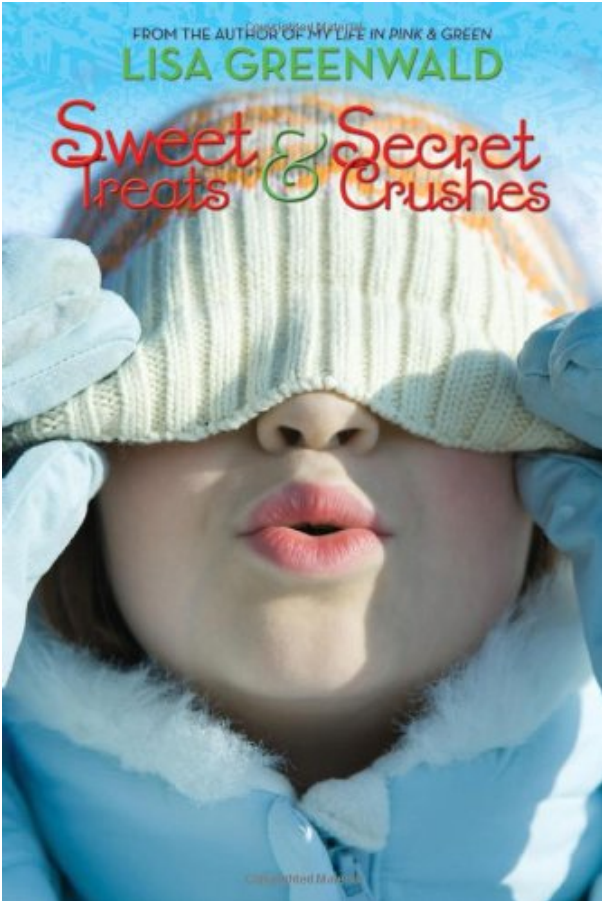
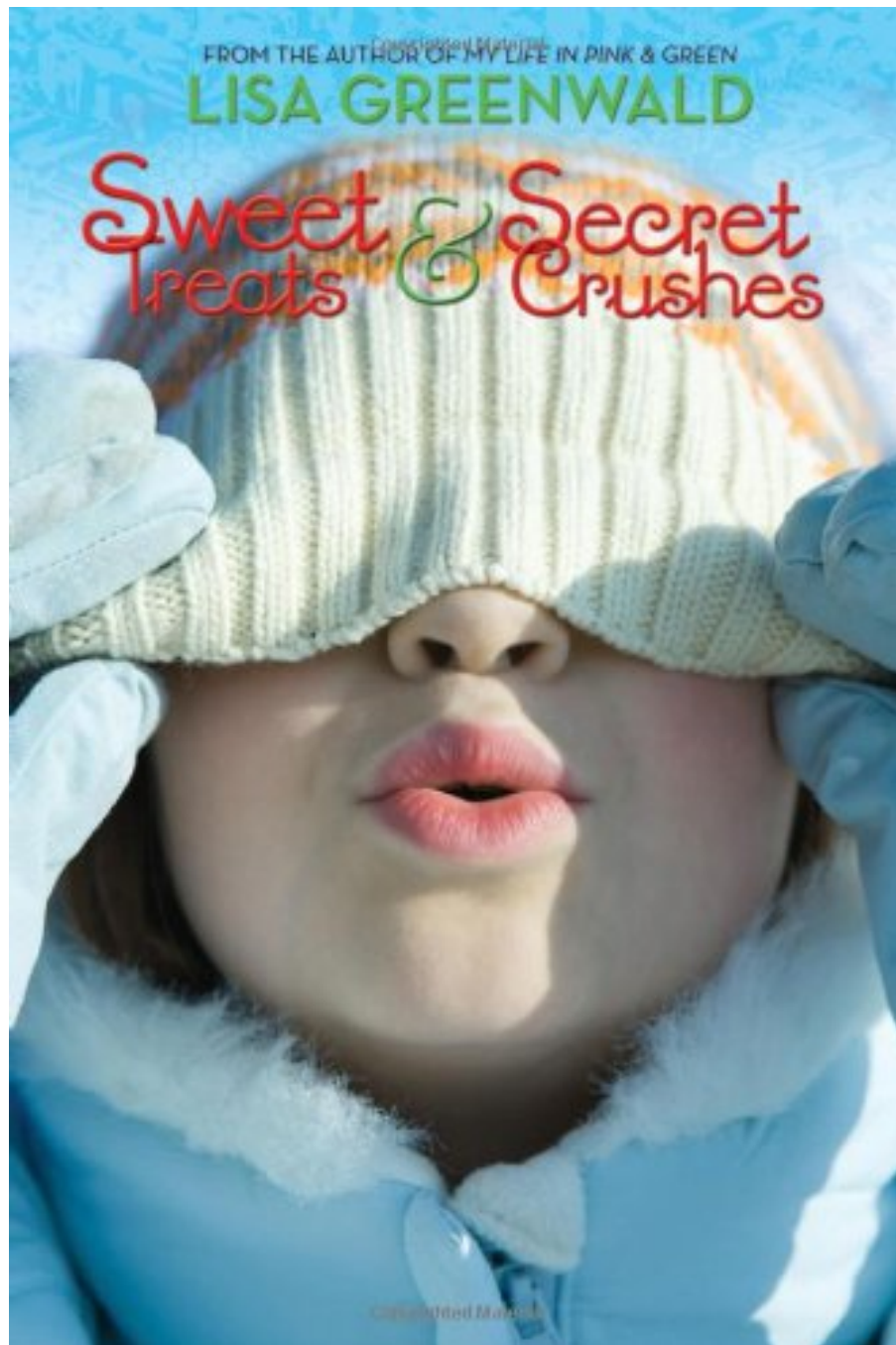


# SWEET TREATS & SECRET CRUSHES BY LISA GREENWALD



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From School Library Journal

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About the Author

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# **SWEET TREATS & SECRET CRUSHES BY LISA GREENWALD PDF**

When a blizzard threatens to ruin Valentine's Day, three seventh-grade friends make and distribute fortune cookies to their lonely neighbors—and confront the secrets they've been keeping from one another.

Confident Kate doesn't notice much but the latest gossip, and shy Georgia can't say out loud what's always on her mind. They're joined by observant, careful Olivia, whose epic, single-minded crush on PBJ (real name: Phillip Becker-Jacobs) is starting to frustrate them. Using fortune cookies that mysteriously always seem to speak directly to the person who opens them, the three girls try to work together to bring some love to their building while reminding each other why they're such good friends to begin with.

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From School Library Journal

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Sweet Book!

By Sweet on Books

\* *Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes* is a terrific and light tween book you can be happy about putting into your daughter's hands.

\* If you are ok with putting stories about boys and crushes into your middle reader's hands, then this is a great one to start with. Note the girls in this story don't have much interaction with boys, they mostly just talk about them.

\* While the title might seem otherwise, the main theme here is friendship and girlfriends, not boys.

\* This is an entertaining story and perfectly timed for Valentine's Day.

The main characters in *Sweet Treats & Secret Crushes* are three seventh grade girls who have been best friends forever. Georgia is the quiet one, Kate is the loud, somewhat trouble-making one and Olivia is the bookish reporter type, always jotting down her observations in her notebooks. The story is set within the apartment building where the girls live in Brooklyn and it takes place all on one day - Valentine's Day. But this isn't your usual Valentine's Day, this is a snow day. Given that New York City schools almost never close, this is a special event. (Clearly this book was written before this crazy winter (2011) we are experiencing right now here in NY!) The girls are equally excited and disappointed. A snow day is great, but now they won't get an opportunity to see the boys they have crushes on at school. They will have to wait a whole year for another Valentine's opportunity to mingle with them on the most romantic (read: over-hyped) day of the year.

Georgia's parents own a restaurant called Chen's Kitchen and it is located on the first floor of the building. The Chens are also disappointed with this snow situation, because Valentine's Day should be one of the biggest days of the year for them, and now that's ruined. The girls make the best of it. Mrs. Chen teaches the girls how to make the homemade fortune cookies that Chen's Kitchen is famous for, and the girls have a ball. While making the cookies Mrs. Chen regales the girls with stories of what the building used to be like - when neighbors knew each other and gathered in the hallways for meals and gossip. The girls cannot even imagine

an environment like that. They probably wouldn't have even met each other if they didn't live on the same floor and go to the same school.

The girls hatch a plan. They decide to pass the fortune cookies out to all their neighbors as they will most likely be home, everyone is snowed in. The girls hope the friendly gesture and the yummy, slightly magical treats may just bring some of that friendliness back to the building. Kate also heard her crush, Brendan, may be visiting the building!

The girls have a long day filled with the angst of seventh grade girl friendships, especially when boys are introduced into those friendships. The author handles this with great care and really respects the age and the dramas that go along with it. Her characters don't really even interact with their crushes, but they sure do talk a lot about them! However, after a long day of meeting all kinds of neighbors, the girls ultimately come to realize how valuable their friendship is and that boys shouldn't take away from that. I love that message! It's a good one for girls heading into this age group.

Disney and Nickelodeon, don't do our tweens any favors with their twenty two minute stories. They never fully show the real side of friendships and relationships in their stunted story arcs. This book is a very entertaining read and gives the example of a real friendship, taking it through an authentic story arc with a very satisfying conclusion. The girls ultimately understand and appreciate the value of each other.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good...ish

By liveathome

Things I liked about this book:

-It was cute, fun, and light-hearted.

-Since it was written from alternating perspectives I could really relate to all the girls.

-I found it very interesting the way each of the girls assumed things about what the others were thinking about her, and then in the next chapter (from the perspective of a different girl) you saw that that wasn't the case at all.

Things I disliked about this book:

-It got kind of boring after a while. This book was pretty predictable and I got bored with it halfway through.

-I think it was a bit young for me and I'm in 8th grade. I think it would be good for 7th graders though.

-I got frustrated with the characters. As I was reading, I kept getting frustrated with how little the girls knew about boys and how to talk to them. I mean, I'm sure I was the same way in 7th grade, but I just wished I could have been plopped into the story so I could have given them some major advice right then and there.

Overall, this was a good book and a cute story. It didn't have any major flaws and it had good themes about friendship too. But it's probably better for girls younger than me.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Cover, Title, Content: all in sweet synchronicity

By Maggie Knapp

I love it when a book cover and title are perfectly in synch with the book's content. SWEET TREATS AND SECRET CRUSHES, with its glitter cover and tasty title seems to promise a fast and frothy read-- and this book delivers. The story follows three best friends, 7th graders in the same NYC apartment building. Each is experiencing various moments of feeling left out or no longer fitting in. When a snowstorm on Valentine's Day shuts down schools and businesses, the girls decide to make friends (and maybe boyfriends) in the building by delivering homemade fortune cookies. This lighthearted dessert of a book touches on some serious topics, but the reader who will enjoy it most is someone looking for a skim-the-surface "cheer you



up" read.

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