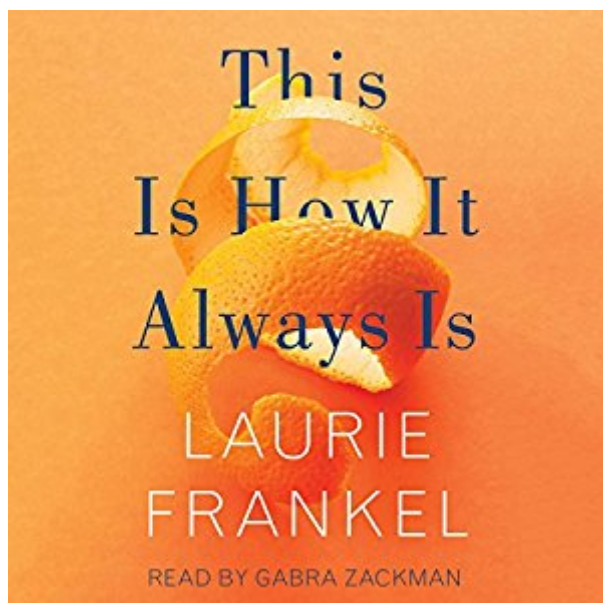The book was found

This Is How It Always Is: A Novel

Synopsis

This is how a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them. This is how a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated. This is how children change...and then change the world. When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. At least their large, loving, chaotic family knows what to expect. But Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off. He wants to bring a purse to kindergarten. He wants hair long enough to sit on. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. Rosie and Penn aren't panicked at first. Kids go through phases, after all, and make-believe is fun. But soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes. Laurie Frankel's This Is How It Always Is is an audiobook about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 24, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01MRWSJYI

Best Sellers Rank: #82 inÃ Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction #211 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Life #474 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

I loved this book from the very beginning. I had no idea what the subject was, but it was handled in a very loving way and explained gender identification clearly. If only we could all have marriages like this and be this kind of parent....felt a bit envious of their relationship and had to remind myself that it was fiction.I've never read anything by Laurie Frankel but just ordered two more of her books and

am looking forward to reading them.

I really enjoyed this book although at the beginning, I wasn't sure I was going to.Rosie and Penn's romance didn't ring true to me, but when I realized fairy-tales were a big part of the story and the lives of this family, it sat a little better to me. But the book didn't really get to me until the couple started having children. Each kid has such a unique personality and the whole family dynamic comes across in a very real and fresh way.And then of course, a glitch in the idyll. Claude, the youngest of Penn and Rosie's five sons, wants to be a princess.To begin with the family don't think a lot about it. Kids play dress-up all the time. Okay, so the older four never wanted gowns, but Claude is only five.Soon it becomes clear Claude doesn't just want to pay at being a princess; he wants to be a girl. And everything changes for the family. The school is not as understanding as it should be. Other kids are fine with it, but their parents aren't.After a violent incident with one of Claude's friends' fathers and Rosie treats the victim of a beating in the ER where she works, the family up-sticks and move across country to a new home where Claude has never existed and the family has four sons and a daughter named Poppy.This book is about keeping secrets. And what happens when eventually, that secret gets out. It's a book about parenting and how to parent a child who is wholly different to your other children. It's about identity and being true to yourself.The author is the mother of a transgender child, but she takes great care to point out this isn't her child's story. But there is a ring of authenticity about the ways Penn and Rosie react in certain circumstances.Definitely one I recommend.

This was a 5 out of 5 stars read for me!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"This is Claude. HeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t we all? ArenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t we all looking for that fairy tale ending?But this is a story of more than just a five-year-old little boy who wants to be a girl. This is a story about a family that has learned to keep a secret, but this secret has the capacity to blow the family apart.Rosie and Penn have a wonderful marriage. They were in love from the start. Four boys later, they decide to try once more for a girl and they get Claude, their smart, quirky, fifth son who longs to be a girl.This causes a conundrum in their lives. Rosie and Penn aren't sure what to do. Do they nurture their youngest son's wish, stares and cruel comments from society, or do they explain to Claude that boys don't wear dresses, and he is really a boy despite how he feels on the inside?For a while, Claude settles for dressing as a boy for school and changing into girl clothes when he returns home, but that really doesn't make

him happy. He wants to be a girl."How did you teach your small human that it's what's inside that counts when the truth was everyone was pretty preoccupied with what you put on over the outside too?"As Claude grows, he becomes Poppy, and Rosie and Penn encourage her to be true to her feelings and who she is. But is that the right parenting choice for a child so young in age, and when society doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t agree? What are the next steps in this journey, not only for Poppy and her parents but her brothers as well, who werenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t given a choice?What choice is the right one? How will Penn and Rosie know if they're acting in their child's best interests or the best interests of all of their children? How do they protect their child from what they know the world always seems to have in store for people who are different?This amazing tale is not preachy about the subject of transgendered people and their journey, and I found it to be so well written that I fell in love with Claude and his journey. There is no pretense that this journey is perfect for anyone, and the biggest message I found was that it is just as easy to make mistakes by doing and saying things to others in their journey as it is by not doing or saying them. EveryoneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s journey is their own, and we all deserve support no matter where or what our journey holds.This is a book that everyone should read. It is moving in merely its presence. It carries a message that we all should learn.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å"For my child, for all our children, I want more options, more paths through the woods, wider ranges of normal, and unconditional love.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Do yourself a favor and read this book today!

Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Unicorn Then Always Be A Unicorn: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Turkey Then Always Be A Turkey: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Llama Then Always Be A Llama: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Llama Then Always Be A Llama: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Panda Then Always Be A Panda: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Shark Then Always Be A Shark: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Sloth Then Always Be A Sloth: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory

Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Sheep Then Always Be A Sheep: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Shark Then Always Be A Shark: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Zebra Then Always Be A Zebra: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Dragon Then Always Be A Dragon: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Dragon Then Always Be A Dragon: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Penguin Then Always Be A Penguin: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Platypus Then Always Be A Platypus: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Rabbit Then Always Be A Rabbit: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Red Panda Then Always Be A Red Panda: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Red Panda Then Always Be A Red Panda: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Seahorse Then Always Be A Seahorse: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V2) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Squirrel Then Always Be A Squirrel: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1) Always Be Yourself Unless You Can Be A Monkey Then Always Be A Monkey: Notebooks For School (Back To School Notebook, Composition College Ruled)(8.5 x 11)(School Memory Book)(V1)