



One Mixed-Up Night

Catherine Newman

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Two best friends on the run... to IKEA.

Frankie and Walter aren't really running away. Just like the kids in their favorite book, they are running *to* somewhere. Specifically, a massive furniture store. They've been obsessed with the Ikea catalog for years. So they make a plan, pack their backpacks, give their parents the sleepover switcheroo . . . and they're in.

One night all on their own, with no grown-ups or little brothers.

One night of couch jumping, pillow forts, and unlimited soda refills.

One night of surprises and twinkle lights and secrets they have been keeping--and waiting to share.

One unforgettable night in Ikea.

A tribute to the beloved classic *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler!* Only, instead of running away to the Metropolitan Museum, these kids are running away to somewhere a little more modern...

One Mixed-Up Night Details

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Author : Catherine Newman

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From Reader Review One Mixed-Up Night for online ebook

Diana says

This juvenile novel is (enchantingly) set at IKEA, and is a tribute to *The Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, a kid's book from the 1960s about kids who run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The children in *The Mixed-Up Files* sleep in historical beds and fish coins out of the fountains to use in the vending machines to get food. When I was a child and loved *The Mixed-Up Files*, this sounded like the most beguiling plan. In *One Mixed-Up Night*, two 11-year-old friends, Walter and Frankie, a boy and a girl, hatch a plot to spend the night in IKEA. They're not running away, because their families are great, affectionate and funny. They just want to spend the night in the special magicness of IKEA (and really, who wouldn't). Also, Frankie wants to recapture some of the closeness with Walter that feels like it's gone missing while he grieves a loss.

This is a lovely book, fun, sweet and satisfying. I do reference and reader's advisory at the library, and I have the perfect patron for this book, so after I finished it, I put it on a shelf to save for her. She likes books about friendship and books that make her both laugh and cry, and this is perfect, warm and funny and occasionally sad. I also like to find her books like this one with protagonists who just happens to be people of color (as opposed to books that are mainly about their race) as she is black, and there are still so few books that offer that.

Jennie K. says

A heartfelt and adorable story about, yes, Ikea, but more deeply, about friendship, family, and loss. Newman nails a lot of feelings here. I can't imagine this sweet, fun adventure not appealing to the majority of middle-graders.

Joy Lane says

very good for 4th-6th grade...Staying overnight in Ikea is cute idea for a story line for an adventure, but it's also a very tender way to incorporate the topic of a friend who's father has died. As I got to the middle of it, I was wondering how it would end, so I loved the way it ended.

Abbie says

This book was very intriguing, and I wanted to read it since FOREVER! I loved all the scary moments, and I would recommend this for 4-6 graders.

Karen says

This was a sweet little read, with so much of Catherine Newman's charm baked in. I ding it a little just because the ending wraps up a little too easily (the kids either needed to have a smaller impact on Ikea and have it end as it did, or they needed to face a little higher consequence for the impact they did have), but it was just a fun, quick read and very moving at times. Also, my son and I are reading this right at a time when we're doing a lot of Ikea furniture shopping, so it's very relevant to us :)

Tory says

This charming, funny book is a love letter to *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by way of IKEA -- or is it the other way around? Whichever way you choose to look at it, it was a fast, fun read, with GREAT voice and tone. I loved the writing style; the dialogue was authentic; the characters were realistic; and Zeke, the toddler, was hilarious. I know I've already used the word "charming," but it just WAS! It's the kind of book that you'll breeze through in a couple hours (I think it actually only took me one) in bed on a lazy morning and finish with a nice long stretch and a big ol' grin. I can't wait to send my ARC off to my mom for her to read it! I'm also going to be looking for more of Catherine Newman's work, since her voice was just plain easy-breezy and fun.

(Plus, in the thank-yous, Newman mentions her cat, Craney Crow, which I can only assume is a nod to Elizabeth Enright's *Gone-Away Lake*. HEART EYES!)

Carol says

I woke up last night at two a.m. feeling too hot and I knew that my husband enjoying his just right temperature. So I decided to finish *One Mixed UP Night* by Catherine Newman in the livingroom with the ceiling fan going strong. There were two friends, both six graders who had known each other from kindergarten who thought of themselves as Nerds. They had a passion for a well known furniture chain store.

The two, Frankie (a girl) and Walter plan an overnight stay at the store and have a lifetime of different adventures and reveal their secrets to each other.

This not telling you much of what happened, that is for you to discover but one of the best things things in this book is that the author lets the kids think about the consequences and also discuss some very serious topics in their lives. The writing is spot on but I loved reading the thoughts of the kids.

I received this Advanced Reading Copy by making a selection from Amazon Vine books but that in no way influenced my thoughts or feelings in this review. I also posted this review only on sites meant for reading not for selling.

Paula says

On the surface this is the story of two upper middle class kids in love with IKEA. So much so that they plot to spend a night in the store after their parents take them shopping. But as we all know there is more to a story than meets the eye. While they discover all the joys that IKEA has to offer after hours, we discover that Frankie and Walter's lives aren't as joyful as we might think. We also discover that they aren't alone in that

IKEA. A quick and engaging read for kids who've ever dreamed of spending the night exploring some place, or who enjoy stories about kids who overcome challenges.

Ms. Yingling says

Public Library Copy

Well, this was fun. Frankie and Walter have been friends forever, and for weird reasons love IKEA. They pore over the catalog, and love it when their families go there to shop and eat Swedish meatballs. After reading *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, they decide to spend the night in the store. Things go decently until they get a little carried away with candles and set things on fire, bringing a security guard.

Strengths: Nice friendship and adventure, even if I don't understand IKEA. Supportive families (loved the recipe researcher mom!), natural consequences-- very fun story that will be popular.

Weaknesses: I would have liked this better if the children had NOT caused damage, but had managed to do their entire night without detection. Also could have done without the father dying, but at least it was handled in a realistic, hopeful way. Walter's family tried to keep a stiff upper lip, but needed more help in the end and got it.

What I really think: This might entice children to pick up the *Konigsberg* title, and it was a quick, fluffy read. Will purchase.

Kit Feral says

That was completely ridiculous and adorable.

marilyn says

Just so sweet and delightful and smart. Catherine Newman is the best. These two kids stole my heart.

Caroline says

I loved this. Catherine Newman really understands the tricky emotions of 6th graders, family dynamics, and our complicated feelings about IKEA.

Abby Johnson says

In a twist on *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenweiler*, best friends Frankie and Walter "run away" to spend the night in their most beloved place - IKEA. This is a fun adventure story coupled with an emotional undertone as the reader and the kids themselves begin to understand why they needed this night of adventure so badly.

Young readers who love the concept of kids spending a night on their own in a place they're not supposed to be will dig this. Personally, it stressed me out a little bit ("You kids are NOT SUPPOSED to be doing that!!") and I think the ending was pretty romanticized. This also might be a good choice for kids dealing with grief or who have friends dealing with grief.

D.J. Sylvis says

Oh my gosh, I'm glad I read this. I was expecting it to be fun (I'm a huge, HUGE fan of Mixed-Up Files), but I didn't expect it to be so deep and moving and ... just go read it. Now. Like, now. <3

Trevor says

A fun, fluffy read about spending the night at IKEA! Walter & Frankie have been obsessing over the catalogues for years; it's the perfect place to take a breather. They make it clear they aren't running away, but rather towards something. Frankie feels that Walter hasn't been himself lately & is hoping that a trip with just the two of them will heighten his spirits. And what better place to rejuvenate at than the massive chain store? (No sarcasm here; I've only been to the physical store once & it was both one of the best/worst experiences of my life. I just found Frankie & Walter's descriptions of admiration so ??). Newman does such a great job of capturing this.)

Of course there is a dash of heaviness when it's revealed Walter is still reeling from his father's death from brain cancer. He explains the grief & feeling the weight on his shoulders, something he most likely wouldn't have felt safe sharing had they not taken the trip. The trip doesn't happen without flaws, but I liked that it raised the issue of Walter to the surface, that the trip prompted him to be able to receive the help his family needed.

I enjoyed the interaction between Walter & Frankie & smiled at some comical moments. The pacing felt right, though it wouldn't have hurt to be longer. I do wish a bit more time had been spent on the families. (I especially loved the concept of Frankie's mom being a recipe tester/reviewer.) ONE MIXED-UP NIGHT is loosely based off of 'Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler' & this modernized tale makes for a nice addition in a MG collection.
