



Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now

Dana L. Davis

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I've got seven days to come clean to my new dad. Seven days to tell the truth...

For sixteen-year-old Tiffany Sly, life hasn't been safe or normal for a while. Losing her mom to cancer has her a little bit traumatized and now she has to leave her hometown of Chicago to live with the biological dad she's never known.

Anthony Stone is a rich man with four other daughters—and rules for every second of the day. Tiffany tries to make the best of things, but she doesn't fit into her new luxurious, but super-strict, home—or get along with her standoffish sister London. The only thing that makes her new life even remotely bearable is the strange boy across the street. Marcus McKinney has had his own experiences with death, and the unexpected friendship that blossoms between them is the only thing that makes her feel grounded.

But Tiffany has a secret. Another man claims he's Tiffany's real dad—and she only has seven days before he shows up to demand a paternity test and the truth comes out. With her life about to fall apart all over again, Tiffany finds herself discovering unexpected truths about her father, her mother and herself, and realizing that maybe family is in the bonds you make—and that life means sometimes taking risks.

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now Details

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From Reader Review Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now for online ebook

C.G. Drews says

I feel like someone just threw an entire box of COMPLICATED EMOTIONS at me. This book made me very angry at times, but also I'm *intensely* impressed with it and absolutely loved Tiffany like nothing else!! I raged at the bad and cheered for the good...a lot went down ok. It's a lot to digest.

The story follows Tiffany Sly who's going to live with her estranged dad. She doesn't know he has kids though, so it's like BOOM she gets hit with an instant family. And I'm not even kidding: **her dad is an absolute "holier than thou" asshole.** He made me so angry. He's superrich and a Jehovah's Witness, so **he hides his horribleness behind all these "rules"**. The levels of frustration and murderous anger I had were...um, pretty high. (I, THE FURY.) And it's just unreal?!

It made me so sick/angry because this abusive controlling toxic masculinity is hidden behind "being a good parent" and it's sooo wrong. Obviously that's what the book's about! But there are a lot of forgiveness themes and...lmao. I did not ever ever forgive him. ˘(?)˘

Trigger warning for autism abuse though. My problem is I think it was unnecessary. It was only there, I guess, to underline how horrible the dad was (faking being good and just "strict") but the ASD rep (as an autistic here) wasn't great *anyway* and you could've taken it out without affecting the storyline so WHY have it in there. It made me, personally, feel really sick. They spanked/whipped the autistic 2yo and wanted her "cured" asap.???

Can I say how much I LOVED Tiffany!?!?

She has anxiety and OCD and I just so felt for her, and also related to her anxiety levels. It's so well written and she's such an amazing person. She's grieving but also trying to make it work with this family that HORRIFIES her a lot. But she also kind of likes her new sisters! Wants a nice dad! (WHERE IS HE THO.) And she doesn't get crushed and crumpled by the superstrictness, but it definitely torments her the entire time. Ughhhh I felt so much for her.

It also discusses religion and beliefs very deeply.

There's a lot of discussion about Jehovah's Witnesses and also the kind of belief system where you are your own god. I was just a bit like: ehhhhh. I'm not into reading either of those. BUT. Books are about expanding your horizons, so it was interesting.

The writing absolutely kept me captivated! Perfect pacing and I never wanted to look away. Plus it just kept the emotional tension up SO high. I felt engaged and addicted the whole time. Plus there's the subplot of there's *another guy* who is claiming to be Tiffany's father and she's like ?????? So you can imagine the stress of that as well.

OTHER THINGS I LOVED:

? pretty much 90% POC cast! with Tiffany being black + her new family being biracial

? it basically has no romance! but maaaybe hints of one

? Marcus, the next-door neighbour black boy who paints his face white and is uber weird, is ADORABLE and I did like him

? great anxiety rep a+

? character development for EVERYONE

? it balances fun and light scenes and sUPER EMOTIONAL and devastating ones
? all the secondary characters were so dimensional instantly!
? i honestly would read anything by this author after this

This is definitely the kind of contemporary that's going to stay with me! It's an emotional explosion though, and I raged SO MUCH at so many sections. It made me livid what Tiffany had to go through. It's definitely a book about **bad things happening to good people** and Tiffany was the kind of narrator I instantly loved and rooted for! So much talent squished into 300pgs!

Fadwa (Word Wonders) says

Actual rating: 2.5 stars

TW: Ableism, abuse of an autistic character, fatphobia, physical assault, homophobia, biracial erasure.

This book would have been an instant 5 stars if only, IF ONLY, it hadn't had some iffy content. Tiffany has anxiety and OCD and moves in with her super strict dad that she had no idea existed, his wife and their four daughters, and seeing her navigate all those relationships while also dealing with grief and her mental illness was absolutely amazing. I loved her journey and the exploration of faith, especially losing it, through her own struggles. But that was all ruined at some parts by a few things:

- A lot of ableism, besides the use of ableist language such as crazy and half mute, there were a couple instances where having tourette's was used as a throwaway comment, one describing Tiffany's sister who talks fast, and the other one, her dad who was tapping on his forehead (what?).

There was also abuse of an autistic toddler, which was called out in text many times, but very uncomfortable to read, and could possibly trigger autistic folks if they ever come to read this book.

- One fatphobic comment where Tiffany refers to a fat very minor characters as a pig.

- Last but not least, what affected me personally was the underlying tone all throughout the book that biracial people are less black or not really black at all and it's never challenged. There's a discussion around light skin privilege which is 100% valid, real and necessary, and while raising some important points, the execution of it was hurtful. The constant invalidation of biracial folks was unnecessary. There's an instance where Tiffany's best friend tells her "but they're not really black" referring to her sisters, and one where Tiffany calls a black boy whose skin is described as honey brown as white (his dad is white and mom black). And... yeah, no. That absolutely ruined the book for me and made me uneasy.

Yusra ? says

very conflicted.

Dahlia says

This was a really fast and absorbing read that pairs really nicely with HOME AND AWAY by Candice Montgomery, thematically. I loved the touch of their family being Jehovah's Witnesses, because that's really not something I've seen in YA (and now I'd really love to see a YA from the POV of a teen who actually is

one, especially if they embrace and love it). Will definitely be picking up whatever Davis writes next.

Rebecca McNutt says

I received a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Anybody remember that 1990's sitcom *The Nanny*? This book reminded me very much of that in many ways as it follows a girl who knows nothing about the family she'll be moving in with. In this case, she has recently lost her mother and soon finds herself about to meet an estranged father whom she's never known before, and will it be worth it, or is his own family just nothing like she's prepared for?

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now is a really impressive novel with a great plot, balancing funny and sad moments to create a story about the importance of family without getting preachy about it. The main character is easy to relate to and has a unique personality, making her stand out a lot from the usual YA heroines of modern fiction. I think though what really made this one memorable for me is its vivid descriptions of everything from the scenery to the characters, making the story come alive on the pages as Tiffany tries to maneuver her way around this new family while coping with the death of a loved one all at once.

Cori Reed says

Incredibly enjoyable. I loved Tiffany's character a whole heck of a lot!

Maraia says

I'm having a hard time sorting out my thoughts about this book. I absolutely adore the main character, Tiffany Sly. She's bold, she speaks her mind, she doesn't let herself be bullied into following orders blindly, and she suffers from anxiety and OCD. Like Tiffany, the author is black and has anxiety, so the representation is of course great. I also appreciate that there wasn't any romance in the novel!

However, this feels very much like the debut novel it is, and I found the plot hard to believe. The basic premise is that Tiffany's mom dies and she's sent to live with her biological dad, whom she's never met, and her (surprise!) stepmom and sisters. Her dad is a horrible person, however, and that never really changes, despite the author's half-hearted attempts to show that he's slowing learning from his mistakes. That fact alone makes the whole book implausible in my mind. (I don't want to say more about this because of spoilers.) Also, the two-year-old sister is autistic and is essentially abused by her parents, particularly by the dad. It's never acknowledged as abuse, and left a bad taste in my mouth.

Overall, this book was stressful to read in the sense that Tiffany suddenly has no control over her life, and that's something I always find difficult to read about. Tiffany is such a great character, though, that the book is worth reading for her alone, as well as for a few other side characters I grew to love.

Joce (squibblesreads) says

3.5 stars

Erika Cruz says

I am an avid reader of YA sci-fi and fantasy. TIFFANY SLY is the very first YA contemporary novel I've ever read, and I am glad it was because I'm hooked. I have a newfound love for YA contemp thanks to this book!

Basic premise without spoilers: 16 y/o girl's life is turned upside down after her mom dies and discovers the dad she goes to live with might not really be her dad.

I was so impressed with the writing. Dana L. Davis is such a powerful writer with a robust voice. She brought every character to vibrant life and made Tiffany a strong, likeable character. Despite that, she is vulnerable and has believable flaws.

There's more folks. Not only are the voice and characters great, but the story is intense. I could not put this book down. The story is emotional, fast-paced, heart-wrenching, and satisfying. There was no romantic subplot, and the book was still very strong without one.

The author is so talented she even made the adult characters intriguing and fully-developed. Even though some characters had terrible flaws, I found myself cheering for them and seeing a clean, meaningful resolution to their arcs. My favorites turned out to be Marcus, his mom Jo (ooh that girl knows how to knock someone off their high horse!), and Margaret the stepmom. And even Anthony—I loved and hated him! Just like Tiffany did!

It doesn't stop: good characters, great voice, good story and—and element of mystery and suspense? Good lord Ms. Davis, I'm sold. I really hope she continues to publish because she's just earned herself a new fan.
5/5 stars

Jazmen says

I am Tiffany Sly, and she is me.

I have to admit this book surprised me. I wasn't sure where this book was going to go, because I admittedly did NOT read the blurb for this book.

I seen the cover, and honestly--that was enough for me. I have to pat myself on the back--because I did well. This was a great read.

Tiffany Sly's Mom dies from cancer--and Tiffany is sent to live with the father she never met--in a totally new state. BUT, before she leaves, another man comes forward, claiming to be Tiffany's Dad. She promises to keep this secret for seven days. Seven days until he demands the DNA test, and his timing could not be worst.

When I started reading this book, I seen so much of myself in it, I was both thrilled and frightened.

It has often been said, that African-Americans in general, don't play close enough attention to mental health. So, I appreciated this take on mental health. I appreciated the author's presentation and approach on Tiffany's anxiety.

I'm no expert on anxiety, but as someone who suffers from some form of it, I can say her depiction is pretty accurate--scarily so.

Aside from that, Tiffany's character is completely relatable. Her search for her place in the world, trying to fit in, while standing out--it's a place we often find ourselves in; both as young adults and adults.

The family dynamic was initially overwhelming for both the reader and for Tiffany--but it was a perfect fit for the story--and the development of the plot.

I won't say much about it, because I want you--the reader, to experience it on your own--with all of it's surprises, and revelations.

I will, however, briefly talk about the father. He was infuriating in his ignorance, but understandable. As a Christina, I often find the portrayal of overzealous Christians (or similar religions), frustrating. I know there are people like that, so I get it.

Anyway, the author did a good job of portraying both sides of the religious coin.

And before I finish this review, I want to talk about Marcus--my favorite character. With a white painted face, and a dysfunctional heart--Marcus weaseled his way right into my heart. His words were few, but their impact was big. His character was wise beyond his years, and deeper than most intellectuals. His part in the book was minimal but he pushed Tiffany forward, and I absolutely loved his character. I loved him so much, I would love to see in a book by himself.

This book was absolutely necessary in the same way the black lives matter novels are--because in the same way that we need novels that take a stance against racial injustices, mental health representation for WOC is just as important.

I appreciated this book for what it represented and for its entertainment.

The religious back and forth was a bit heavy-handed, but after a while I was able to look passed it. The story is worth it, and the characters are even more worth it. A great debut.

Kristen says

THIS WAS SO GOOD! Read it in less than a day. Perfection. I laughed and cried. I'm declaring yhis my favourite YA read of 2018!

Michelle says

"What happens when God doesn't answer prayers?"

This is the question that Tiffany Sly asks herself after her mother succumbs to leukemia. On her sixteenth birthday Tiffany finds herself flying across the country to meet her father for the first time. When she arrives at his home she is greeted by her siblings and stepmother -- the family she never knew existed until now -- and finds herself at the mercy of her father's stringent house rules. It is enough of a struggle to confront the loss of her mother. But how is Tiffany expected to handle these new family dynamics that are rooted in an unfamiliar religion especially when she herself has lost faith in God? Matters are made worse by revelations that Anthony Stone may not be her father. Another man has stepped forward claiming that Tiffany is his daughter. Tiffany cannot reconcile his claims with the woman that she knew as her mother, even though she sees some of herself in this other man. She also cannot fathom the havoc that these revelations will have on her Grammy and her new family.

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now is a complex YA novel about family, faith and belonging. Despite the fact that issues such as grief, mental disorders, and faith are woven into the fabric of the story, Tiffany Sly manages to be refreshing at its core. Dana L. Davis has written a wonderful debut novel that I am glad I had the pleasure to read. Big thanks to NetGalley, Harlequin Teen and Dana L. Davis for a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Shanti says

This is an incredibly complex novel, and one that fits a lot into its short timeframe, which was fully impressive. I loved Tiffany Sly and I love all the pieces of her that Dana L. Davis uses for her story. Above all this was a story about family (Grace, if you're reading this: there's no romance!). To Tiffany, family has meant one thing: her mother and grandmother. Now, her mother is dead and her grandmother is in Chicago, and Tiffany has a new family and more questions than she's ever had before. Tiffany's new dad seems like a good guy, but he's really strict, she has a bunch of siblings by different mothers, and then she had another person who may or may not be her dad. Family is hard even for those of us lucky enough to have two biological parents who are living and still together. The situation is almost absurd but never stops being believable, which is why the story is so compelling. Davis places Tiffany in a situation where she can ask questions about and to family, and uses that to create something really powerful. Family is so, so difficult, this book says; but that doesn't mean it doesn't mean something. It was actually painful to read this book at times, because it made me so sad--but there were angry and weird conversations, and then eventually there was healing. Not total healing, mind you, but still healing.

I loved the character of Tiffany. She felt fully authentic. I liked that she was courageous, even if she didn't always feel courageous, and prepared to stick up for the people who mattered her. She was still kind of dumb--but she is/was a teenager, and so am I, and so that can be forgiven. Her mental illness, and her understanding of it, was really well written, and I appreciated it. I liked how loyal she was--to Marcus, of course, but also to her mum and London. She was just a really earnest character, who was figuring out where she fit in the world, and her growth over the story, as she figured out when to listen and when to be brave, was great.

I also loved the discussion of religion in this book. Religion doesn't tend to play a big role in YA in general, so this was a real change, and worked really well in my opinion. I don't know much about Mormonism, so it was interesting that those beliefs were explored a bit more in depth. I thought that Marcus's beliefs about power and energy were also interesting, though wish that they'd been interrogated by the narrative a bit more.

Tiffany's unbelief was good too--part of being a family is figuring out what beliefs you share and which ones you don't. I liked that this story had lots of conversations about the various natures of faith.

Dana L. Davis deals magnificently with many nuances of life, and belonging. I really appreciated the grace of this narrative, and resolution, which was open but not ridiculously open (if that makes sense, lol). Please read this book for courageous conversations about faith, race, belonging, sisterhood, friendship, and homecoming.

Dana L. Davis says

SPOILER ALERT: I wrote this!

It's been my dream to tell a story that travels out into the world and I'm thrilled to share seven days in the life of 16-year-old Tiffany Sly with all of you. Though Tiffany is dealing with some pretty heavy stuff, she's also got a lovable Spirit and a sense of humor that will (hopefully) make you laugh out loud. This inspirational, family story begs the question...what if what doesn't kill you DOESN'T make you stronger. What then? My hope is that through Tiffany discovering the answer to that question, you'll consider her a kindred Spirit and a reminder that sometimes what we truly need...is just a little help from our friends... and family too :)

Acqua says

I'm not sure where to start. Maybe with the fact that **this book's message is that it's a good idea to forgive your abuser because that will make them change.**

I mean, I don't know if that's what this book was trying to be, but that's what happens.

Tiffany Sly Lives Here Now is the story of Tiffany, a 16-year old black girl whose mother is dead. She has to move in with her father's family - but they already have four other daughters, and Tiffany isn't actually sure of who her father is.

Also, **her new family are Jehovah's Witnesses, and Tiffany isn't.**

I really liked Tiffany. She's a girl who recently went through a traumatic event which affected her deeply; I liked her narration and I also loved the portrayal of her anxiety and OCD (finally a book with a mentally ill main character which is intersectional! Also the main character has more than one illness!), and the anxiety representation is ownvoices.

That's where the good things end.

Tiffany's dad is abusive. I feel like it wasn't meant to come across that way, that he was just supposed to be a strict, religious person, but what happens in this novel is abuse, and **the way it's dealt (or: not dealt) with was, for me, disturbing.**

What Tiffany's dad does during this book:

- withholds Tiffany's anxiety medication;
- withholds food and water from the *three-year-old autistic daughter* when she throws a tantrum;
- says he wants to cure his daughter's autism;
- hits his autistic daughter;
- tries to force his faith on Tiffany;

- hits Tiffany when she talks back (once);
- doesn't let Tiffany see her friend because he has two moms;
- controls his kids' access to everything: texts, social media, internet, and does many other controlling things.

This isn't being strict or religious, this is abuse.

And we're supposed to think everything is fine because he apologizes at the end of the book? For this forgiveness theme to work, he needed to be a far less horrible person.

Let's talk in detail about some things that bothered me:

Tiffany often talks back to her father, because he's horrible, there's no way around it, but even if it had been just teenage rebellion, he should never have hit her.

After Tiffany has been hit, she wants to leave, but then her grandma tells her that... she needs to apologize. And Tiffany does, and thinks she's an hypocrite because she punched one of her classmates when she was angry and what's the difference between that and what her dad did?

I don't know, two decades of age? The fact that he's hitting a minor? The power imbalance? Just thoughts.

Also, "your abusive father will change if you give him enough chances" is a dangerous message to give.

Religious abuse.

I almost never see YA books deal with what it means to have a religion forced on you, and when they do they often downplay the consequences. Tiffany's dad forces his religion on her multiple times, and it was painful to read, because I have been in a similar situation. And then the book doesn't deal with it properly. Religious abuse isn't usually considered serious because who is hurting you thinks they're doing all of it for your own good, and if you try to talk about it with anyone, you get told about the *good intentions*.

(They make you feel terrible for not believing and for not believing that they're actually helping you. From personal experience, what happens is that they think things like public humiliation are fine, because the end justifies the means! They're saving you!)

Near the end, Tiffany's dad apologizes for trying to force his faith on her, and says he can "respect where she's right now", but believes that "God will show Himself to her eventually!" and... from personal experience, that usually means "I won't try to convert you right now, just later".

I don't buy it. I don't buy anything about his character development.

Abuse of an autistic child

And to the last, most unnecessarily painful part of this book. Pumpkin, the three-year-old autistic girl, is repeatedly abused. Her parents hit her because she throws tantrums. She is a child with sensory issues who gets overwhelmed, and hitting her will not cure her sensory processing disorder or her autism.

Why was Pumpkin even autistic? Her family constantly hurts her, and **the abuse isn't even dealt with**. Her dad says he wants to cure her (which can't happen) and this is never challenged, and we're supposed to think that by the end of the book everything is fine because he will try to learn more about autism...? And we're supposed to forgive Pumpkin's parents because they didn't know any better. But they knew she was autistic, and yet they didn't do any research.

This is the kind of book that makes me wonder whether the author ever thought that autistic people or people with sensory issues would read her book.

(one day I *will* find a book in which there is a character with sensory issues who is not laughed at or constantly abused. I'm tired of seeing characters like myself being comic reliefs, whiny side characters or victims.)

The rest of the book was mostly unremarkable. There was no romance, which I appreciated, but the

friendship between Tiffany and Marcus felt fake because Marcus felt like a caricature (I... really don't like the Chronically Ill Wise Young Person stereotype, it almost feels like inspiration porn and I'd rather not see that? Especially in a book where there's already bad disability representation.)
