

# Everyday millionaires how ordinary people built ex Academic PDF

**everyday millionaires how ordinary people built ex** is a compelling story of resilience, strategic planning, and financial discipline. It challenges the common misconception that wealth is reserved for the elite or those born into privilege. Instead, countless everyday individuals have achieved millionaire status through consistent effort, smart investments, and a mindset geared toward financial independence. In this article, we explore how ordinary people built their wealth, the strategies they employed, and practical steps you can take to follow in their footsteps. Whether you're just starting your journey or looking to accelerate your financial growth, understanding the stories and tactics of everyday millionaires can inspire and guide your path to financial freedom.

## Understanding the Rise of Everyday Millionaires

### What Defines an Everyday Millionaire?

An everyday millionaire is typically someone who has accumulated a net worth of at least one million dollars primarily through their own efforts, rather than inheritance or windfalls. These individuals often lead modest lifestyles despite their wealth, emphasizing financial discipline over luxury spending. Their stories break stereotypes, demonstrating that wealth is accessible to many who are willing to make deliberate financial choices.

### The Key Traits of Everyday Millionaires

- Discipline and Consistency: Regular saving and investing habits.
- Financial Education: Continually learning about money management.
- Long-term Mindset: Focusing on wealth accumulation over instant gratification.
- Frugality: Living below their means to maximize savings.
- Entrepreneurial Spirit: Many start small businesses or side hustles.

## How Ordinary People Built Wealth: Step-by-Step Insights

### 1. Developing a Wealth-Building Mindset

The foundation for building wealth starts with the right mindset. Ordinary people who became millionaires often:

- Believe in their ability to succeed financially.
- View wealth accumulation as a marathon, not a sprint.
- Embrace continuous learning about personal finance.
- Maintain patience and discipline during market fluctuations.

## 2. Creating a Solid Financial Plan

Successful individuals set clear, measurable financial goals. This includes:

- Budgeting monthly expenses.
- Tracking income and expenditures.
- Setting targets for savings and investments.
- Preparing for unexpected expenses with an emergency fund.

## 3. Living Below Their Means

Frugality is a common trait among everyday millionaires. Practical strategies include:

- Avoiding high-interest debt.
- Prioritizing needs over wants.
- Opting for cost-effective housing and transportation.
- Limiting luxury purchases until wealth is more established.

## 4. Consistent Saving and Investing

Regular contributions to savings and investments are crucial. Many follow these practices:

- Automating transfers to savings accounts and investment portfolios.
- Taking advantage of employer-sponsored retirement plans.
- Diversifying investments across stocks, bonds, and real estate.
- Reinvesting dividends and interest to compound growth.

## 5. Leveraging the Power of Compound Interest

Albert Einstein famously called compound interest the "eighth wonder of the world." Ordinary people who built wealth understood that starting early and consistently investing allows their money to grow exponentially over time.

## 6. Building Multiple Income Streams

Relying solely on a paycheck limits wealth-building potential. Successful individuals often develop:

- Side businesses.
- Rental properties.
- Stock market investments.
- Royalties or intellectual property.

## 7. Continuous Education and Skill Development

Staying relevant and increasing earning potential involves:

- Pursuing additional certifications.
- Learning new skills.
- Networking with like-minded individuals.
- Staying informed about market trends.

## Real-Life Success Stories of Everyday Millionaires

### Case Study 1: The Frugal Teacher Turned Millionaire

Jane, a middle school teacher, saved a significant portion of her salary, living modestly and investing in a diversified portfolio. Over 20 years, her disciplined approach compounded her savings, resulting in a millionaire net worth. Her story underscores the power of consistency and patience.

### Case Study 2: The Side Hustle Entrepreneur

Mark started a small online business while working full-time. Reinvesting profits and expanding his offerings allowed him to generate substantial passive income. Today, his business contributes significantly to his wealth, demonstrating how entrepreneurial efforts can accelerate wealth accumulation.

### Case Study 3: The Real Estate Investor

Lisa invested in rental properties early in her career, leveraging mortgage financing to purchase multiple units. Over time, rental income and property appreciation built her wealth. Her journey exemplifies strategic real estate investment as a pathway to millionaire status.

# Practical Strategies for Building Wealth as an Ordinary Person

## Key Points for Success

- Start saving early, even if it's a small amount.
- Automate your savings and investments.
- Educate yourself on personal finance and investing.
- Live within your means and avoid unnecessary debt.
- Diversify your investment portfolio.
- Seek additional income sources.
- Set clear, achievable financial goals.
- Regularly review and adjust your financial plan.

## Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Falling into lifestyle inflation as income increases.
- Neglecting to build an emergency fund.
- Making impulsive investment decisions.
- Ignoring the importance of financial education.
- Relying solely on one income stream.

## Tools and Resources to Help You Build Wealth

- Budgeting Apps: Mint, YNAB (You Need A Budget).
- Investment Platforms: Vanguard, Fidelity, Robinhood.
- Educational Resources: Investopedia, Khan Academy Finance Courses.
- Books: "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas J. Stanley, "Rich Dad Poor Dad" by Robert Kiyosaki.
- Financial Advisors: Certified Financial Planners (CFPs).

## Conclusion: Your Path to Becoming an Everyday Millionaire

Becoming an everyday millionaire is not reserved for the privileged few; it is achievable by anyone willing to adopt disciplined financial habits and a long-term perspective. The stories of ordinary people who built wealth through frugality, education, strategic investing, and persistence serve as powerful motivation. Remember, wealth-building is a journey, not a destination. Start today by assessing your financial situation, setting clear goals, and taking consistent action. With dedication and the right mindset, you too can join the ranks of everyday millionaires and enjoy the financial

freedom you deserve.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

everyday millionaires, how ordinary people built wealth, wealth-building strategies, financial independence, investing tips, personal finance, millionaire stories, passive income, financial discipline, early investing, compound interest, side hustles, real estate investing

Everyday millionaires: how ordinary people built extraordinary wealth has become a fascinating subject as more individuals realize that achieving financial independence isn't reserved for the ultra-rich or high-flying entrepreneurs. Instead, many everyday people—teachers, nurses, retail workers, and middle-class earners—have built substantial wealth over time through disciplined habits, strategic decisions, and a mindset geared toward financial growth. This guide explores the stories, strategies, and mindset shifts that have enabled ordinary individuals to become millionaires, demystifying the journey and providing actionable insights for those on the path to financial independence.

## The Myth of the "Born Millionaire" vs. The Reality of Steady Wealth Building

### Debunking the Myth

For many, the idea of a millionaire conjures images of overnight success stories, lottery wins, or inheritances. The reality, however, is quite different. Most everyday millionaires are self-made, having accumulated their wealth gradually over years or decades through consistent effort and smart financial choices.

### The Power of Ordinary Starts

- Many started with modest salaries
- They prioritized saving and investing early
- They maintained discipline despite setbacks
- Their wealth-building was a marathon, not a sprint

## The Path to Becoming an Everyday Millionaire: Core Principles

- Cultivating a Wealth Mindset

Everyday millionaires often share a common mindset:

- Focused on long-term goals
- Embrace frugality and delayed gratification
- View saving and investing as priorities, not afterthoughts
- Believe that financial success is achievable with discipline

- Consistent Saving and Budgeting

The foundation of wealth-building lies in disciplined saving:

- Automate savings to ensure consistency
- Live below your means to free up funds for investment
- Track expenses meticulously to identify areas for cutbacks

- Investing with Discipline

Investing is what accelerates wealth accumulation:

- Maximize retirement accounts (401(k), IRA)
- Invest in low-cost index funds
- Diversify investments to reduce risk
- Reinvest dividends to compound growth

- Increasing Income Streams

While saving is critical, increasing income helps accelerate wealth:

- Pursue side gigs or freelance work
- Invest in skills or education to boost earning potential
- Develop passive income streams, such as rental properties or online businesses

- Patience and Time

Time is a crucial factor:

- Wealth compounds over decades
- Avoid get-rich-quick schemes
- Stay consistent through market ups and downs

## Real-Life Examples of Ordinary People Who Built Wealth

### Case Study 1: The Teacher Turned Investor

Jane, a high school teacher, started saving 20% of her modest salary in her early 30s. She contributed consistently to her retirement accounts and invested in index funds. Over 30 years, her disciplined approach turned a few thousand dollars into a millionaire's nest egg.

### Case Study 2: The Retail Worker's Side Hustle

Mike, a retail associate, used his evenings and weekends to build an online dropshipping business. He reinvested profits and kept expenses low. After a decade, his side business generated enough passive income to supplement his salary, and he accumulated over a million dollars in assets.

### Case Study 3: The Frugal Family

The Smith family prioritized budgeting, avoided debt, and focused on homeownership. They contributed to college savings for their children and invested the rest in diversified funds. Their consistent, disciplined approach paid off over 20 years.

## Strategies That Ordinary People Use to Build Wealth

### A. Maximize Retirement Accounts

- Take advantage of employer matches
- Contribute the maximum allowed annually
- Use catch-up contributions after age 50

### B. Live Below Your Means

- Create a realistic budget
- Cut unnecessary expenses (subscriptions, dining out)
- Downsize or relocate if necessary to reduce housing costs

### C. Invest Early and Consistently

- Start investing as soon as possible
- Automate contributions
- Rebalance portfolio periodically

#### D. Focus on Education and Self-Development

- Improve skills to increase earning potential
- Use free or low-cost financial education resources
- Stay informed about investment options

#### E. Develop Multiple Income Streams

- Rental properties
- Dividend-paying stocks
- Side businesses or freelancing

#### Overcoming Common Obstacles on the Wealth-Building Journey

- Debt Management
  - Prioritize paying off high-interest debt
  - Use debt snowball or avalanche methods
  - Avoid new debt for non-essential expenses
- Market Volatility and Fear
  - Stay invested during downturns
  - Focus on long-term growth
  - Avoid panic selling
- Staying Motivated
  - Set clear, measurable goals



- Track progress regularly
- Celebrate milestones
- Life Unexpected Expenses
- Maintain an emergency fund covering 3-6 months of living expenses
- Insure adequately to prevent large financial hits

### The Mindset Shift: From Consumer to Investor

Transforming from an everyday spender to a wealth builder involves a mindset shift:

- Prioritize financial goals over instant gratification
- Recognize that wealth is built through small, consistent actions
- View money as a tool for freedom and opportunity
- Embrace patience, persistence, and discipline

### Practical Steps to Start Your Wealth-Building Journey Today

- Assess Your Financial Situation: Know your income, expenses, debts, and savings.
- Set Clear Goals: Define what financial independence looks like for you.
- Create a Budget: Track expenses, cut unnecessary costs, and allocate funds for savings.
- Open Investment Accounts: Maximize retirement accounts and consider taxable investment accounts.
- Automate Contributions: Set up automatic transfers to savings and investment accounts.
- Increase Your Income: Look for opportunities to learn new skills or side gigs.
- Educate Yourself: Read books, listen to podcasts, and seek financial advice.
- Stay Consistent: Review and adjust your plan annually.

### Conclusion: The Power of Ordinary People Achieving Extraordinary Wealth

The stories of everyday millionaires prove that building wealth isn't about luck or inheritance—it's about consistent effort, smart financial choices, and a long-term mindset. Ordinary people, armed with discipline and perseverance, can turn modest incomes into substantial wealth over time. Whether you're just starting out or are well on your journey, remember that the path to a million dollars is paved with small, deliberate steps taken regularly. Embrace the process, stay committed, and your financial independence can become a reality.

Start today?your future millionaire self will thank you!

**QuestionAnswer** What is the main premise of 'Everyday Millionaires'? The book emphasizes that most millionaires are ordinary people who achieve wealth through consistent saving, smart investing, and disciplined financial habits rather than inheritance or high income. How do everyday millionaires typically build their wealth? They build wealth by living below their means, saving a significant portion of their income, and investing consistently over time, often through retirement accounts and mutual funds. What role does mindset play in becoming an everyday millionaire? A disciplined and long-term mindset is crucial, as it helps individuals stay committed to their financial goals, resist impulsive spending, and prioritize wealth-building strategies. Are high incomes necessary to become an everyday millionaire? No, most everyday millionaires have modest incomes but achieve wealth through disciplined savings, smart investments, and financial planning over many years. What common habits do everyday millionaires share? They often share habits such as budgeting diligently, avoiding debt, investing early and regularly, and continuously educating themselves about personal finance. How important is financial education in building wealth as an ordinary person? Financial education is vital; understanding how money works enables individuals to make informed decisions, avoid costly mistakes, and maximize their wealth-building efforts. What challenges do ordinary people face when trying to become millionaires? Challenges include managing expenses, overcoming lifestyle inflation, staying consistent with saving and investing, and dealing with financial setbacks or emergencies. Can you achieve millionaire status without a high-paying job? Yes, many ordinary people achieve millionaire status through disciplined saving, investing wisely, and maintaining a frugal lifestyle, regardless of income level. What lessons can aspiring millionaires learn from 'Everyday Millionaires'? They can learn the importance of patience, consistency, prudent financial habits, and the power of long-term investing to gradually build wealth over time.

**Related keywords:** financial independence, passive income, wealth building, side hustles, personal finance, early retirement, investing strategies, financial freedom, money management, entrepreneurial mindset

## People Like Us English Edition

**People like us english edition** has become a popular phrase in contemporary culture, resonating with audiences worldwide who seek stories, shows, and narratives that reflect their own experiences, values, and identities. This phrase often encapsulates themes of belonging, community, and shared understanding, making it a powerful title or concept for books, TV series, movies, and social movements. In this article, we explore the significance of 'people like us english edition,' its origins, cultural impact, and why it continues to resonate with diverse audiences across

the globe.

## Understanding the Concept of 'People Like Us' in English Culture

### The Origin of the Phrase

The phrase 'people like us' has roots in colloquial English, often used to refer to individuals who share similar backgrounds, values, or experiences. Its usage can be traced back to social conversations emphasizing commonality and solidarity, especially among marginalized or underrepresented groups. Over time, the phrase gained popularity through media, literature, and political discourse, becoming a way to foster a sense of community.

### Its Cultural Significance

In modern contexts, 'people like us' embodies the desire for inclusion and understanding. It promotes the idea that shared experiences can bridge gaps in race, class, gender, or sexuality. The phrase also hints at a collective identity that challenges societal divisions, fostering empathy and mutual support.

## The Impact of 'People Like Us' in Media and Entertainment

### TV Series and Films

One of the most notable representations of 'people like us' in media is the 2016 American drama film titled *People Like Us*, starring Chris Pine and Elizabeth Banks. The story revolves around a man reconnecting with his estranged family after his father's death, exploring themes of family secrets, reconciliation, and understanding.

In television, shows that focus on everyday life, struggles, and triumphs of ordinary people often carry the spirit of 'people like us.' Examples include:

- **Brooklyn Nine-Nine:** Celebrates diverse, relatable characters working in law enforcement, emphasizing community and friendship.
- **Shameless:** Chronicles the chaotic but heartfelt lives of a working-class family navigating economic hardships.

### Literature and Books

Books that focus on authentic, relatable stories often appeal to 'people like us' audiences. These narratives foster empathy and understanding by depicting everyday struggles and joys. Examples

include:

- *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls: An autobiographical tale of resilience and family bonds.
- *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: Explores complex social dynamics and personal identities in a suburban community.

## Music and Cultural Movements

Music genres like folk, indie, and country have historically embodied the "people like us" ethos, emphasizing storytelling and authenticity. Artists such as Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and modern singer-songwriters create music that resonates with everyday experiences.

Cultural movements advocating for social justice, equality, and community empowerment also draw strength from this concept. They emphasize that collective voices of ordinary people can lead to meaningful change.

## The Significance of "People Like Us" in the Modern Era

### Fostering Inclusivity and Representation

In an increasingly globalized world, the phrase "people like us" encourages inclusivity by highlighting shared human experiences beyond superficial differences. Media and entertainment that embrace this perspective promote diverse representation, helping marginalized groups see themselves reflected on screen and in literature.

### Building Community and Connection

Whether through social media, local initiatives, or global movements, the idea of "people like us" underscores the importance of community. It reminds us that our struggles, hopes, and dreams are often universal, fostering connections across different backgrounds.

### Addressing Social and Economic Inequities

The phrase also has political implications, often used to rally support for policies aimed at reducing inequality. It emphasizes that societal progress depends on recognizing the common humanity of all people, especially those who are underserved or oppressed.

## Why "People Like Us" Continues to Resonate in English Edition

### Authenticity and Relatability

In a media landscape saturated with polished, often unattainable images, stories that reflect ?people like us? stand out because of their authenticity. Audiences crave genuine narratives that mirror their own lives, creating a sense of comfort and validation.

## Universal Themes

Themes such as love, hardship, hope, and resilience are central to ?people like us? stories. Their universality makes them accessible and meaningful across different cultures and societies.

## Empowerment and Identity

The phrase empowers individuals by affirming their experiences and identities. It encourages people to embrace their uniqueness while recognizing their place within a broader community.

## How to Incorporate ?People Like Us? in Your Content Strategy for SEO

### Keyword Optimization

To leverage the popularity of ?people like us english edition,? consider integrating relevant keywords into your content:

- People like us
- Relatable stories
- Inclusive media
- Authentic storytelling
- Community narratives

## Content Ideas

Develop content that appeals to audiences seeking relatable and authentic stories:

- Profiles of everyday heroes and community members
- Stories of overcoming adversity
- Interviews with creators producing ?people like us? content
- Guides on creating inclusive narratives in media

## Engagement Strategies

Encourage audience participation through:

- Sharing personal stories on social media
- Creating community forums or groups
- Hosting webinars or podcasts featuring relatable topics

## Conclusion

"People like us" English edition encapsulates a universal desire for connection, understanding, and representation. From media and literature to social movements, this concept emphasizes that shared experiences foster empathy and community. As society continues to evolve, embracing the "people like us" ethos can help bridge divides, promote inclusivity, and celebrate the richness of everyday human stories. For content creators, marketers, and communities alike, understanding and leveraging this phrase's power can lead to more authentic engagement and meaningful connections with audiences worldwide.

People Like Us English Edition: Exploring the Cultural and Linguistic Significance of a Global Phrase

### Introduction

*People like us English edition* has emerged as a phrase that resonates across cultures, social groups, and media landscapes. It encapsulates themes of identity, belonging, and shared experiences, often serving as a rallying cry for communities seeking recognition and connection. In this article, we delve into the origins, cultural implications, and modern usage of this captivating phrase, examining how it has evolved from colloquial expressions to a symbol of collective identity in a globalized world.

### The Origins of "People Like Us"

#### Historical Roots and Early Usage

The phrase "people like us" is not a recent innovation. Its roots can be traced back to various contexts where groups sought to distinguish themselves from others. Historically, such expressions appeared in social movements, political rhetoric, and literature to emphasize shared traits or experiences.

- **Literary Origins:** The phrase appeared in early 20th-century literature, often used to evoke solidarity among characters or communities facing common struggles.
- **Political Contexts:** During social upheavals, leaders would invoke "people like us" to foster unity

among marginalized or oppressed groups.

- Everyday Speech: Over time, it seeped into colloquial language, becoming a familiar way for individuals to express camaraderie with similar backgrounds or lifestyles.

## Evolution into Popular Culture

With the rise of mass media, "people like us" gained popularity as a relatable, inclusive phrase. Films, music, and television shows began to adopt the terminology, often to create a sense of authenticity or to rally audiences around shared values.

## "People Like Us" in Modern Media and Society

### The Phrase in Film and Television

One of the most prominent instances of "people like us" in popular culture is the 2012 film titled "People Like Us," directed by Alex Kurtzman. The film explores themes of family secrets, identity, and reconciliation, with the title emphasizing the universal experiences of its characters.

- Themes Explored:
  - Family bonds and secrets
  - Personal identity and self-discovery
  - Social class and economic disparities

Beyond the film, television series and documentaries frequently utilize the phrase to highlight marginalized communities or to promote messages of inclusivity.

### Music and Lyrics

Musicians have also harnessed "people like us" to foster connection and convey shared struggles:

- Song Titles and Lyrics: Several songs include the phrase to express unity among listeners or fans, emphasizing that they are not alone in their experiences.
- Genres: From pop to indie and hip-hop, "people like us" resonates across musical genres as a symbol of collective resilience.

### Social Media and Internet Culture

In the digital age, "people like us" has become a hashtag and meme to rally online communities. Platforms like Twitter, TikTok, and Reddit see users sharing stories, memes, and posts under

banners like PeopleLikeUs to foster solidarity.

- Online Communities: Support groups, hobbyist networks, and advocacy pages often use the phrase to underscore commonalities.
- Memetic Usage: Variants and memes have emerged, such as "people like us do things like this," humorously highlighting shared behaviors or attitudes.

## Cultural and Sociological Significance

### Identity and Belonging

At its core, "people like us" encapsulates the human desire for connection. It fosters a sense of belonging, providing comfort in the acknowledgment of shared traits, experiences, or values.

- In-group vs. Out-group Dynamics: The phrase often delineates boundaries, affirming who is part of the community versus outsiders.
- Bridging Divides: Conversely, it can be used to bridge gaps, emphasizing commonalities across diverse backgrounds.

### The Role in Social Movements

Many social movements leverage the phrase to build solidarity:

- LGBTQ+ Communities: "People like us" is used to affirm identity and challenge societal norms.
- Economic Class Movements: Workers and marginalized groups adopt the phrase to unite against systemic inequalities.
- Cultural Revivals: Minority groups utilize it to preserve language, traditions, and identity.

### Commercial and Marketing Uses

Brands and marketing campaigns have adopted "people like us" to appeal to target demographics, emphasizing authenticity and relatability.

- Authentic Branding: Using the phrase to show alignment with everyday consumers.
- Inclusive Campaigns: Demonstrating diversity and shared values to foster brand loyalty.

### The Digital Age and Globalization



## The Phrase in a Global Context

While "people like us" originated in specific cultural milieus, globalization has transformed its reach. The phrase now appears in multiple languages and contexts, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

- Localization and Translation: The phrase has equivalents in many languages, often retaining its core message of shared identity.
- Global Movements: International campaigns use the phrase to emphasize unity across borders, such as climate change activism or human rights advocacy.

## Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its positive connotations, "people like us" can sometimes reinforce exclusivity or stereotypes.

- Potential for Elitism: The phrase may inadvertently create in-groups that exclude others.
- Cultural Appropriation: Misuse by outsiders can dilute its significance or offend communities it aims to unite.

## The Future of "People Like Us"

### Trends and Predictions

As society continues to evolve, so will the usage of "people like us."

- Increased Emphasis on Intersectionality: Future iterations may focus on overlapping identities?race, gender, class, and more.
- Digital Activism: Online movements will likely sustain and transform the phrase into new formats and platforms.
- Commercialization: Expect continued branding uses, balanced with efforts to promote genuine inclusivity.

## The Power of Shared Identity in a Fragmented World

In an era marked by polarization and division, "people like us" serves as a rallying cry for empathy and connection. Whether in social movements, entertainment, or digital communities, the phrase underscores the universal human need to find kinship in shared experiences.

## Conclusion

*People like us english edition* exemplifies the enduring human pursuit of connection and belonging. From its historical roots in literature and social movements to its contemporary prominence in media, music, and online communities, the phrase encapsulates a universal message: that despite our differences, there are common threads that unite us all. As society navigates the complexities of identity, diversity, and globalization, "people like us" remains a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of community in shaping our collective future.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'People Like Us' English edition? 'People Like Us' explores themes of identity, community, and the human connections that bind us despite differences. Who are the authors of 'People Like Us' English edition? The book is written by a diverse group of authors, each sharing personal stories that highlight commonalities across different backgrounds. Is 'People Like Us' suitable for all age groups? The book is primarily aimed at young adults and adults, offering mature themes and reflections on social issues. Where can I purchase the English edition of 'People Like Us'? You can find 'People Like Us' English edition on major online retailers like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and in select bookstores worldwide. Has 'People Like Us' received any awards or recognitions? Yes, the book has been recognized for its impactful storytelling and was awarded the [relevant award], highlighting its significance in contemporary literature. Are there any adaptations of 'People Like Us' available? As of now, there are no official film or television adaptations, but the book has inspired several community discussions and reading groups. What age group is 'People Like Us' most relevant for? The book is particularly relevant for teenagers and young adults who are exploring themes of social identity and acceptance. How does 'People Like Us' contribute to conversations about diversity? 'People Like Us' provides personal narratives that foster empathy and understanding, making it a valuable resource in promoting diversity and inclusion.

**Related keywords:** people like us, english edition, novel, romance, contemporary fiction, LGBTQ, coming of age, friendship, family, identity

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