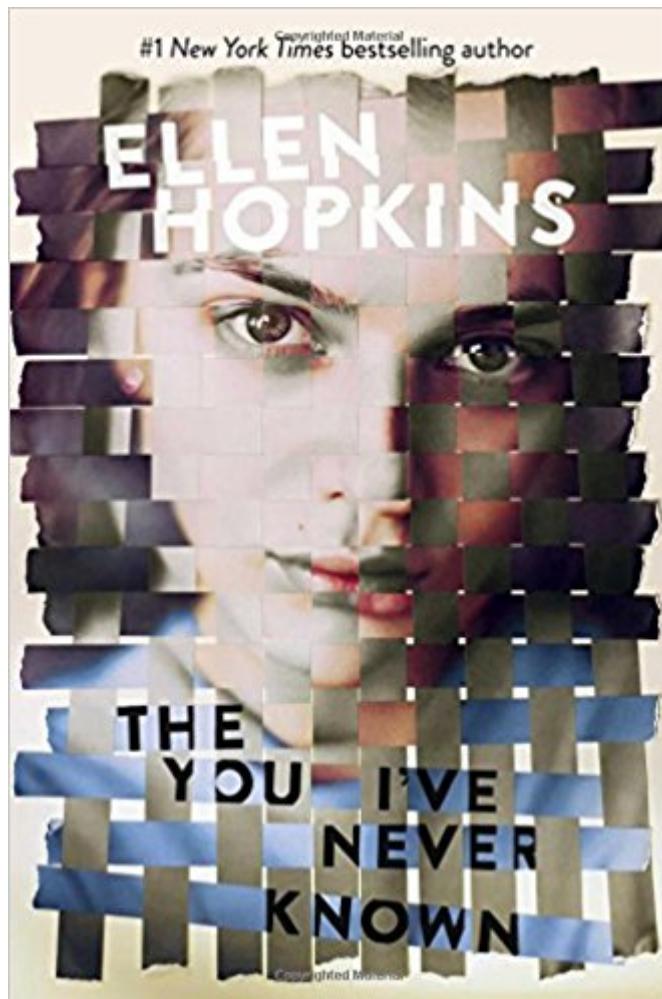


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# The You I've Never Known



## Synopsis

How do you live your life if your past is based on a lie? A new novel in both verse and prose from #1 New York Times bestselling author, Ellen Hopkins. For as long as she can remember, it's been just Ariel and Dad. Ariel's mom disappeared when she was a baby. Dad says home is wherever the two of them are, but Ariel is now seventeen and after years of new apartments, new schools, and new faces, all she wants is to put down some roots. Complicating things are Monica and Gabe, both of whom have stirred a different kind of desire. Maya's a teenager who's run from an abusive mother right into the arms of an older man she thinks she can trust. But now she's isolated with a baby on the way, and life's getting more complicated than Maya ever could have imagined. Ariel and Maya's lives collide unexpectedly when Ariel's mother shows up out of the blue with wild accusations: Ariel wasn't abandoned. Her father kidnapped her fourteen years ago. What is Ariel supposed to believe? Is it possible Dad's woven her entire history into a tapestry of lies? How can she choose between the mother she's been taught to mistrust and the father who has taken care of her all these years? In bestselling author Ellen Hopkins' deft hands, Ariel's emotionally charged journey to find out the truth of who she really is balances beautifully with Maya's story of loss and redemption. This is a memorable portrait of two young women trying to make sense of their lives and coming face to face with themselves "for both the last and the very first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*\*STARRED REVIEW\*\* Hopkins creates a satisfying and moving story, and her carefully structured poems ensure that each word and phrase is savored. (Publishers Weekly, starred review) "With trademark compassion, multidimensional characters, realistic teen behavior, and a slew of issues sympathetically explored, Hopkins has another winner here." (Booklist) A powerful, memorable and honest look at how two girls navigate their troubled home lives. Ellen Hopkins once again reminds us why she's in a class all to herself "the gorgeous prose, the painfully authentic characters and their struggle to find where to fit in and how to be loved. No surprise . . . this book is beautiful and unforgettable!" (Justine Magazine) Maya and Ariel's connection is among Hopkins' best. A page-turning exploration of independence, powerlessness, and secrets, with groundbreaking representation of bisexuality and queerness. (Kirkus Reviews) Writing in verse (Ariel's tale) and prose (Maya's), Hopkins uses skillful pacing and carefully chosen words to conceal the most important truth of the novel. The reveal arrives just as readers may be putting the pieces together themselves. VERDICT A sharp, gripping read sure to please Hopkins' legions of fans. (SLJ)\*\*STARRED REVIEW\*\* Delving into issues of teen pregnancy, scientology, bisexuality, same-sex marriage, family, and determination, this book is as substantial as it is beautifully written. Hopkins' fans will love the newest edition to her published works, a must for contemporary young adult collections. (VOYA, starred review)

Ellen Hopkins is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of eleven young adult novels, as well as the adult novels *Triangles*, *Collateral*, and *Love Lies Beneath*. She lives with her family in Carson City, Nevada, where she has founded Ventana Sierra, a nonprofit youth housing and resource initiative. Visit her at [EllenHopkins.com](http://EllenHopkins.com) and on Facebook, and follow her on Twitter at @EllenHopkinsLit.

Once again, I've fallen in love with a book by Ellen Hopkins. Will this ever stop? (Just kidding, I never want it to end!) The You I've Never Known is amazing. Half verse, half prose. Ellen Hopkins's style of writing is different anyway, but I love when she makes her unique style even more unique. It's told from the point of view of two young women - Ariel and Maya - who (based on the book's synopsis) are supposed to share some sort of connection. I didn't realize what that would be until about a quarter of the way in, and even then, I wasn't super positive that I was right. BUT I DID TURN OUT TO BE RIGHT AND IT WAS GLORIOUS!! I won't go into too much detail, because I am not a spoiler queen (Though, if you're okay with spoilers, I'll be giving them below my review), but

this is probably if not THE best, then one of Ellen's best books. \*Cliche Time\* I simply could not put it down. I read the entire last quarter of the book in about an hour and a half. I had to know what happened! There are still some things I want to know, so I feel like a second book, or maybe just a novella, would be a wonderful thing to happen.\*\*\*SPOILER TIME BECAUSE I NEED TO TALK ABOUT THINGS\*\*\*The main thing I wanna know more about is Ariel/Casey's dad. Was he ever caught? What exactly happened while him and A/C ran together all those years? Just a book/novella from his perspective would be amazing. I also feel so awful for Maya. For Ariel too, but I just feel more pain for Maya. Ariel grew up, missing a mom, but thinking she was better off, while Maya found out she was pregnant and developed all these dreams for herself and Ariel/Casey, just to have them taken away from her. By a man who never wanted a daughter in the first place. Exploring that relationship more would make for a great second book too. Maybe have it told by three different characters - Maya, Ariel/Casey, and now maybe A/C has her own teenage daughter, so she's a main POV also. Also, Ariel was GETTING IT. Honestly, she went for 0 to 100 extremely quickly on the relationship front. But I love her and Monica together. I really hope that Monica's able to come out to her family and it turns out okay, or maybe it doesn't, but her and Ariel still last, or maybe she never comes out and Ariel meets someone new and finds a life with them, but maybe she still loves Monica. There's just so much left open!! So, basically, my review is I love this book and I need more of these characters. Every. Single. One. The You I've Never Known

The You I've Never Known by Ellen Hopkins confronts many difficult and possibly controversial circumstances. A young woman lives with her father, but they never stay in one place very long. Ariel loves her father when he isn't drinking or being too overprotective. Other times he is abusive and angry. Ariel and her father finally stay in one place for an entire school year and she makes friends that she feels comfortable with. She is struggling with her sexuality because her father has always claimed that her mother is a lesbian. Ariel isn't sure about what she wants or who she wants it with. Another story is being told alternately with Ariel's. Maya also struggles with family situations and friendships. The stories of these two young women hold a strong, emotional mystery that knocked my socks off! In Ellen Hopkins standard writing, the mystery unfolds. 4 stars for an emotional book full of growth!

Ellen Hopkins....WHAT ARE YOU DOING? This books ending was mediocre at best! She has written much better story lines that hooked you right in and made you feel emotional. To me, this was a bit of a slacker. There was practically no plot line the whole time and she set it up so that the

reader would expect a crazy ending but it just didn't happen. I'm sad.

Another great book from a fantastic author. The book is written in poems like most of Ellen Hopkins books, but don't let that scare you away! Her writing is endlessly captivating with stories to match. I easily finished this book in a day and even months later am still thinking about the characters.

Book #14 Read in 2017 The You I've Never Known by Ellen Hopkins Hopkins has written another masterpiece. In this book, mostly a verse novel with some journal parts, readers will find Ariel and her father. She is a teenager who was abandoned by her mother as a baby...or was she? Ariel finds out shocking news that will shake her foundation of life to its core. Add elements of romance, violence and humor, and you have a gritty piece of realistic fiction. My high school girls will eat this book up.

I always devour Ellen's books! Memorable characters, love the twists...she never ruins the endings, coaxing us into holy cow endings...Brava Ellen you did it again!

I have been a fan of Ellen's writing for years! This is another book that really blew me away. Her writing is grasping and keeps you reading until the very last page. I didn't put this book down until I was completely finished in a day! Ariel, the typical teenager, just trying to figure herself out. Thrown some problems and has to face them day by day. Ellen really gives you both sides of the story in this book. Worth a second read when I get the chance!

I've been a huge Ellen Hopkins fan since I was in high school. She is an amazing author who writes on really interesting, raw topics. I can never put a book down by her, and that's exactly how I was with this book. Great storyline with a great plot twist.

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