



## Indigo Girls

*Penni Russen*

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## Indigo Girls Penni Russon

*Zara's an alpha - the first letter of the Greek alphabet. She's popular. I'm more like one of the obscure letters in the middle that no one's ever heard of - an omicron or something.*

Zara, Tilly and Mieke go to different schools and live in different social worlds. But for two weeks every summer they're the Indigo Girls - surfing, bushwalking, or just hanging out at the campground or the nearby resort. This year Mieke doesn't show up, and Zara and Tilly - the queen bee and the geek - are left circling each other, unsure how to relate without Mieke in the middle. Soon it becomes a summer of change and a summer of secrets; a summer for losing themselves but finding each other.

## Indigo Girls Details

Date : Published February 2008 by Allen and Unwin

ISBN :

Author : Penni Russon

Format : Paperback 180 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Indigo Girls for online ebook

### Courtney says

This book was pretty good but I didn't really like Tilly's story. I liked and understood Zara's but not Tilly's.

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### Radford Secondary Library says

Zara, Tilly and Mieke go to different schools and live in different social worlds. But for two weeks every summer they're the Indigo Girls - surfing, bushwalking, or just hanging out at the campground or the nearby resort. This year Mieke doesn't show up, and Zara and Tilly - the queen bee and the geek - are left circling each other, unsure how to relate without Mieke in the middle. Soon it becomes a summer of change and a summer of secrets; a summer for losing themselves but finding each other.

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### Judith says

Allen and Unwin have just launched a new series of fiction for teenage girls under the Girlfriend Fiction banner. Girlfriend is a magazine ostensibly for teenage girls—which means it's probably mostly read by tweens or girls in early adolescence, which makes me wonder a little about the audience for the new series.

I've read one of the first to be released (there will be eight per year), *The Indigo Girls* by Penni Russon, and it's good! Certainly a cut above what you might expect of a magazine tie-in—which I assume is Allen and Unwin's intention—and streets away from the series fiction for teenage girls of years gone by. Yes, there's romance, but it's not soppy Mills and Boon Junior—the characters are fully drawn and the plot is not centred on the romance. Rather, identity is at the heart of *The Indigo Girls*, and while sexuality is part of that, it's more to do with the central female characters, Zara and Tilly, figuring stuff out about themselves. Family and friendships are the primary relationships of interest.

Returning to the question of readership for a moment, some of the content of *The Indigo Girls* is pretty mature. Zara is receiving sexually explicit bullying SMS texts from an unknown source, and there's her backstory of walking in on one of her friends "servicing" her—Zara's—boyfriend at a party. I'm not unduly concerned about younger teens reading this—they are exposed to more explicit material in less "responsible" contexts than this well-written and observed novel, but I do suspect the books may be pitched at a slightly older readership than the magazine actually attracts. The "If you liked Girlfriend fiction, you might also like..." link lists some very mature YA titles, like *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*.

Still, this very mild reservation aside (and I'm not even sure it's a reservation, more an observation), if *The Indigo Girls* is any indication, the Girlfriend fiction are a welcome addition to mid-range fiction for teenage girls, books that address their interests and concerns with a contemporary edge and not a whiff of condescension. And they look good, too!

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## **Braid95 says**

it is one of those book you read but never again. it is to dramatic

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## **Casey says**

just great

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## **Meaghan Mallia says**

people said it wasn't worth reading so i didn't actually get past chapter 1

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## **Angela says**

Absolutely loved this book! It made me angry, sad, happy! All examples of a great book. If you can get a book to emanate all the emotions then it is well worth the read. I wanted Eliza to succeed in growing indigo.

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## **Tina says**

The tie-in with Girlfriend magazine made me think the worst - that this'd be another schmaltzy teenage puff piece - but I was pleasantly surprised! This is a well crafted, interesting story. The characters have real depth and the storyline is completely believable.

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## **Deborah says**

if I tried to describe the plot, it might sound like lots of other YA novels - and I guess in many ways it is. the central characters are teenagers; they're dealing with issues in their families, with their friends, with self-image and identity - yet Penni Russon's writing makes this one of the most unexpected books I've read.

the characters develop and interact in ways I didn't expect, and the plot twists avoid the obvious. there's a great sense of place. the girls' voices and characters are distinct (Zara seems to be suffering from depression some of the time), each with their own strengths and weaknesses.  
their experiences are quite tangible, whether they're surfing, Zara is running, Tilly is struggling to walk fast, or they're wearing clothes they're not used to...  
the families are also well drawn.

one of my favourite bits is when Tilly has been dancing - something she doesn't normally do - and feeling both self-conscious and uncertain, and can't decide whether to run away or stay:  
"I dithered, which is almost the same as dancing, but with less swaying."

recommended for anyone who enjoys character-based YA realism, self-discovery, tales of friendship, and coming-of-age stories.

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### **Jessi says**

Wow, all I can say is wow. It's a true friendship story and it's just amazing! I love how both the girls changed so dramatically! Penni Russon is in my top 5 fave authors, this book is definitely a must read!

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### **Alisha Brook says**

Title: Indigo Girls

Series: Girlfriend Fiction (#2)

Author: Penni Russon

Genre: Teen Fiction

Rating: 3.5 stars

This is a wonderful story of friendship, finding oneself (identity) and learning about love.

It follows one summer of friends, Zara and Tilly. This summer things are different. The girls are different, they are each battling identity issues, Tilly may be falling in love, and Zara is hiding something huge. Plus they are both worried about how to interact with the other given that their other friend Mieke isn't going to be there for another week - she's usually the buffer to Zara and Tilly being complete opposites.

It's one heck of a summer that's for sure.

And a really great book. :)

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### **Tilli says**

oh my gosh, Love it

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### **Tash says**

I REALLY liked this book! Something that I would recommend!!

You really feel that you become a part of the characters' lives knowing anything and everything about them. It was a book for me, hard to put down :)

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### **Amanda says**

The Indigo Girls by Penni Russon is set in the fictional suburb of Indigo Bay. Each year Zara, Tilly and Mieke go camping with their families and they spend the summer together. This year, Mieke is delayed for a week, and both Zara and Tilly are worried about how they will go hanging out just the two of them, as they are very different girls.

I loved both Zara and Tilly. Tilly is the eldest child and admits to being bossy and always wanting to be in charge. But she's also honest and doesn't feel that she's as good as someone like Zara. Zara is a popular girl but she's also insecure and doesn't feel as though she has any true, close friends. She's still reeling from an incident at a recent party and is receiving anonymous text messages.

Both girls admire each other's qualities and want to be more like the other. The events of this first week together bring them closer together as they try to swap personalities one night and then go night surfing, which doesn't end well.

This book was really sweet and Tilly often made me laugh. I enjoyed watching the girls interact and figure out that they could have a good time together.

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### **Emily says**

Get book I carnt wait to read the rest of the girlfrind fiction books.

I reckon this book was really good shows two different personalities that are "Same, Same, But Different." If you know what I mean.

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