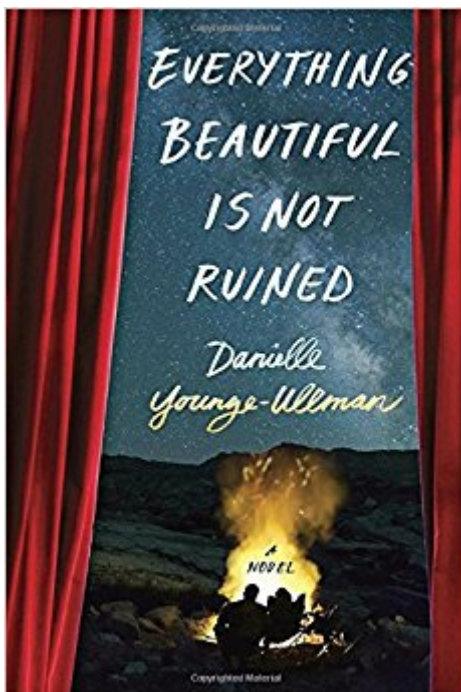


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# Everything Beautiful Is Not Ruined



## Synopsis

The perfect read for fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, this is the story of a girl who must survive an extreme wilderness experience to prove to her mother that she has the strength to pursue her dreams. Then Ingrid traveled all over Europe with her opera star mother, Margot-Sophia. Life was beautiful and bright, and every day soared with music. Now Ingrid is on a summertime wilderness survival trek for at-risk teens: addicts, runaways, and her. She's fighting to survive crushing humiliations, physical challenges that push her to her limits, and mind games that threaten to break her. Then when the curtain fell on Margot-Sophia's singing career, they buried the past and settled into a small, painfully normal life. But Ingrid longed to let the music soar again. She wanted it so much that, for a while, nothing else mattered. Now Ingrid is never going to make it through this summer if she can't figure out why she's here . . . and why the music really stopped.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Outstanding." *School Library Journal* "An emotionally resonant, fabulously crafted novel." *Quill & Quire*, starred review "An elegant, humorous tearjerker." *The Guardian* "Ultimately a book about complicated family relationships and depression, this will speak to fans of Sarah Dessen." *Booklist* "Ingrid is an authentic, fully developed character, and her adventures and insights will keep readers riveted to the page." *VOYA* "An honest examination of the messy pain inherent in breaking away from a parent." *The Globe* and

Mail"Younge-Ullman's subtle approach to narrative pacing allows readers to accompany Ingrid on her journey to fully confront and accept her past as she discovers her own true voice." — Kirkus Reviews "This compelling story about love, loss, and self-discovery took every one of my emotions on a beautiful journey. I loved it." — Kasie West, author of *The Fill-In Boyfriend* "Absolutely compelling! A heart-pounding wilderness adventure set against a deeply moving personal journey. You'll cheer Ingrid on every single step of the way." — Teresa Toten, author of *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* "A gorgeous novel about mothers and daughters, the wilderness that rages both inside and outside of us — and how the past composes the future. Brave, beautiful and so, so compelling." — Caroline Leavitt, author of the New York Times *Â* bestsellers *Is This Tomorrow* and *Pictures of You* *Â*

Danielle Younge-Ullman ([danielleyoungeullman.com](http://danielleyoungeullman.com)) studied English and Theater at McGill University in Montreal, then worked as professional actor for ten years. This was character-building time during which she held a wild variety of acting and non-acting jobs — everything from working on the stage and in independent films, to dubbing English voices for Japanese TV, to temping, to teaching Pilates. She now lives with her husband and two daughters in an old house in Toronto that's constantly being renovated. Follow her on Twitter @DanielleYUllman.

I absolutely loved the deeply-moving story telling and authentic voice that Danielle Young-Ullman has created in this book. It is all-at-once adventurous, confessional, deeply complex, shattering, self-deprecating and funny. For parents and teen children who enjoy reading books in parallel, this one will give you a great deal to discuss (without being too shocking) and leave you both feeling like you need to take a deep breath and have a good hug once you're done. The author has found a way to explain and engage kids struggling to understand love, loss and anything that can happen in-between, as well as parents trying to do the same. The ending is cautiously optimistic while avoiding anything remotely described as predictable, and will give super sensitive (often young adult) readers a reason to pull themselves together and forge ahead. But be warned: I dare anyone who has ever worn their broken, damaged heart on their sleeve or stuffed at the bottom of their cluttered purse to read this and finish it with a dry eye.

I really enjoyed this book. And once again, I wasn't sure I would when I started. Ingrid seemed whiny and spoiled at the beginning of the book, complaining about everything and blaming her mother for it. But as the backstory started emerging, and time went on, she grew on me, and by the

end, I was 100% on her side. The book is about Ingrid, the daughter of a famous opera diva who loses her voice in the middle of a performance and never gets it back. Having lost the thing she loves most, Ingrid's mother sinks into a deep depression that Ingrid can't drag her out of. When she finally does pull out of it, Ingrid is so afraid of losing her mother again, she walks on eggshells, never wanting to break the fragile balance that there is in the house. She's so afraid, she doesn't allow herself to do what she loves most - sing. When Ingrid is accepted into a prestigious music school in London, her mother refuses to even consider it, but finally comes around and agrees she can go, but only if Ingrid first completes a wilderness camp that's known for being notoriously tough. The book begins with Ingrid arriving at camp and her horror in discovering there is no actual camp. The campers are expected to hike, carry all their food and gear, camp, canoe and survive. And to make matters worse, the other campers are at-risk teens - criminals, social misfits, addicts and worse. Ingrid doesn't believe she belongs there. Interweaving the indignities of camp life with the story of how she came to be there, *Everything Beautiful Is Not Ruined* is a powerful read and constantly surprised me, right up to the very last pages.

*Everything Beautiful Is Not Ruined* will bring out a variety of emotions while you read. There are wonderful moments, proud moments, and absolutely heart-wrenching moments. The novel is written beautifully, almost as a tribute to language itself. The author blended both moments of celebration and moments of regret, yet it left me feeling hopeful and happy for Ingrid. Several issues are addressed in this novel related to teens and young adults as far as bullying, intimacy, substance abuse, homelessness, sexuality, and so on. I think each and every issue was handled in a respectful manner and could be of help to others out there struggling with these issues themselves. I highly, highly recommend checking this novel out. The story is important, relatable, and empowering. It is also a story that will remain with me for quite some time. \*Special thanks to XpressoReads/Book Tours for providing a copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review.

*Everything Beautiful Is Not Ruined* is one of those books that you didn't realize you needed in your life until after you finish it and close the cover. Irreverent, emotional, and raw, are words I would use to describe Ingrid's voice in this book as she endures an outdoor survival trip that is, at many points, by design, nearly impossible to survive. It's through being pushed to her physical and emotional limits that Ingrid begins to examine her life and her relationships, as her walls crumble around her, brick by agonizing brick. It's a tough process to watch, but I rooted for Ingrid the

entire time I witnessed her journey, tough as it was. An emotional trip to be sure, and one that embodies that old saying: If it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger.

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