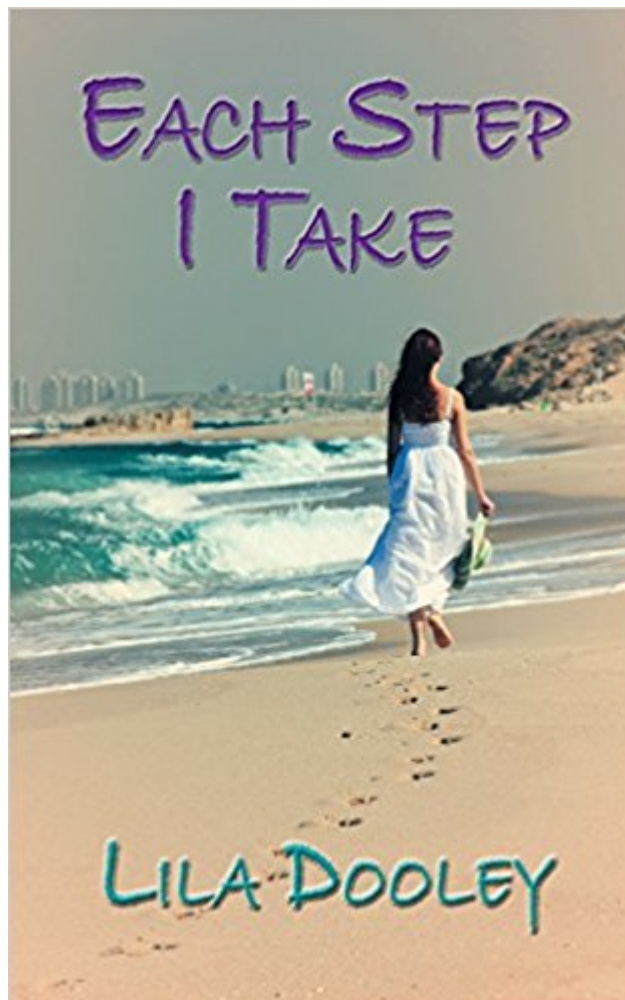


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# Each Step I Take



## Synopsis

"Each Step I Take" is the poetic story of one girl's journey through bullying. Told from Lila Dooley's teenage point of view, "Each Step I Take" reflects what many teenagers are experiencing in today's world of growing up with social media and extreme feelings of being excluded by peers or classmates. The poetry, divided into themes of darkness and light, sheds light on how bullying is not just physical-it affects young adults psychologically as well. Lila's message of acceptance and hope is something we all can learn from. As she writes in the poem, "Perfect" Perfect is a word to describe ordinary/That's the thing about me/I am not perfect/I am not ordinary/I am extraordinary."The author, Lila Dooley, was just thirteen years old when she wrote "Each Step I Take." Consistently compelling and deftly crafted from beginning to end, it is no exaggeration to observe that "Each Step I Take" is one of those extraordinary works that can be a life altering read. Unreservedly recommended for the personal reading lists of teens and young adults, as well as an invaluable addition to public school and community library collections, "Each Step I Take" is one of those rare works of literature that will linger in the mind and memory long after the book itself has been finished and set back upon the shelf."--Midwest Book Review, August, 2016"Why we LOVE this book Poetry with 5 simple lines and a strong message in each Poems allow you to experience bullying and understand it from the victim's point of view Painful beauty expound from each line Great book for teens, parents and teachers A book you will want to pass along"

Àâ –â --Mom-Spot.com 2017 Dragonfly Awards: School Issues: 1st Place (tie): Each Step I Take by Lila Dooley

## Book Information

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Social Issues > Peer Pressure #334 in Æ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

## Customer Reviews

Lila Dooley is a thirteen-year-old middle school student from South of Boston. She is a happy, fun seventh grade girl who knows what it's like to be picked last, or to not be included. Lila has experienced bullying from her peers, and was excluded from parties and get-togethers. She realized that this exclusion too was a form of bullying. Lila likes gardening. She plays field hockey, basketball and volleyball. She has Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), which impacted her feelings. She felt all alone. When asked what she wants to do with her life, she responds, "helping people." Lila is always aware of her surroundings. If anyone is left sitting alone, she is usually the first to reach out and include them. Lila began writing on her own as a form of self-therapy. Through her poems, she is able to express her thoughts and feelings about being a teenage girl, the importance of true friendships and how to always have hope. Lila writes from her heart, and hopes that her poetry will help those that have experience with feeling left out or being different. She wants readers to know that they are not alone, others have the same feelings, and this too shall pass. Everyone deserves friends who accept them for their personality, not their popularity.

I almost don't have the word to describe this book. Reading this book was at first a painful experience. The words written by this talented young author force you to feel the torture that she endured when she was excluded and ostracized by her peers. I know bullying exists. I've read all about it. I am a teacher. I am a mother. But Lila's poems allow you to experience it. The most accomplished of authors can still struggle with what Lila was able to do in her first published works- make the readers actually experience what they are reading about. Unfortunately, she really did experience this, and it is heartbreaking to relive through her words of loneliness, hurt, and isolation. But, as you continue to the second part of the book, your heart begins to mend a bit, as you are now invited to experience a new feeling through Lila- hope. You rejoice as through her poetry, Lila finds and describes the acceptance and love of peers who recognize the truly remarkable young girl she is. And more so, she realizes that she doesn't even need acceptance from others- that she's able to find happiness in who she is as a person. The tears still came for me, but this time they were happy. Read this book. Read this book if you are a teacher of any age student. Read this book if you are a parent, may someday be a parent, or have any young person in your life that you care about. It is certainly a book I will pass on to everyone I know. Thank you, Lila, for being so brave, and sharing so honestly of yourself. This book has the power to help so many young people know that they are not alone, and that better things can, and will come their way.

What a beautifully written book - All tweens and teens and their parents should read this book. How

wonderful of this young girl to so articulately share her feelings and experiences in this touching and moving book.

I'm an adult and found this powerful and inspirational. Just when you're ready to cry, Dooley pulls out of the tailspin to bring you back up with her positive outlook and commitment to moving forward. Great stuff for all ages and certainly a wonderful map for anyone who is or has suffered from bullying. Looking forward to seeing more from this young, very talented writer.

Lila has a remarkable touch. Her work is both inspirational and frightening. As she learns to manage herself, to grow, the poems become lighter and brighter. But the first poems show how dark a young person can find life. Each step she takes brings her further and further up--we give this book to students as they learn how to learn. Lila shows them how, and tells how much they will gain as they grow. THANKS LILA!

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