in" the beginning of a clause or the end of it? Are we being asked to find grace in something, or to let grace in? Those questions seemed like interesting ones for the guy I wanted to write about. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Grade 9 Up Will Grayson's best friend since fifth grade, nicknamed Tiny Cooper, is bigger than life in terms of his physical stature and his personality the "world's largest person who is really, really gay." Tiny, while seeking the boy of his dreams, has been through the trauma of myriad short-lived romantic relationships and Will has supported him each time his heart is broken. Now, Tiny decides it's Will's turn. At first, Will resents Tiny's matchmaking efforts, but then an amazing coincidence that stems from it brings a new person into their lives. It's another teen named Will Grayson, who is sad and depressed, and captures Tiny's heart. While these and other relationships are connecting, intersecting, and eventually changing, Tiny writes and produces an autobiographical high school musical extravaganza that is really about life. On the night it premieres, everything comes full circle and further validates the presence of the Will Graysons. Based on the premises that "love is tied to truth" and "being friends, that's just something you are," this powerful, thought-provoking, funny, moving, and unique plot is irresistible. Told in alternating chapters from each Will Grayson's point of view (one in lower case, effectively individualizing identities), complete with honest language, interesting characters, and a heartfelt, gritty edge, this quirky yet down-to-earth collaboration by two master YA storytellers will keep readers turning pages. Diane P. Tuccillo, Poudre River Public Library District, Fort Collins, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'd like to say that I've always been a harsh critic of young adult books, even when I was the target reading age. So, my personal review and opinion of this books is as follows: it wasn't bad. There was a serious "cheese factor" when it came to Tiny Cooper. Some of his quirks I could appreciate but a lot of his quirks were over the top and (in my opinion) unrealistic. I didn't feel the issues tackled in this book were especially serious or life altering. And, despite my love of musicals, I didn't

see the "genius" in the book's showcased musical, which was disappointing. I do feel teenagers will appreciate this more than I do, as I tend to prefer books with more mature themes. This just kind of seemed like a little snippet out of two people's diaries. It wasn't especially moving or educational, it was just a nice story.

Love is a word that has more meanings than any language can express. . For the story of Will Grayson, Will Grayson, however, bestselling authors John Green and David Levithan show their definition of that love to be accepting someone for who they are, despite the stereotypes of physical definition and sexual orientation. Although the story's narration is controlled by two teenage boys both names Will Grayson, the story line focuses on the extroverted and gay (in being both gleeful and homosexual) Tiny Cooper, a name ironic for his "more to love" body structure, and Tiny's musical about love, sexual identity, and the rises and falls that occur throughout life. Will Grayson, Tiny Cooper's best friend, is introverted and afraid to express himself but eventually overcomes his fears with the help of Tiny and a few epiphanies. The Other Will Grayson, whose place in the story will be revealed upon reading, has his heart lurched left to right as the reader follows his moody nonchalance towards love develop into the motto "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." The theme of homosexuality is seen from two different stand points: Tiny knows who he is, as does the rest of the world, and switches between who he loves as if he is changing television channels while the other Will Grayson's sexuality is hidden initially while he loves a boy who he had yet to meet deeper than most can expect someone in high-school to feel. One of the best features of this young adult novel is how the reader becomes so connected to the characters, cheering them on when things are going right and feeling their hearts tremble when the characters experience heartache. The way the turmoil and triumph love brings in the novel as well as the strain love puts on friendship is far more mature and real than most novels of this genre, mostly due to the characters feelings being expressed through careful precaution, not sexual innuendos as some other novels may describe. Although the entire book was an amazing read, the way some of the climaxes the novel presents came too early was frustrating, leaving the reader to finish the book out of curiosity and the hope for more surprises. The ending itself was a surprise but some may not feel fulfilled by it because, long past the end of the book, they (including myself) will still be connected to the lives of both Will Graysons, Tiny Cooper, and their friends as we wonder what happens to them after the last page of their story.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan is about 2 Will Grayson's and their

life. I have to say I was not the craziest fan of this book under a third of the way in. The stories of both Will Grayson's separately didn't captivate me as when they actually meet. When they meet the story was amazing. I kept thinking about the book when I was not reading the book. Okay so Will Grayson 1, best friend's with Tiny and is known around school. Will Grayson 2, ex-boyfriend to Maura, and figuring out that he is gay. When their worlds collide it changes both of them for the better. They figure out what they want out of a relationship and learn to do something with said relationship. The reader keeps wondering how this story will go and what will happen to these two Will Grayson's. Funny and heartbreaking at times, David Levithan and John Green wrote an amazing book. Some of my favorite quotes:-That's the thing about Tiny: his problems are so huge that yours can hide behind them.-If anyone ever uses lol with me, I rip my computer right out of the wall and smash it over the nearest head.-You like someone who can't like you back because unrequited love can be survived in a way that once-requited love cannot.-One of these days, I keep telling myself, you'll learn to truly shut up and not care.-But I mean, why do you have to fix the salad? Who broke it? I didn't touch it. Did you break the salad, mom? If you did, YOU'D BETTER FIX IT!-Being gay is not an excuse for being a dick.-It's all about falling you land and get up so you can fall again it's all about falling I won't be afraid to hit the wall again.

This was a really great read, it was incredibly heartfelt and despite some crazy situations it was still very down to earth. One thing this book had going for it was the way it was written in alternating voices. The authors, Green and Levithan, each took turns writing from the point of view of their respective Will Graysons. And they wrote the characters in completely different ways, the way the chapters are written corresponds with and highlights the differences between the two Will's. The characters themselves were amazingly easy to understand. Even though I couldn't actually relate to any of the situations they were in I still felt like the feelings were conveyed really well. The depression one of the Will's suffers was explained very realistically in the book and was handled in a way I haven't seen in many books before. He isn't discovering his depression, he's just at the point where he's living with it and it isn't romanticized. The other Will is going through problems with his love life (with Jane) and his friendship (with Tiny). I connected really well with the problems he was facing with Tiny and I felt it was solved in a wonderfully touching way. Overall I read this book in only a few hours, so it was a pretty quick read for me. I just didn't want to put it down. It was incredibly funny to the point where I actually was laughing out loud and by the end I had cried at least once. I would recommend this to most readers as a great book about love and friendship.

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