



# This Is What Happy Looks Like

*By Jennifer E. Smith*

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When teenage movie star Graham Larkin accidentally sends small town girl Ellie O'Neill an email about his pet pig, the two seventeen-year-olds strike up a witty and unforgettable correspondence, discussing everything under the sun, except for their names or backgrounds.

Then Graham finds out that Ellie's Maine hometown is the perfect location for his latest film, and he decides to take their relationship from online to in-person. But can a star as famous as Graham really start a relationship with an ordinary girl like Ellie? And why does Ellie want to avoid the media's spotlight at all costs?

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## **This Is What Happy Looks Like By Jennifer E. Smith Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #58954 in Books
- Brand: Poppy
- Published on: 2013-12-24
- Released on: 2013-12-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x 1.13" w x 5.50" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-This well-crafted, character-driven love story opens with an endearing prologue told in emails. When 16-year-old Ellie O'Neill accidentally starts an exchange with a stranger, she doesn't expect their virtual conversations to turn into a romance. But over the course of a few months, that's exactly what happens. Ellie doesn't know the boy's name until he shows up on her doorstep. He's Graham Larkin, a famous movie star whose next film just happens to be shooting in her quiet Maine town. While most of the girls are dying to be in her shoes, she has reservations. Ellie is the illegitimate daughter of a prominent politician, and her mom moved them to escape the unrelenting media. Now they struggle financially in order to maintain their privacy. Graham's life is anything but private. However, though he is handsome and wealthy, the teen is also lonely and uninspired. His parents, uncomfortable with his fame, choose to distance themselves from him, while his controlling manager wants Graham to date his beautiful costar for the good publicity. Despite those obstacles, Ellie and Graham sustain a sweet and genuine romance. Their chemistry is undeniable, and readers will wonder about their love story long after the last page. An excellent recommendation for fans of Maureen Johnson.-Kimberly Garnick Giarratano, Rockaway Township Public Library, NJα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

When "GDL" gets an e-mail address wrong, the surprise recipient, "EONeill," decides to reply. The two develop a deep and intimate rapport despite guarding their true identities. But down-to-earth movie star Graham Larkin is certain that Ellie is someone special, and he lobbies to shoot his new movie in "the middle of nowhere, Maine," Ellie's hometown. Ellie is shocked to learn who Graham is, and she is anything but thrilled by the prospect of dating a teen heartthrob. Meanwhile, the paparazzi trailing Graham threaten to upturn the quiet, carefully constructed life Ellie and her mother have nurtured to smooth over a high-profile secret. The shared third-person narration lends a quiet insight into these two likable characters whose histories and flaws are relatable and fully fleshed out. The blend of celebrity glitz and small-town coziness gives this summer love story a pleasant frame, and it will leave readers wishing for more time with this endearing couple as the sun rises on their last morning together. Grades 8-11. --Heather Booth

Review

\* "Engaging from the first page."?VOYA, starred review

"Like Smith's *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, this sweet novel has a premise worthy of the movies...[The] charming leads, smalltown backdrop, and absurdly romantic conceit will win hearts."?Publishers Weekly

"Utterly convincing...a cast of vivid, sympathetic characters whose fate matters to readers and keeps them turning the pages."?Kirkus Reviews

"The blend of celebrity glitz and small-town coziness gives this summer love story a pleasant frame, and it will leave readers wishing for more time with this endearing couple as the sun rises on their last morning together."?Booklist

"Ellie and Graham sustain a sweet and genuine romance. Their chemistry is undeniable, and readers will wonder about their love story long after the last page."?School Library Journal

"Undeniable chemistry...Ellie and Graham's connection, 'like the pull of a magnet, powerful and inevitable,' lingers on beyond their wistful but optimistic goodbye."? *The Horn Book*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jesse Fox:**

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#### **Gail Kennedy:**

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