
EVERY-
THING
ALL AT ONCE

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AKA POLARBEAR

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

For you,
holding this book in your hand right now
You are brave and you are brilliant
Remember that always



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PROLOGUE

What's it about then?
Well,
It's about the tapestry of moments, woven of a thousand threads.
Different versions of the world swirling inside a thousand heads.
We go from the biggest to the smallest, dropped off, left to fend,
in the secondary school jungle jumbled enemies, new friends.
It's a war zone. It's a haven. It's a stage full of bright lights.
It's a series of scary alleyways walked on a dark night.
Always moving. Unforgiving.
Full of music. Full of living.
Zoom in. One mind. Split screen. Another mind. Another mind.
Another mind. Another mind.
And another mind.
All together. Same place.
Same walls. Same space.
Every emotion under the sun. Faith lost. Victories won.
It doesn't stop.
Until the bell. Now it's heaven. Now it's hell.
Who knows? Not me.
I just wrote what I can see.
So what's it about?
Here's my response:
It's about Everything, All At Once.

EVERY EMOTION UNDER
THE SUN. FAITH LOST.
VICTORIES WON.

IT DOESN'T STOP.

UNTIL THE BELL. NOW
IT'S HEAVEN. NOW
IT'S HELL.

WHO KNOWS? NOT ME.

FIRST DAY

It looks like a spaceship
a jagged silver spaceship
windows like portals
reflecting the light
no
it looks like the head of
a massive metal monster
its sliding glass mouth
with teeth ready to bite
no
it looks like it sprouted right
out of the floor
ripped through rock, dirt and gravel
burst out of the ground
no
it looks like it fell
from some alien planet
crash-landed on earth
with some terrible sound
no
it looks like
it looks like
I don't know what it looks like
Massive and scary

Noisy
Alive
I feel like a mouse
stepping into the jungle
Tell my mum that I love her
I'm going inside.