



Zac and Mia

By A. J. Betts

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“When I was little I believed in Jesus and Santa, spontaneous combustion, and the Loch Ness monster. Now I believe in science, statistics, and antibiotics.” So says seventeen-year-old Zac Meier during a long, grueling leukemia treatment in Perth, Australia. A loud blast of Lady Gaga alerts him to the presence of Mia, the angry, not-at-all-stoic cancer patient in the room next door. Once released, the two near-strangers can’t forget each other, even as they desperately try to resume normal lives. The story of their mysterious connection drives this unflinchingly tough, tender novel told in two voices.

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Zac and Mia By A. J. Betts Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Teens Zac and Mia meet in a Perth, Australia, cancer ward. Zac just had a bone marrow transplant, and the tumor in Mia's ankle will soon lead to an amputation. After eavesdropping through walls and later communicating by tapping and using Facebook, they form a bond. Though Zac knows all the grim statistics on recovery, he's a helpful patient. Mia, however, is noncompliant and angry. He's athletic, living on a distant farm with a supportive family. For city girl Mia, the only child of a single mom, it's all about good looks and popularity. Zac and Mia are separated after their hospital stays, and when she runs away from home, it's pure coincidence that she ends up in his small town and they're reconnected. They offer each other support as they deal with the harsh realities of illness and classic adolescent angst. Narrators Nicholas Mondelli and Kristin Condon convincingly express the complex, often insecure teenage state of mind related in first person. VERDICT This insightful exploration of life-threatening illness is a valuable addition to libraries serving middle and high school students.—Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT

From [Booklist](#)

After a recurrence of his leukemia, Zac is recuperating from a bone-marrow transplant when the room next door becomes occupied by an angry girl with osteosarcoma. The teens begin to correspond on Facebook, but then Mia disappears from Zac's life only to resurface months later with bad news: her leg has since been amputated below the knee. Full of rage, she convinces Zac to take her on a trip before an infection sends her back to the hospital. The two finally reunite and provide each other with needed support. The teens are in stark contrast to each other, though not always in surprising ways. Despite this, their situations are engaging, and their yearning to be treated like normal teens is well crafted. Betts' experience working in a children's hospital is revealed in her details—for example, the waxy taste of chocolate that lingers after chemotherapy. This Australian import, published a year after John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012), will draw comparisons to that publishing juggernaut and should find in that horde a ready audience. Grades 8-11. -- Lynn Rutan

Review

"It's the healing powers of friendship, love and family that make this funny-yet-philosophical tale of brutal teen illness stand out." (Kirkus Reviews)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Grant:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this *Zac and Mia*.

John Masterson:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Zac and Mia, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Rita Carter:

The book untitled Zac and Mia contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

Phillip Hicks:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we wish. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This guide Zac and Mia was filled regarding science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

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