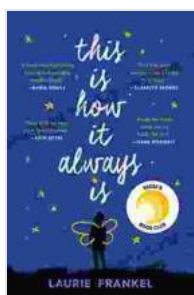


This Is How It Always Is: A Heartfelt Exploration of Family, Love, and the Power of Acceptance

In the realm of contemporary fiction, Laurie Frankel's "This Is How It Always Is" stands as a poignant and thought-provoking novel that has captivated readers worldwide. Originally published in 2017, the book has garnered critical acclaim for its masterful storytelling and its unflinching exploration of complex and deeply resonant themes.



This Is How It Always Is: A Novel by Laurie Frankel

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

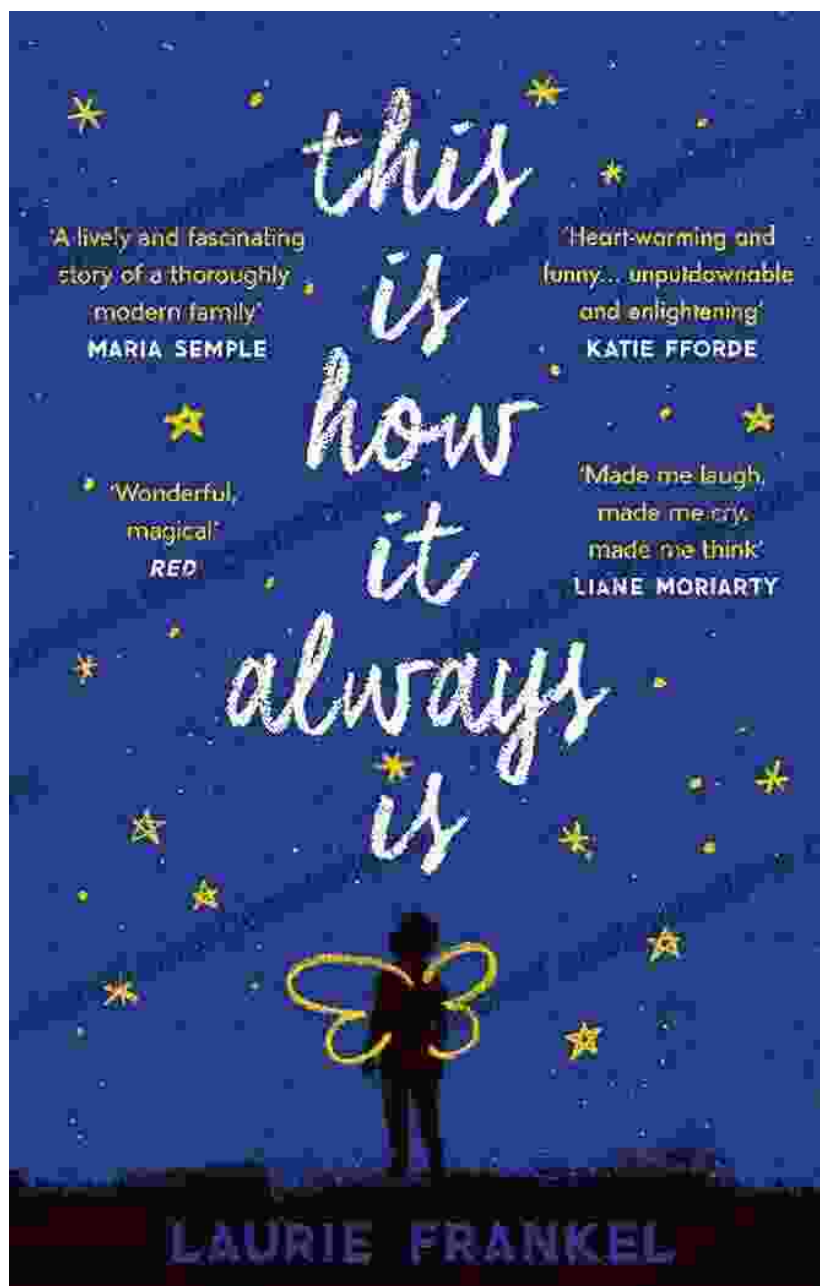
Language	: English
File size	: 7347 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 338 pages



A Tale of Family and Love in the Face of Adversity

At the heart of "This Is How It Always Is" lies the Hughes family, a seemingly ordinary household grappling with an extraordinary challenge. The narrative revolves around the five Hughes children, each of whom possesses a unique and distinct personality. The eldest, Claude, is a talented musician grappling with his own struggles. The twins, Milly and Austin, are inseparable best friends bound by a secret. And finally, the

youngest, Leo, who was born Poppy but identifies as a boy, embarks on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance.



As the story unfolds, the Hughes family is confronted with a series of trials and tribulations. Claude's musical career takes an unexpected turn, forcing him to confront his own limitations and insecurities. Milly and Austin's secret threatens to tear them apart, testing the bonds of their siblinghood. And

Leo's struggle for acceptance and understanding becomes a catalyst for both pain and profound growth within the family.

Exploring the Spectrum of Gender Identity and Acceptance

One of the most compelling aspects of "This Is How It Always Is" is its sensitive and nuanced portrayal of gender identity. Through Leo's journey, Frankel delves into the complexities of transitioning and the challenges faced by transgender individuals. The novel does not shy away from the difficulties Leo encounters but ultimately celebrates his resilience and the love of his family who embrace him for who he truly is.

Frankel's compassionate and empathetic storytelling allows readers to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of transgender individuals and the importance of acceptance and inclusivity. By creating a character like Leo, Frankel humanizes a topic that is often misunderstood or marginalized.

Themes of Love, Loss, and the Indomitable Spirit of Family

Beyond its exploration of gender identity, "This Is How It Always Is" also delves into universal themes of love, loss, and the enduring power of family. The Hughes family is faced with a series of setbacks and challenges, but their bond remains unbreakable. Through their struggles, they learn to appreciate the preciousness of life and the importance of supporting one another unconditionally.

The novel also explores the complexities of grief and loss. When tragedy strikes, the Hughes family must find ways to cope with their pain and rebuild their lives. Frankel's poignant and heartfelt writing captures the raw emotions of loss while also offering a glimmer of hope and resilience.

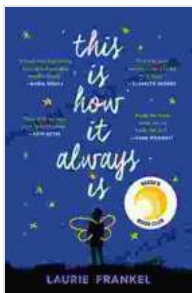
A Story That Resonates with Readers Worldwide

"This Is How It Always Is" has resonated deeply with readers of all ages and backgrounds. Its themes of family, love, and acceptance have touched a nerve, sparking countless conversations and debates. The novel has been praised for its honesty, its emotional depth, and its ability to shed light on important social issues.

Readers have found solace and inspiration in the Hughes family's journey. The novel has been credited with opening up dialogues about gender identity, acceptance, and the power of love. It has also provided support and validation for transgender individuals and their families.

Laurie Frankel's "This Is How It Always Is" is a masterpiece of contemporary fiction that deserves a place among the great literary works of our time. It is a heart-wrenching and ultimately heartwarming story that explores complex and deeply resonant themes. Through its characters and narratives, the novel celebrates the indomitable spirit of family, the power of acceptance, and the enduring nature of love.

Whether you are a seasoned reader or new to the world of literature, "This Is How It Always Is" is a must-read. It is a novel that will stay with you long after you finish its final pages and will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on your perspective on the human experience.



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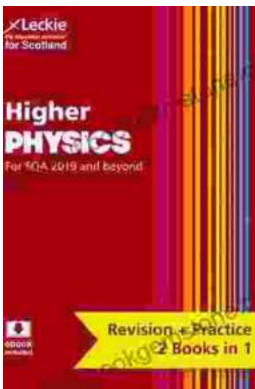
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