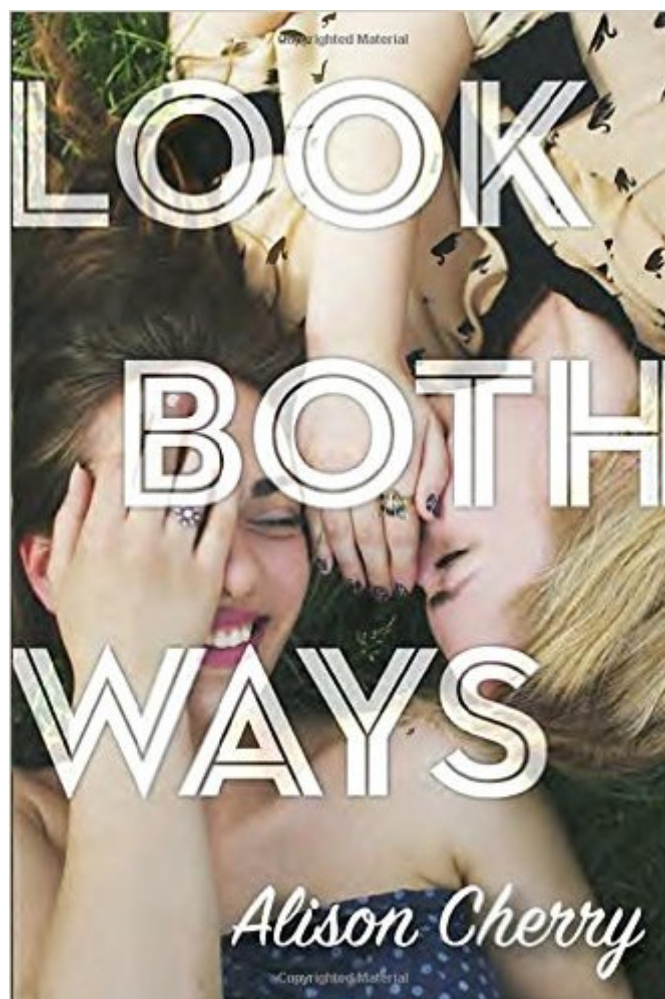


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# Look Both Ways



## Synopsis

Thoughtful, funny, and steeped in the wild drama of growing up, Alison Cherry's new novel is the story of a girl hoping she's found a place to belong . . . only to learn that neither talent nor love is as straightforward as she thinks. A summer away from the city is the beginning of everything for Brooklyn Shepard. Her theater apprenticeship at Allerdale is a chance to prove that she can carve out a niche all her own, surrounded by people who don't know anything about her or her family of superstar performers. Brooklyn immediately hits it off with her roommate, Zoe, and soon their friendship turns into something more. Brooklyn wants to see herself as someone who's open to everything and everyone, but as her feelings for Zoe intensify, so do her doubts. She's happier than she's ever been—but is it because of her new relationship? Or is it because she's finally discovering who she wants to be? "Enthralling . . . Brooklyn's journey is shared, at its heart, by all young people, and her story will speak to many readers."--VOYA "This breezy story of summer love and self-discovery has surprising depth . . . packed with humor and emotion."--Booklist "A well-written novel that pushes the envelope but remains true to its premise."--SLJ

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0890 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Press (June 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553511866

ISBN-13: 978-0553511864

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #214,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Theater #154 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #266 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I got a free copy via a giveaway. There are parts of the book I liked and other parts I don't. I was looking for an f-f romance with minimal LGBT themes and sex, and the book delivered. It feels like a coming-of-age story, where Brooklyn spends the summer learning to accept who she is. I thought it was written well. Personally, I'm not a big fan of the arts so references to the literature/musicals/plays were lost on me. It was written in such a way you don't have to know what *Bye Bye Birdie* is, so that wasn't a big problem. I like how Brooklyn's relationship with Zoe develops over feelings and actions instead of over lust. Too many romance novels seem to be love-at-first-sight instead of developing over time. A few plot points I didn't like in spoilers: I would have liked it better if Russell wanted to be her friend from the beginning. Revealing he had a crush on her the whole time made me lose some respect towards him. Why can't he just care about her as a friend? Similarly, why can't Zoe accept Brooklyn's sexuality and be ok as friends?

Alison Cherry's books always sparkle with wit and humor; *Look Both Ways* is no exception. It's also her most poignant book yet. In *Look Both Ways*, protagonist Brooklyn is struggling to figure out who she is, what her talent is--or if she even has talent, period--and how she feels about Zoe, her force-of-nature roommate at summer theater camp. Cherry deftly explores that gray area between strong platonic female friendships and romantic obsession, and she also addresses complicated familial relationships: Did Brooklyn's family heap these overwhelming expectations on her shoulders? Or did she also kind of do it to herself? I adored watching Brooklyn become more comfortable in her own skin over the course of the book. Maybe she isn't going to be the person her family or she herself thought she would be--but she learns to accept that, and even embrace it. I want to press this book into the hands of every young person trying to figure out what makes them tick, especially theater-lovers! This is the kind of book that will make you smile, sigh, and swoon--and ultimately lift your spirits.

Summery and fun, but with added layers and depth! This has Cherry's characteristic LOL humor and voice, but explores great topics, especially the recognition that the path to maturing requires giving yourself permission to experiment, to get it wrong sometimes, to get it right sometimes, to change your mind sometimes... I think this will resonate with anyone experiencing growing pains, be they teens or not-exactly-teen-anymore!

Possibly Alison Cherry's best novel yet -- which is saying a lot. This is the book that I wish I'd had when I was a teenaged theater nerd. Not only does it paint a hilarious (and terrifyingly realistic)

portrait of what it's like to work in theater, but its exploration of identity -- specifically teen-girl identity, specifically that weird and sometimes nebulous line between obsessive friendship and romantic love -- is like nothing I've ever read before. Read this book. Read this book. Read this book.

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