

Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction

Pretty Funny for a Girl

Rebecca Elliott



Oct. 2020. 368p. Peachtree, \$17.99
(9781682631478). Grades 7-11.
[REVIEW](#). First published
October 1, 2020 (*Booklist*).

Haylah Swinton's mother works nights as a nurse, so Haylah doubles as a second mother to her four-year-old fireball of a brother, Noah, while dreaming of being a standup comic.

When she's not making her family and friends laugh or studying comics online, she's writing jokes in her notebook and developing bits. Her only obstacle is not believing that she can make it on stage as a plus-size working-class girl. Enter Leo, her longtime crush, who reveals his funny side at the school talent show. Her heart flutters when he asks her to write his next set with him, but when reality hits, Haylah must take steps to validate herself. Haylah's is a feel-good story featuring a narrator who's likable and genuinely funny, even at her most self-deprecating. Dreams, being true to oneself, body-image issues, single parenting, family dynamics, self-confidence, and a realistic depiction of friendship make this a refreshing coming-of-age read full of optimism, dreams, and plenty of stereotype-smashing laughs. A natural pick for *Dumplin'* (2015) fans. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Pretty Funny for a Girl*

- *Dumplin'*
- *Fat Angie*
- *Unscripted*