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Everything, Everything

The book *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon, is about a teenage girl named Madeline, suffering from a disease called Severe Combined Immunodeficiency. SCID is a group of rare diseases that are present at birth. The disease causes the child to have a very small or no immune system. Because of this, the child’s body is not able to fight off certain infections. As a result, the disease doesn’t allow her to leave her house. She must stay indoors every day at all times. Basically, the main character is living in a metaphorical bubble. She spends her days playing board games with her mother and reading books over and over again. Until one day, Maddie finds herself becoming interested in the outside world and wants to go outside. “Sometimes I reread my favorite books from back to front. I start with the last chapter and read backward until I get to the beginning. When you read this way, characters go from hope to despair, from self-knowledge to doubt. In love stories, couples start out as lovers and end as strangers. Coming-of-age books become stories of losing your way. Your favorite characters come back to life.” (Yoon 36).

In my opinion one major theme of this book is all the risks a person takes for love and whether the risks are worth it or not. At some point in our lives you fall in love. Everyone has been in love or loved someone and as that love grows you find yourself doing crazy things to catch that person’s attention. As Maddie is stuck in her house every day with only her mother and her nurse to talk to all day, she one day discovers something out her bedroom window. Maddie sees her new neighbor, Olly, for the first time. Suddenly she finds herself talking to him through email and even messages written on their windows with marker. Maddie starts opening up to Olly and starts telling him all her likes, dislikes, and random facts about herself. It is definitely a book about love and not letting the little things frighten you. “Everything is a risk. Not doing anything is a risk. It’s up to you.” (Yoon 68). Maddie never lived a normal teenage life. She never went to parties, school dances, or even actual school in general. After eighteen years of being locked up into her house she made the risk of inviting Olly over to her house even though it was not what her family agreed with. “Maybe growing up means disappointing the people we love.” (Yoon 206). Some other themes of this book include friendship, risks, choices, identity, regret, and forgiveness.

After Olly starts getting to know Maddie he realizes how in love with her he is. Eventually this love starts to grow quite a bit, and both of them find themselves doing absurd things to see the other. Some of these crazy things include staying up late just to talk to one another, seeing each other even though Maddie is sick, and even making a surprise secret trip to Hawaii.

The author directed this book to teenagers that maybe afraid of love. They may feel like they are in love but they fear the bad things that could happen if you do fall in love. Yoon’s purpose of this book is to let these teenagers know that they should not fear love. They should embrace their feelings and share them with the person they are interested in. Everything will work itself out in the end no matter the circumstance.

Nicola Yoon’s book, *Everything, Everything* has become so popular it has been one of the most talked about books of 2017. The book has been compared to some of the best romance novels of our generation including *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Eleanor & Park.* The story has become so popular they’ve even decided to make it into a movie coming out this May. It has been talked about quite a bit in the media recently as well.

In conclusion, I would rank this book a 5/5. It was an excellent book for teenagers interested in the power of love and its risks. “I was happy before I met him. But I’m alive now, and those are not the same thing.” (Yoon 268). I would highly recommend this outstanding modern-day *Romeo and Juliet* love story. “You can't predict the future. It turns out that you can't predict the past either. Time moves in both directions - forward and backward - and what happens here and now changes them both.” (Yoon 55).