



## Positive: A Memoir

By Paige Rawl, Ali Benjamin, Jay Asher

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**Positive: A Memoir** By Paige Rawl, Ali Benjamin, Jay Asher

An astonishing memoir for the untold number of children whose lives have been touched by bullying. *Positive* is a must-read for teens, their parents, educators, and administrators—a brave, visceral work that will save lives and resonate deeply.

Paige Rawl has been HIV positive since birth, but growing up, she never felt like her illness defined her. On an unremarkable day in middle school, she disclosed to a friend her HIV-positive status—and within hours the bullying began. From that moment forward, every day was like walking through a minefield. Paige was never sure when or from where the next text, taunt, or hateful message would come. Then one night, desperate for escape, fifteen-year-old Paige found herself in her bathroom staring at a bottle of sleeping pills.

That could have been the end of her story. Instead, it was only the beginning. Paige's memoir calls for readers to choose action over complacency, compassion over cruelty—and above all, to be *Positive*.

Includes twenty-five photos from Paige's personal collection throughout.

Supports the Common Core State Standards

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## **Positive: A Memoir By Paige Rawl, Ali Benjamin, Jay Asher Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“Rawl and Benjamin deftly capture the mindset of middle schooler Paige with anecdotes that reveal the teen’s innocence and naïveté. They tackle tough subjects such as suicide delicately but honestly. Readers will come away feeling inspired by Rawl’s work as an HIV/AIDS speaker and anti-bullying advocate.” (Kirkus)

“This realistic and honest biography of a young woman living with HIV will draw readers in, shedding light on this difficult topic. The book beautifully conveys what it’s like to grow up with HIV, dispelling myths about the virus and imparting useful knowledge.” (School Library Journal)

### From the Back Cover

Paige Rawl was an ordinary girl.

Cheerleader, soccer player, honor roll student. One of the good kids at her middle school.

Then, on an unremarkable day, Paige disclosed the one thing that made her "different": her HIV-positive status.

It didn't matter that she was born with the disease or that her illness posed no danger to her classmates.

Within hours, the bullying began.

They called her PAIDS. Left cruel notes on her locker. Talked in whispers about her and mocked her openly.

She turned to school administrators for help. Instead of assisting her, they ignored her urgent pleas . . . and told her to stop the drama.

She had never felt more alone.

One night, desperate for escape, Paige found herself in front of the medicine cabinet, staring at a bottle of sleeping pills.

That could have been the end of her story. Instead, it was only the beginning.

Finding comfort in steadfast friends and a community of other kids touched by HIV, Paige discovered the strength inside of her, and she embarked on a mission to change things for the bullied kids who would follow in her *footsteps*.

In this astonishing memoir, Paige immerses the reader in her experience and tells a story that is both deeply personal and completely universal: a story of one girl overcoming relentless bullying by choosing to be Positive.

### About the Author

Paige Rawl is an accomplished speaker and an inspirational figure for the tens of thousands of kids to whom she has spoken. Today, Paige is a national youth advocate, antibullying crusader, and powerful HIV/AIDS

educator. Paige has been featured in multiple national media outlets, including *USA Today*, *People* magazine, *Seventeen* magazine, *Nick News with Linda Ellerbee*, the *Huffington Post*, and *Poz* magazine. Since Paige was eight years old, she has participated enthusiastically in pageants. Most recently, Paige was Miss Indiana Teen Essence 2011 and Miss Indiana High School America 2012. She is currently a student at Ball State University, where she plans to study molecular biology.

Ali Benjamin's work has appeared in print, online, and on television. She lives with her family in rural Massachusetts.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Julie Gailey:**

The book *Positive: A Memoir* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Positive: A Memoir* for being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like start and read a reserve *Positive: A Memoir*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this guide?

#### **Gregory Mackenzie:**

The book *Positive: A Memoir* has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after looking over this book.

#### **Willard Edwards:**

This *Positive: A Memoir* is brand new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little digest in reading this *Positive: A Memoir* can be the light food for you because the information inside this particular book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this guide is the answer. So there is no in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So , don't miss the idea! Just read this e-book sort for your better life and knowledge.

#### **Lee Wing:**

As a student exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or even

make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's spirit or real their leisure activity. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Positive: A Memoir can make you feel more interested to read.

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