



## TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

### *Juniper Lemon's Happiness Index* By Julie Israel Reviewed by Ashley Tran

**Name:** Ashley Tran

**Grade:** 8th

**Book Title:** Juniper Lemon's Happiness Index

**Author:** Kiera Cass

**Number of Pages:** 338

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 5/5

#### **Character List:**

- **Juniper Lemon:** Juniper is a junior who's dealing with her sister's death with barely any real support until she meets new people. Her mother and ex-best friend, Lauren, have drifted away from Juniper as they do not know how to deal with the situation themselves.
- **Camilla Lemon:** Camilla is the deceased sister of Juniper who died in a car crash. She plays a huge role when Juniper is trying to find herself while trying to figure out Camilla's secrets.
- **Brand Sayers:** Brand is a senior who is a member of a typical original band of the school with punk hair, smoking problems, dark clothes, and a dark family history. He supports Juniper through her search and soon becomes her boyfriend.
- **Nate Savage:** Nate is the new kid that bumps into Juniper on the first day of school and becomes one of her closest friends. He and Juniper are in the booster club that almost no one is in, but they wanted to make a difference.
- **Kody Hotchkiss:** Kody is one of Juniper's new friends whom she met by finding a suicide note by Kody and wanting to befriend her. At first, she befriends her out of pity, but now it is a true friendship.

#### **Review:**

Aren't sisters supposed to tell each other everything? Or at least the really important things? Like for instance, who is 'YOU'? Juniper's sister wrote to YOU the day she died. Maybe delivering this to YOU will give Juniper some closure. However, finding an anonymous person in her school, or maybe even a different school, is not as simple as ABC. Also, on top of that, Juniper lost Day Sixty-Five of her Happiness Index. It was Camilla's idea for her to write the positives and negatives of the day and add it all up. Well, guess what, it stuck, making another space, or hole as Juniper says, empty where Camilla was supposed to be. While searching for YOU and Day Sixty-Five, she meets new people with new secrets, people she never even gave more than a few seconds of thought, such as Kody Hotchkiss, Angela Waters, Lawrence "Sponge" Torres and, especially, Brand Sayers. Angela Waters is a shy, history-loving teen that Juniper also befriends after finding one of Angela's secrets. Sponge is an intelligent kid who can tell you almost anything about

anyone in the entire school without trying because he soaks up information – hence the nickname, Sponge. He helps Juniper find out more about her sister. Yet, will getting into everyone else’s business solve hers?

This teen drama, *Juniper Lemon’s Happiness Index*, is about love, loss, and finding happiness. Author Julie Israel has readers on the edge of their seats from how many surprises there are in the plot. She will have you awed and book-hungry by the end because of the unique storyline she has created. Maybe Juniper will find YOU, or maybe she won’t, but she can’t have them hold her down forever. This book will appeal to young teens because it is real, there are no impossibilities, it is relatable to someone who has lost a loved one or a person in general, and it shows that we do not always need to fill the holes because maybe they are supposed to be there.