



BEST
BOOKS

AUTHORS

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

★ Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love

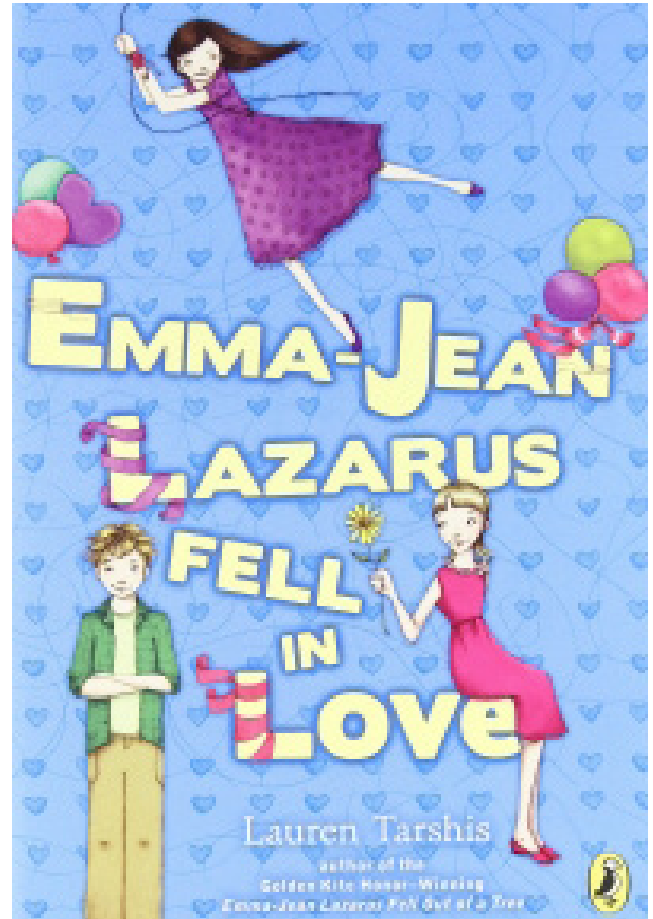
Lauren Tarshis, Author

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Tarshis proves she “gets” adolescent female friendships (not to mention seventh grade) in this funny and empathetic follow-up to *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*. For the first time, the intensely analytical Emma-Jean has friends among her peers (as she refers to them) and, like them, she is preoccupied with the girl-invite Spring Fling. Emma-Jean considers asking basketball star Will, though they have little in common—he’s been kind to her and causes a “fluttering of her heart.” But she ends up sorting out the dance-related woes of fragile Colleen (whose point of view is

explored in certain chapters). Fans of the first book will be pleased that the deadpan narration (“as a single cell can reveal the DNA code of an entire organism, the look in Kaitlin’s eyes told Emma-Jean everything she needed to know”) and Emma-Jean’s observations are as amusing as ever. (“Adolescent males engage in conspicuous displays to attract the attention of females,” is her explanation of cafeteria boisterousness.) Her blossoming appreciation for emotions that logic can’t explain, sympathetic supporting characters and an uplifting finale will warm hearts. Ages 10–14. (May)