It's a Wonderful Lie - 26 Truths About Life in Your Twenties

In this original collection, critically acclaimed female writers pull back the curtain on being twenty-something. Entertaining and enlightening, this anthology speaks honestly about that unique time in life when expectations are not always realized, yet surprises are plentiful and thrilling.

At Face Value

Being yourself should be simple—as plain as the nose on your face In this modern retelling of the classic Cyrano de Bergerac, seventeen-year-old Cyrie is a brilliant, athletic, and funny girl with a witty retort for each of the endless big-nose jokes she endures. But despite her talents and charm, she is convinced that all anyone sees is her nose. No guy—especially not Eddie “Rox” Roxanninoff—would ever find her appealing. When Rox shows interest in Cyrie’s shy friend Leyla, Cyrie soon finds herself writing Leyla’s emails to him, expressing her own true feelings. But watching her crush fall for her best friend may be more than she bargained for. Will Cyrie find the courage to come clean and trust that Rox will accept her for who she is?

The Half-Life of Planets

“A smart and unusual romance just about right for fans of John Green.” —Booklist Liana’s decided to boycott kissing this summer, hoping to lose her reputation and focus on planetary science. Hank has near-encyclopedic knowledge of music and Asperger’s syndrome. When they meet by chance in a hospital restroom, neither one realizes that their friendship will change everything. If Liana’s experiment goes as planned, she’ll learn to open up, using her mouth for talking instead of kissing. But Hank’s never been kissed and thinks Liana might be the one to show him . . . if he can stop spewing music trivia long enough to let her.

Labor of Love

Love finally connects with her mother—and finds her whole world turned upside down Big changes are afoot for Love Bukowski. Just when she meets her half-sister for the first time in Los Angeles, she gets a call from her long-lost mother and hops a plane back to Martha’s Vineyard. Love is ready to embrace the new and exciting steps toward her senior year—but in Massachusetts, she finds more than she bargained for. Her mom is still not there, her boyfriend, Charlie, has changed from a down-to-earth guy into someone she’s not sure she knows anymore, and her old flame Jacob is wearing his heart on his short-sleeved tee. She could use some advice, but her dad doesn’t have all the answers. Arabella’s in California, and her best buddy Chris has distractions of his own. Only one woman can clear things up—one who’s never been a part of Love’s life before.
Liner Notes

How do you share the soundtrack of your life? Just out of grad school, Laney is ready to embark on a new phase of her life. Leaving California to head back east, she’s got three thousand miles to reflect on her past before moving ahead to the future. With a box of mixed tapes at the ready, she envisions a trip spent reminiscing about first crushes, high school, family issues, and college loves and losses—her most precious memories. What she doesn’t picture is her mother in the seat beside her—which is exactly what happens when her mom invites herself along for the ride. Soon, Laney’s giving her mother a crash course in retro hits from her formative years—and a history of her life that her mom never knew about. As they roll through the American landscape, Laney and her mother discover that their lives are no one-hit wonders.

Summer of Love

School’s out for summer, but Love’s romantic education is still in session. Senior year of high school looms large for Love Bukowski after a tumultuous junior year of romance and heartbreak. But for now, Love is ready for summer break on Martha’s Vineyard. Running her aunt Mable’s café with her best friend Arabella may not be glamorous, but it will at least be fun and perhaps just the refresher she needs after the crazy year she’s had. Plus, Mable’s created a treasure map of clues that will bring her closer to the truth about her family. Though the past is starting to look clearer, the future is anything but. Love’s three months of freedom will end with big questions about college (and Jacob). For now, the boys of summer are more appealing than ever, and the summer of Love is about to begin . . .

The Other Half of Me

A New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age: How do you define family? Jenny Fitzgerald is an artist who never fit in with her sports-obsessed parents and siblings. Still, she loves her family—even if she doesn’t relate to them. Even if, unlike her younger siblings, Jenny’s father is Donor 142. She’s always known the truth, but before now, it hasn’t seemed to matter much. But this summer—her sixteenth—is different. Where does Jenny really belong? Her parents don’t understand her artwork (and her boss at the studio isn’t even convinced she has talent), her twin sisters are so close it hurts (and it’s good at hurting Jenny), and she’s not entirely sure why she has a crush on jock Tate Brodeur (not that he’s noticed her . . . yet). To find her true self, Jenny begins to search for the one person who might really understand her—someone biologically connected. With Tate’s help, Jenny consults the Donor Sibling Registry, and before she knows it, she has discovered a half sibling. Alexa is witty, impulsive, and desperate to meet. Jenny’s convinced her genetic other half is the key to having a family, but when Alexa shows up unannounced, Jenny’s world changes in ways she never could have predicted.

Off the Trails

The Chalet Girls have left the icy mountains for hot beaches and sizzling surfer boys. Melissa is ready to escape her job—and mismanaged love life—at Les Trois Alpes. On the West Indian
island of Nevis, she finds new opportunities to cook things up at a high-end restaurant—and with a new crush. Harley has been a beach bum since she arrived—she can't hold a job and recklessly flirts with the one person who could ruin her friendship with Lily. And speaking of Lily . . . she has finally been reunited with the guy of her dreams. But now that they’re together, is he really all she wanted? With the lure of the sand, surf, and steamy romances, will the girls ever want to go back to the slopes?

**Balancing Acts**

Three girls find romance and friendship while working at the most exclusive ski resort in Europe. At Le Trois Alpes, Harley, Melissa, and Lily (a.k.a. Dove) find a place to run away from their pasts. Small-town Colorado girl Harley scored the coveted hostess job—even though she’s got attitude to spare. She hopes to start a new life with rich and famous friends—and perhaps a cute guy. Melissa just arrived from Australia and is ready to cook. But things heat up fast for her when her ski-pro ex-boyfriend just happens to make his way to the slopes. And Lily is really wiping the slate clean: With a new name and lowly maid status, no one needs to know about her society-girl history. If the Chalet Girls can manage to balance their jobs, crushes, and hidden pasts, they are in for one hot winter!

**Jenna & Jonah's Fauxmance**

Teen TV celebrities Jenna and Jonah (real names, Charlie Tracker and Fielding Withers) make more money in a month than most people do in a lifetime. They can't stand to be in the same room as each other, but to boost the TV ratings their agents make them a “real life” couple. Then the deception is uncovered by the paparazzi, and Charlie and Fielding have to disappear to weather the media storm. It's not until they're far off the grid of the Hollywood circuit that they realise there's more to each of them than shiny hair and a winning smile.

**The Learning Network**

Join us on Dec. 9 as we introduce our new Profile Contest and discuss how finding, interviewing and photographing interesting people can teach useful academic and life skills. How many recent ...

**Movie Reviews**

from its beleaguered people to sickly koalas. By Nicolas Rapold In this quiet masterpiece, Ryusuke Hamaguchi considers grief, love, work and the soul-sustaining, life-shaping power of art.

**Books**

November 24, 2021 • Books We Love (formerly known as NPR's Book Concierge) is back with a new name and 360+ new books handpicked just for you by NPR staff and trusted critics.