



JEANNE BANNON  
**invisible**

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# Invisible

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Lola's not pretty. Lola's not popular. Lola wishes she could disappear ... and then one day she does just that...

For seventeen-year-old Lola Savullo, life is a struggle. Born to funky parents who are more in than she could ever be, Lola's dream of becoming a writer makes her an outsider even in her own home. Bullied and despised, Lola still has the support of her best pal Charlie and Grandma Rose.

Not only is she freakishly tall, Lola's a big girl and when forced to wear a bathing suit at her summer job as a camp counselor, Lola's only escape from deep embarrassment seems to be to literally vanish. Soon after, she discovers the roots of her new "ability".

Slowly, with Charlie's help, Lola learns to control the new super power. The possibilities are endless. Yet power can be abused, too...

Then, when tragedy strikes, Lola must summon her inner strength, both at home and at school. She has to stand up for herself, despite the temptations and possibilities of her newfound super power.

A coming-of-age story that will warm the heart.

## **Invisible Details**

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Author : Jeanne Bannon

Format : Paperback 186 pages

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# From Reader Review Invisible for online ebook

## Julie G says

I 'met' Jeanne Bannon on Book Blogs, oddly enough, on the day that she was announcing a 1-day giveaway of her book. Reading the synopsis, I just had to grab a copy.

Seriously? How often do you get to read about a girl who can disappear? Something I would have loved to be able to do at her age.

Written in first-person, from Lola's perspective, Ms. Bannon seems to understand what it feels like to not fit in - with one's peers and even one's own family. She paints a picture of unhappiness and personal angst that is recognizable to those of us who have walked in Lola's shoes at some point in our lives.

It is almost painful to read and revisit. As, I suppose, it should be.

Being several years removed from high school, the story feels like I remember that time of my life. But, some of the dialog seems a little more mature than 17- or 18-year-olds. The 'voices' sound a bit similar from person to person; the speech styles or patterns aren't distinctive.

That, I suppose, could be realistic. Don't we have a tendency to imitate or adopt something of those around us?

All in all, I truly enjoyed this story. The main characters are fairly well-drawn 'real' people. Lola's battles with her sister, her feelings about her parents, her desperate wish to be a writer - it all felt a bit like getting inside the head of an old friend. Or meeting a lovely new one.

And 'the Plan'? You're gonna love it!

~\*~\*~

## About the Story

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~\*~\*~

#### About the Author

I've worked in the publishing industry for over twenty years. I started my career as a freelance journalist, then worked as an in-house editor for LexisNexis Canada and currently work as a freelance editor and writer.

I've had several short stories published and won first place in the Writes of Caledon Short Story Contest. My novels, *The Barely Boy* and *Dark Angel* were finalists in the 2010 and 2011 Strongest Start Contests. One of my short stories "Thom's Journey" is part of an Anthology entitled *A Visitor to Sandahl* and is available at Amazon.com.

When not reading or writing, I enjoy being with my daughters, Nina and Sara and my husband, David. I'm also the proud mother of two fur babies, a sweet Miniature Schnauzer named Emily and Spencer, a rambunctious tabby, who can be a very bad boy.

~\*~\*~

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary electronic copy of this book from the author. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

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#### **Dschaper54 says**

Definitely a book all young people should read. Well done. The invisibility worked beautifully into how we can all feel invisible at times. I loved this book. You've got to read it.

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#### **Molly Vercillo says**

I received a copy of this book as part of a GoodReads giveaway and I am beyond grateful that I did. To say that I enjoyed this book would be a vast understatement. From the first page, to the last, I did not want to put it down. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, yet on the other hand never wanted the pages to end. I wish this book had been around 15 years ago when I was in high-school. I related to the main character, Lola, in a way I didn't think it was possible to relate to a fictional person. I felt like Ms. Bannon had a front row seat to my own teen years.

This book is a sincere, sometimes painfully truthful and heart-warming look at the often awful things that happen to a teenage social outcast. The author captures the pains of youth, the awkward family dynamics and the seemingly impossible triumphs with unflinching realism. I highly recommend that anyone who ever faced a bully, whether that bully is another person or your own self, read this book. It will make you laugh, smile and maybe even shed a tear. Above all that, it will warm your heart.

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## **Shelby says**

Oh my goodness...I just read this book in one afternoon!!!! I seriously couldn't put it down. Who hasn't wanted to disappear at one point in their life? This was an incredible story of finding peace with who you are..inside and out. I loved Lola because she was such a real character, not like most books you read where the women seem to be gorgeous all the time. Lola is an average girl with self esteem issues. In this story she learns that her new ability makes her special. With the help of her grandma Rose, her best friend Charlie, and her boyfriend Jon, Lola begins to love herself. She also learns to let her family into her life as well. This book was such a amazing story with a great lesson, and I think many people of any age can relate to it. I seriously, seriously hope everyone reads this book!!!! And because I loved it so much I'm giving it 5 stars ( I don't usually rate my books) but I'm starting as of now!

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## **Tina Hayes says**

"Invisible" by Jeanne Bannon is a YA novel that people of all ages can read and easily relate to. It tackles the problem of bullying and learning to love yourself, told from the prospective of a 17-year-old highschool student.

Lola just wants to get through the last couple months of highschool with her BFF Charlie, and to stay off the radar of bullies who taunt her about her weight, and about her best friend being a lesbian. Something strange begins to happen after these episodes when Lola discovers she can become invisible as sort of a defense mechanism, whether she wants to or not. The last thing she wants is to wink out of existence at any moment, especially around a certain boy who has finally noticed her.

The relationship between Lola and her Grandma Rose was genuinely touching, the part I most related to. Grandma Rose is her best friend, the one person in Lola's family she can always count on for support, unconditional love, and a laugh. I lost one of my grandmothers when I was Lola's age, and my other grandmother is still alive at 87; I've always treasured my close bond with each of them. When the unexpected health issues came up with Lola's grandmother, I had tears in my eyes, feeling Lola's pain and worry.

This is a great book! It explores many issues common to teenagers, and the reader gets to join Lola and her friends through their high points and heartache.

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## **Courtney Vail says**

4.5 STARS

Normally I'm not a big fan of characters with low self-esteem, but Lola is so tenderly and vividly created and stands out as an outsider EVERYWHERE that it's easy to identify with her misery. She is ruthlessly bullied and even physically attacked at school and she can't even escape torment when she goes home because it meets her there too. Her sister is a constant beast and her mom is disapproving, tacky and pushy. I can't imagine that existence. I'm amazed she doesn't go off the edge. Maybe her BFF Charlie keeps her content and upbeat.

She doesn't wallow in the doldrums though, her voice is a mix of pain, humor and hope. Lola discovers in extreme moments when she totally wishes she could vanish that she actually can and does. She falls into a zone where she is not seen or heard.

Given that bullying is a hot button topic these days, this book is very timely and deals with the issue adeptly. Lola and Charlie become dizzy thinking about the possibilities for revenge with her newfound super power. INVISIBLE leads to a satisfying conclusion where Lola must choose between taking the high road or the low road.

I wished the invisibility factor had led to cooler depth and more intricacy within the plot, and that's the only reason I'm knocking off 1/2 a star. I just thought there would be a greater mystery behind it.

But, this is a wonderful book packed with emotion. I cried and laughed. Definitely check it out.

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### **Suki Michelle says**

This review is posted at Word! from Cyber-Chicago for the Invisible Blog Tour!

The story opens with line, "Lola, get your suit on and help supervise the pool." This simple instruction from Lola's fellow camp counselor sets in motion a series of events that are both wondrous and heartbreaking.

Lola Savullo, overweight and "freakishly tall" has never been seen in a bathing suit in her three summers working at Inglewood Day Camp. She has no choice. She wraps a towel around her thick waist and braces herself to face the stares of campers and counselors alike. All she wants at that moment of supreme embarrassment is to be invisible. Then something miraculous happens. She gets her wish. Shocked and disoriented, Lola realizes that she has indeed vanished!

Lola's story is told with sensitivity to anyone who has felt like an outcast, wished to be as pretty, popular, and confident as those around them. The teen years are defined by a need for learning who we truly are. We do this by the process of comparison. How do I measure up to everyone else, where do I fit in, why am I different, and perhaps most importantly, how do people see me? For some, the answer is clear. They see disgust in people's eyes. People turn away. Worst of all, they see the need that some people have to inflict pain. They conclude – if that is how people see me, then I'd rather not be seen at all. One can't help but be moved by Lola's literal expression of that commonly felt desire.

Even so, Lola's story is anything but depressing. In the first couple of pages, we see sparks of moxie as she lifts her chin and strides into the sunshine, hairy legs, bulging belly and all. There is a suggestion of inner strength, which Lola taps as her story progresses. Her strength is fortified by her relationship with her grandmother who accepts Lola unconditionally and provides the anchor she needs. That connection is even more poignant when seen in the light of Lola's immediate family – her pretty, petite mother, her slim, good-looking father, and her beauty-obsessed sister, none of whom know the real Lola. It isn't their fault. Lola has never trusted them enough to open up and reveal herself. Her grandmother offers the richest, most fulfilling relationship in Lola's life.

Lola's best and only friend is a girl named Charlie. Plagued by bullies, Lola and Charlie devise a plan to utilize Lola's talent against them. This conflict presents Lola with important moral choices, each of which propels her down a path of self-discovery.

I recommend Invisible to anyone who has ever wished they could simply disappear – in other words, anyone who is or has ever been a kid.

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### **Sheila says**

This is a great book for teens. The voice and style are perfect for the target audience. As an adult, I enjoyed the story of an overweight girl who learns to love herself, and I was touched by how she came to grips with a totally understandable need for revenge. The story moves along at a good pace, the secondary characters are interesting and believable. The touches of humour were a lot of fun. Highly recommended.

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### **Zara Lethallan says**

I usually never read a book outside of the romance genre. Mainly because I love a good love story. I mean who doesn't. But sometimes you just need to open up to new ideas and have an adventure.

To say I didn't know what to expect from this book would be a understatement, I didn't realize it would bring up my own past with bullies. Most of us have been there, been to that place where you are picked on and torn down. It got to that point where you wished you could just disappear.

When you are being bullied you can feel like you are alone and I think if you read this book you can see that you are not. You are not alone.

This YA book will give you something to think about. I have no complaints about this book. There was a good balance of details and emotions.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kendra Morgan says**

Invisible is one of the best books I've read this year! The reality of high school with a twist and a happy ending. Rising above the bullies and being who you are and the best person you can be is not the best 'revenge'. It brings a peace, the kind only God can provide, and makes revenge look like the horrible act it really is.

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### **Patricia Lynne says**

I found Invisible to be a fun and enjoyable read. The teenage characters were realistic, often reminding me of my high school days. The author captured the intense emotions that defines a teenager's years. Of course, the only difference is most teenagers can't vanish.

From the interactions with her grandma, to feeling like she had nothing in common with her parents, to enduring bullies, Lola's emotions were raw and deep and spot on for a girl like her. I loved the way she grew and opened up as the story progressed. Between realizing she is beautiful, that she had a lot more in common with her parents, I was cheering Lola on the whole way. As she was plotting with Charlie and Jon I was silently pleading for her not to sink to the bully's level.

My only qualm was the author's use of present tense. It kept throwing me off when I'd turn on my Kindle. But once I got reading, the tense didn't bother me. This was more personal than anything because most of what I read is in past tense and I also write in past tense. Other than that, the writing was beautiful and flowed smoothly. I thought the beginning was a little slow, but it picked up speed and I was eager to turn the pages. This is a great read for both parents and their teenagers. If I was handing out stars, I'd easily give this author four gold ones.

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## **ILyk Tourid says**

4 stars

The writing flows smoothly. Lola discovers she can actually become invisible. The pacing is good –from discovering the power and controlling it and coping with death (a good catalyst for her change).

I was waiting for a bit climax where Lola would confront Nino the bully but that wasn't about to happen. What I really liked in the book is Lola's change of heart. She comes as selfish, introverted self in the beginning and it was nice to see her change and offer help to her mother (I guess a lot of Teens are embarrassed by their parents but I was glad to see Lola see past the physical – how ironical... - and learn to bond with Mom and sister).

That said, I strongly feel that the change happens for the boyfriend. Will the change last after a breakup?...

Easy read and a short book. Having read so many superheroes-paranormal-superpowers books, I kept thinking about the potential of this power of invisibility. But the author's message was about bullying and how to cope with it. And here the book ends with this beautiful message –which I'll add to my favourite quotes:

*I've learned that it doesn't matter what anyone thinks about you, what nasty things they say or do. The only thing that matters is whether or not you choose to believe them. [ ]*

*Hold your head high. Be yourself and be proud of who you are. You're a beautiful, kind, loving person [ ]*

*From this moment on, I'm only letting the good in. I'm building my future one thought at a time.*

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## **Ilana says**

Title: Invisible

Author: Jeanne Bannon

Publish Year: 2/20/16

Length: 180 pages



## Overview

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When tragedy strikes, Lola must summon her inner strength, both at home and at school. She has to stand up for herself, despite the temptations and possibilities of her newfound super power.

## My Thoughts

To be honest, this isn't a book that i'd typically gravitate towards, yet i was more than happy to give it a chance. I don't know that it's for me persay though - but i'll give you a sense of what it's about and why.

Here we have a coming of age type story - about a girl who's got a rough lot at life - she's not the accepted type - she's overweight and maybe not the most open to making friends, aside from her best friend Charlie who's really quite pretty - but chooses to be more goth than anything else. Typical to the life of a teen, Lola has a much better relationship with her granmother than her mother, and that's partly due to the fact that her mother is more hippie than mom. All adding up to a very tough life for a high schooler .

The interesting twist here is that Lola finds that she's got this tendency to go 'invisible' at times that are stressful. the first time is at camp when she's a counselor and has to put on a swim suit - a feat that she's avoided for 3 years. the second time is when she's getting beat up by a bunch of bullies on her way home. So you can see, it's times that are really stressful that make this happen.

The problem then being though is that it's few and far between when this power comes into play at least in the beginning and she's got to come to terms with what it means, why it's caused and can she trust anyone with the knowledge.

Throughout this book, we see how Lola lives her life, and how this invisibility comes into play during key moments. While not overly believable, it can be seen as a metaphor for how all teens wish that they could disappear from time to time when they are dealing with situations that aren't that great.

So - for those of you who know what i typically read, you can see how this is out of the ordinary, but i think that it's always nice to break up the routine with something different. While it's decently written, i feel like there were times when i wanted to skim through to get to the next moment and see something happen, but all in all, it was a nice gentle way to finish off my weekend of reading. Have a great week all!

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## **Michelle Fayard says**

Freakishly tall and overweight, Lola Savullo doesn't fit in at home or at school. Her parents are "middle-aged teenagers," and her older sister is the queen of snark. Lola is a senior who's never been on a date, she and her best friend, Charlie, have been labeled lesbos. Now the cute boy she thought might—just might—possibly like her in return suddenly is hanging with the cool and cruel crowd.

But Lola has more than just Charlie's friendship; she has her Grandmother Rose. She also has a scary yet powerful new ability—to become invisible to those around her, just as she's longed for so often in the past.

Now Lola must decide whether to use her ability to teach the school's most evil bully a lesson while not losing herself in the process. The results will surprise both Lola and those around her when something unexpected happens that makes her glad to be seen.

Jeanne Bannon's debut novel, *Invisible*, is filled with memorable characters and witty one liners as well as messages of strength and hope. Jeanne's skillful use of first-person present tense is the best example of this writing technique in a young-adult book, and *Invisible* is a delightful and memorable read in all respects.

And remember ... just because something can't be seen doesn't mean it's not there.

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## **Katrinia17 says**

Quick and easy read about a bullied teen who learns that she has inherited her grandmothers power of invisibility and uses the power to teach her bullies a lesson and come to terms with loving herself.

The start of this book is rough. Characters are stereotypes and whinny. It would have been better if I didn't have to hear a repeat of the weight issue that goes through the entire book and seems to never let up. I got it...she's a "hippo". The first chapter's internal thought followed by the kids making fun of her...followed by the second chapter about her parents and sisters looks vs hers, more internal thoughts on her fatness, and a backtrack to the pool scene...to follow up with chapter 3...internal fat thoughts, back to kids calling her fat... It was never ending. Fat rubbery fingers, standing like a beast, blubber...never ending. Anytime she stood next to someone smaller we heard about her size. It didn't have to be about people, furniture groaned under her.

Another issue I had was with the description. Example: If the character was in her room and a friend was to come over the character would start describing the character fully before they came over. When the character walked in we would get a description again. This actually happened and in the same scene the character started describing the guy she was into. This description should have come the chapter before when he was with the crowd that attacked her and during the time she mentioned him doing something.

X stood against the orange slide, his brown hair hung to his shoulder and his dark brown eyes followed me. I had no idea why he hung out with these jocks. He didn't fit the crowd with his tall lanky body tossing among bulldogs using him as a chew toy.

We didn't get this. We got nothing on his introduction and later a description when he wasn't even in the room.

"My fingers feel fat and rubbery."

"...rubbery chicken and soggy noodles..."

The above are some of the descriptions we get throughout the book.

"Charlie stabs her fries and crams them into her mouth..." With what? Her fingers? A fork I assume but we aren't told there is one there. I might be picky with this one but it is one of the examples of situations like it. Mostly the image is random. She's got gravy covered fries on her plate and later is stabbing and cramming them into her mouth. Why? They are making plans. Is she angry? Frustrated? No clue. She's just stabbing fries and cramming them into her mouth.

Here is another section that got to me:

Then I look at Grandma Rose and wish with all my might that she could live forever.

"One more lap and we'll call it a day, Kiddo," Gran says with a wink.

And off we go, hand in hand.

If only time would stand still.

I have a couple of issues with the section above. 1. (which you don't know because it is not in here) we already know that the two are holding hands...we don't need to hear it again. 2. It was added again for sentimental reasons. That is the main issue with this section. Sentimentality makes things cheesy. "she could live forever...hand in hand...one more lap...if only time would stand still."

It is all thrown in after an already sentimental chapter. It becomes cheesy and over done.

I look at Grandma Rose and wish with all my might that she could live forever.

"One more lap, Kiddo," Gran says with a wink.

For me, this is all that is needed. Gran and her have already talked about how she has this power handed down from Gran. How their DNA and Irish blood run strong. How they are alike, Gran is her "miniature version of her." They even have the same blood type. Gran knew that the power came, she could tell just by looking at her because "they had a connection."

So, with all this being said throughout the chapter and previous scenes, do we really need to hear anything else? My opinion is no. Granddaughter feels this way, she wishes this day wouldn't end, she doesn't want to leave even though she feels grandma needs the rest and grandma has said so...Grandma doesn't need to be told how her granddaughter feels, she knows it and decides on "One more lap, kiddo." and that says it all.

It seems that people now want to put in texting in their story...it includes all the U and Riiiiight and all...down to the emojis.

So, I got strings of happy faces throughout this text with the character saying, "The happy faces let me know she really means it." (this comes after the other person sent the response of: OMG!!!! I'm really happy 4 u.

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