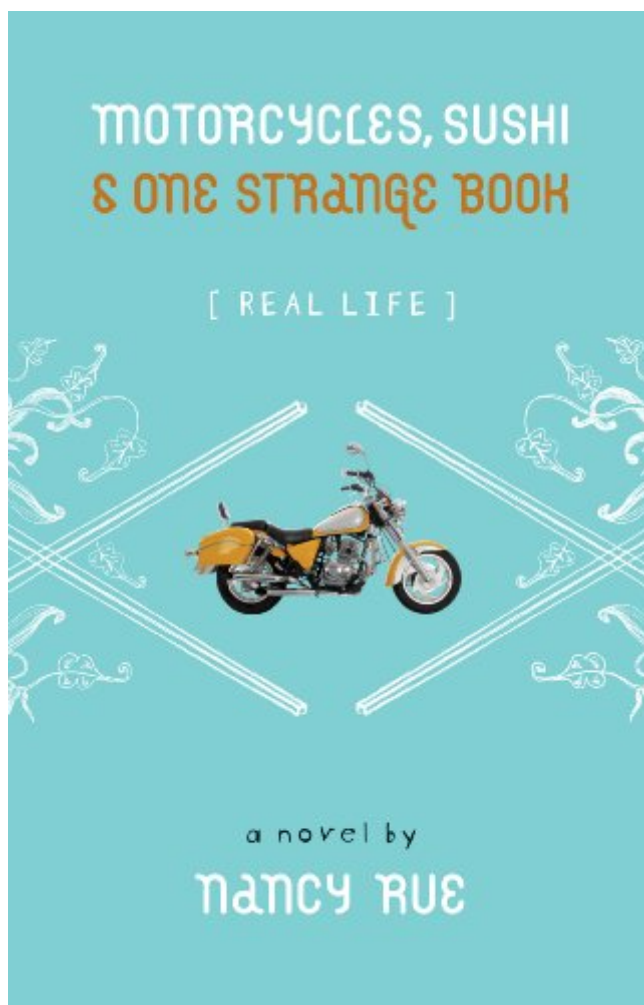


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# Motorcycles, Sushi And One Strange Book (Real Life)



## Synopsis

Four girls are brought together through the power of a mysterious book that helps them sort through the issues of their very real lives. While family dinners and vacations to touristy destinations are ordinary events for her "normal" friends, fifteen-year-old Jessie Hatcher's normal life means dealing with her ADHD and her mother's bipolar disorder. So why is Jessie shocked when the unexpected happens? Now her "normal" includes living in Florida with the father she always thought was dead and learning the secrets of sushi from a man who teaches by tormenting her. Life isn't any saner with her dad, but a cute guy and a mysterious book might just be the crazy Jessie needs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Jessie's mom is sent to the hospital for gulping down a bunch of pills, Jessie is left with her dad. Who she had thought was dead. Her plan is simple: drive him nuts until he sends her back home. Except it might be nicer in some ways in Florida: like motorcycles, the beach and a book that

she can actually read. Can there really be a relief from the hamster wheel in her head? Can she just be herself, without always covering up the fact that she has ADHD? Like most Nancy Rue books, *Motorcycles, Sysh and One Strange Book* is awesome. I love how Jessie changes from the I-have-to-hide-this girl to someone who more or less embraces herself as she is. RL-the book that she found herself reading despite her disability- is basically a modern-day paraphrase of the Bible and can mysteriously blur when the reading is enough for the day. Although a book like that isn't really out there, Nancy Rue does show us that parts of the Bible can stand out to us too. This is the first of the Real Life series for teens. The others are *Boyfriends, Burritos and an Ocean of Trouble*, *Tournaments, Cocoa and One Wrong Move* and *Limos, Lattes, and My Life on the Fringe*. They can all be read as stand-alones, since the only thread is the RL book that they find when they need it and leave for someone else to find.

Perhaps I am too much of an optimist, or blind to faults, I don't know. But when I find a good book, a truly good book, I simply allow myself to fall into the story, and let it lead me where it may. This being said, I downloaded this when it was a free Kindle offering. It seemed interesting enough at the time, so I thought -why not, it's free. All I can say is, wow! Usually after I download free books, I tend to pull them up, read a few 'pages' and decide whether or not to delete or save for a later read. Well, that plan just didn't cut it for this book. Before I knew it, I had read half of the book and completely forgotten about saving it for later! At this point you know what the book is about, the summary is above, you're just looking for other's thoughts and impressions. My impression is this: these are engrossing, true to life, clean, Christian based stories. Does it talk about heavy issues? Yes it does. But as a middle school teacher, I can tell you that kids today need books like this; ones that give them hope and do it in a biblical, interesting way. Even if you're not overtly religious, this is great read. Shoot, it makes me want to open my own sushi bar on the beach! Read this book and enjoy!

I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you" to Nancy Rue and her publisher for sending me a copy of *"Motorcycles, Sushi & One Strange Book"* to review for them. I am truly grateful for this generosity. I really appreciate the time, effort and expense it takes to make a reviewer copy available to me. After my daughter read and enjoyed Nancy Rue's *"Boyfriends, Burritos and an Ocean of Trouble"*, I had to get her a copy of Nancy's other extremely witty title for teens: *"Motorcycles, Sushi and One Strange Book"*. Jessie Hatcher's life is anything but "normal". When she's uprooted from her mother's home to live with her father, her life is completely shaken up. And not just because she thought her father was dead! This novel is an incredibly engaging read for

teens. Nancy Rue has a knack for identifying with young women, which is evidenced by this book and her other writings. Jessie's story enlightens young girls to circumstances of which they may not be aware. It is also an incredible adventure that teens will recognize with on many levels.

First person is hard to do well, but Nancy Rue really nailed her character in this book. I loved Jessie. I felt for her. Even when I knew she was over reacting, I understood her fears. After living with her mother all of her life--and dealing with the depression verses the manic stages of her mother's illness--she fears being "not normal". Dad does come across as too perfect sometimes, but after never being taken care of by an adult in her life, anyone who could set a schedule and boundaries would seem great to a young lady (how could her grandfather leave her there all those years?). He didn't solve the problems between his two girls. He acknowledge his mistakes in the past, and obviously felt pain because his daughters were paying the price for his mistakes in their relationship with each other. Growing up isn't easy for Jessie, but I enjoyed reading about her journey. In fact I liked it so much I'm really tempted to get the next book--and I'm two decades past the focus group for these books!

I loved this book. It was one of the best teen books that I have ever read. Okay there were some flaws to this book, but the good outweighs the bad. I can relate to Jessie, I'm fifteen and I have ADD. Though, there are differences between ADHD and ADD, there is so many similarities. Nancy Rue made this tale of a fifteen year old girl with ADHD very realistic. There is flaws though, all the Nancy Rue stories I have read have been for girl of ages 12 and under and you can tell in some areas that the character was more of an eight year old than a fifteen year old. Despite that though, this book rocks and I recommend it to any Christian teen and even for those tweens. I'm looking forward to reading more in the Real Life series.

I'm not a religious person but I really appreciated this book for it's message. Whether or not you relate you relate to Jessie's specific situation, we all have things we struggle with at times when we need a helping hand.

This story takes a look at several big issues (mental illness, alcoholism, ADHD) but manages to wrap them within a light story full of sweet moments and a couple well placed surprises. While it is definitely geared toward young adults (particularly teen or preteen girls), I found it enjoyable as an adult. Definitely worth the "free" Kindle edition, and as a story with a good writing, strong morals,

and a great message of acceptance and perserverance, it's one I'd reccomend passing on to the young person in your life.

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