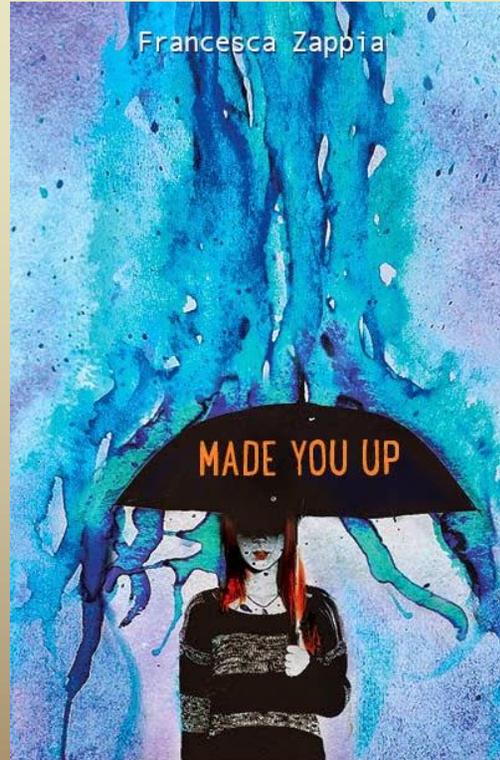


Made You Up

Reality, it turns out, is often not what you perceive it to be—sometimes, there really is someone out to get you. This thought-provoking debut tells the story of Alex, a high school senior, unable to tell the difference between real life and delusion. Alex fights a daily battle to figure out what is real and what is not. Armed with a take-no-prisoners attitude, her camera, a Magic 8 Ball and her only ally (her little sister), Alex wages a war against her schizophrenia, determined to stay sane long enough to get into college. She's pretty optimistic about her chances until she runs into Miles. Didn't she imagine him? Soon, Alex is making friends, going to parties and falling in love. But Alex is used to being crazy. She's not prepared for normal.

Book summary adapted from Made You Up summary through Greenwillow Publishing.



Francesca Zappia is the author of *Made You Up*, *Eliza and Her Monsters*, and the online serial *The Children of Hypnos*. She attended the University of Indianapolis on their Presidential Scholarship and graduated in 2015 with a degree in Computer Science and Mathematics. She spends most of her free time writing, drawing and playing video games.

Francesca Zappia



The Eugene
& Marilyn Glick
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Useful Links

Zappia blog post, "5 Things I Learned While Publishing a Book About Mental Illness":
<http://bit.ly/2udFrHG>

Indy Star article, "Could young Indy author be next John Green?"
<http://nyfi.ms/2vhacZ0>

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:
www.indianaauthorsaward.org

The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into four categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Genre Excellence, for writers who excel in a specific literary genre; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

Discussion Questions

1. Alex has paranoid schizophrenia. Do you know someone with this disorder? How is Alex similar and different from your experiences with people with schizophrenia? Did reading the novel change your perspective on mental illness?
2. How does Alex's story about the lobsters in the prologue anchor the novel? If you had to pick a defining memory from your own childhood, what would it be?
3. How is Zappia's novel different from the many other YA books available today? What common YA tropes are present in *Made You Up*?
4. *Made You Up* employs an unreliable narrator and a vague ending. What effect did this have on your reading experience? Which events do you think were real and which were made up?
5. Alex and Miles are bullied for being different. What do you think it takes to stop bullying and create a welcoming school environment?
6. How would you describe Alex and Miles to a friend? What would you name as their defining traits?

