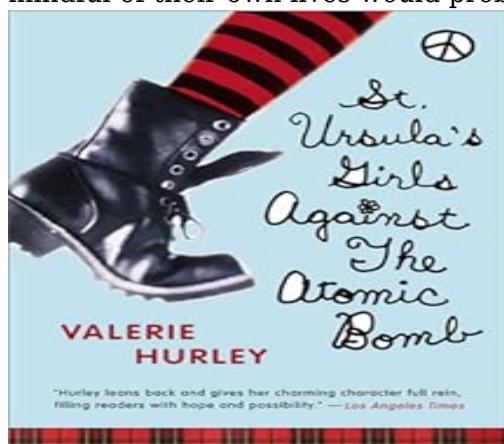


St. Ursulas Girls Against the Atomic Bomb By Valerie Hurley Her stories and essays have appeared in Indiana Review The Massachusetts Review Calyx The Missouri Review The Iowa Review New Letters The Sun Rosebud and other magazines and newspapers. Her stories and essays have appeared in Indiana Review The Massachusetts Review Calyx The Missouri Review The Iowa Review New Letters The Sun Rosebud and other magazines and newspapers. I should confess that the writer is a personal friend of mine but honestly she has created a very quirky very American very true teen character whose journey is one you want to follow. Hurley writes: It was a good time to born she said because to live is a privilege even if the Nazis decided to march into your homeland and kill two of your cousins and your sisters Gitta and Sessi. Raine has a strained relationship with her parents though in a rare frank conversation with her father he reveals what it was like for Raine's mother who lived in Slovakia for the first six years of her life and how she took food out to the Jews who Vikey had hidden. When she finds out that her guidance counselor's wife Frieda is going biking with a man from work who Frieda says is nice Raine is ready with her remark: Nice guys do not finish last Al. In the beginning of the book there is a hint of Raine's and Al's attraction for one another but then I found myself dismissing any thoughts of a romantic involvement between the two partly because they are such an unlikely pair. Drawing on each other's dreams and fears these two lost souls form an unlikely friendship - one that will teach them things they never knew about themselves the people they love and the world around them. in literature summa cum laude from the State University of New York in 1987, She has taught writing in Burlington Vermont and in 2002 was a DeWitt Wallace/Readers Digest fellow at The MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. In 1999 her short story Jasmine Washing the Hair of Pearsa won first place in the Indiana Review fiction contest: in literature summa cum laude from the State University of New York in 1987. She has taught writing in Burlington Vermont and in 2002 was a DeWitt Wallace/Readers Digest fellow at The MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, In 1999 her short story Jasmine Washing the Hair of Pearsa won first place in the Indiana Review fiction contest: Literature Fiction This book sounds good as well and I hope I can read it because it sounds like it has a good plot to it. If you see this rview and have not already read this book I would recommend it as my friends have done for me: Literature Fiction The main character in this book was astounding: Literature Fiction Oh if only poor Holden could have met Raine Rassaby. He would have fallen for this young woman hard as does any reader with the heart of a seeker: --Tom Paine author of Scar Vegas and Pearl of Kuwait Literature Fiction I find Raine like Holden Caufield before her difficult to like: She and Holden both dislike what they see in the world and flail against it but in doing so fail to live their own lives and neglect the people around them: I wish I could remind them both that love starts close and small and being mindful of their own lives would probably be the miracle cure they're looking for: Literature Fiction



Raine is such a unique passionate and memorable character: She is never predictable and as a reader you can't stop wondering what she'll choose to do next. You kind of want to take her under your wing as Al tries to do but she's a bit too prickly for that: This story has a pleasing mix of humor philosophy dramatic surprise and beautiful lyrical writing: Just don't care about any of the characters or their predicaments. Literature Fiction I had read this book a while ago it seemed to be rather odd. Odd in the way that the characters seem to intersect weird in the relationships that they

seem to have with each other, I liked the main character Raine guess that what happens when you get neglected by your parents, I would still say a good read and if you have the chance read this sort of bizarre book. URSLUA'S GIRLS AGAINST THE ATOMIC BOMB by Valerie Hurley is about a young woman Raine Rassaby (what a great name!) who is awkward and precocious outlandish and blatantly honest. Her social conscience is in overdrive at all times -- making up for both her parents who seem to have next to none. She cannot stay out of trouble partly because she acts out her fears in sometimes inappropriate ways: Raine is drawn to Pavel a young Jewish man who rescues wounded birds and talks to old people at picnics. Hurley describes the difference between Pavel and Raine: He was fascinated by the Holocaust but he was not obsessed by it: Raine took the doom much more personally feeling threatened by humanity's cruel streak: She made lists of all the obominable things human beings had done throughout history and pasted them in a scrapbook called HORRIBLE BUT TRUE THINGS YOU'D RATHER NOT KNOW, Raine is a compelling character throughout the book because of the adventures that her unstoppable social conscience leads her into, But what I find most appealing about her is how she becomes a sponge for wisdom, At age eighteen she is influenced by her Slovakian grandmother who exudes wisdom, Raine likes to spend time in the kitchen with Vikey who talks with Raine as she cooks kosher: Still the world was beautiful she said-- full of astonishing things, When Raine told her about her fears Vikey said 'Fear isn't something to be gotten rid of, It was proper for us to be afraid of the Nazis and Hlinka Guard and not berate ourselves for our fear, ' Raine is not a very successful student so she has a guidance counselor at the Catholic school in which her parents have enrolled her. The guidance counselor tries to no avail to keep Raine more interested in her studies than in starting her bomb group. He says: Raine I would be derelict in my duty if I encouraged your involvement in this silly illusory bomb group: Raine responds with: I love being a Jew but I kind of wish I was Catholic because Catholics feel so guilty. Ursula's because Catholics feel guilty even when they're innocent: Maybe I'm picking up all the horrible stuff she's repressing, Did you ever think of that? It is hard not to love someone so witty and wise as Raine. As Al's relationship with his wife falls apart and Raine's relationship with Pavel also falters Raine and Al find themselves thinking of one another constantly, Not only is he counseling Raine but she ends up counseling him: They each have their turn at bailing one another out of jail, In one of Raine's revealing journal entries she writes about Al's childhood and then this: So he marries Frieda plops down on a desk chair at St. Then he meets me and we try to resurrect each other which is like Klaus Barbie and Rudolf Hess having a picnic on the town square in Berlin, I was depressed about nuclear weapons and he was depressed about Frieda, Now I'm depressed about Frieda and he's depressed about nuclear weapons, When Raine is fearful about a calamity in her life she describes a dream to Al in which her fear became a monster, The give and take in Raine's and Al's relationship as they share in one another's fears triumphs humor and wisdom draws the reader in slowly. They bumble along until they find their lives have intertwined in ways one would never have expected, And I admit I didn't want them to become involved -- rather I was hoping each would find their equals in someone their own age and. And that is just exactly what this book was good at-- complicating my view of an appropriate relationship, URSLUA'S GIRLS AGAINST THE ATOMIC BOMB illustrates our need as humans to be understood and how that understanding can evolve into love even in an unlikely partner: URSLUA'S GIRLS AGAINST THE ATOMIC BOMB is one of my favorites. Literature Fiction Making a second attempt at her senior year in high school Raine Rassaby is now enrolled in St: Ursula's Academy for Girls where she has been made the special charge of guidance counselor Al Klepatar. But Raine more concerned about the world's problems than going to college spends her time rescuing wounded birds befriending street people and organizing protest groups such as St. And so Al finds himself balancing Raine on the one hand and his personal life on the other: he suspects his wife is in love with another man, It is no surprise that Raine tries to charge her way into Al's life but it is surprising that he lets her in[1]

Valerie received a B.S.Valerie lives in northern Vermont with her husband John. Valerie received a B.S.Valerie lives in northern Vermont with her husband John. {site_link} this book was weird. I

found myself adoring her more and more with each page. And Al has his own problems. Literature Fiction Gave up nearly halfway through. Literature Fiction eeh. the quirky teenager in the book is over-done IMHO. Literature Fiction ST. Vikey was born in 1903. It's something real and human something to pay attention to. Drunks are fearless but that doesn't make them courageous. Fear is a signal to be honored and listened to. [.] I'm expecting my group to spread like the plague at St. He ends by saying: I wonder what that was like. She won't talk about it Raine said. That's a myth. It turns out Raine is absolutely right. Ursula's and doesn't move a muscle for fourteen years. Oh well. Not every truth can be blown on a trumpet. Al said When fear talks cowards listen. well. in a more APPROPRIATE relationship. ST. I love reading philosophical novels and ST. Ursula's Girls Against the Atomic Bomb. St. Ursulas Girls Against the Atomic Bomb.