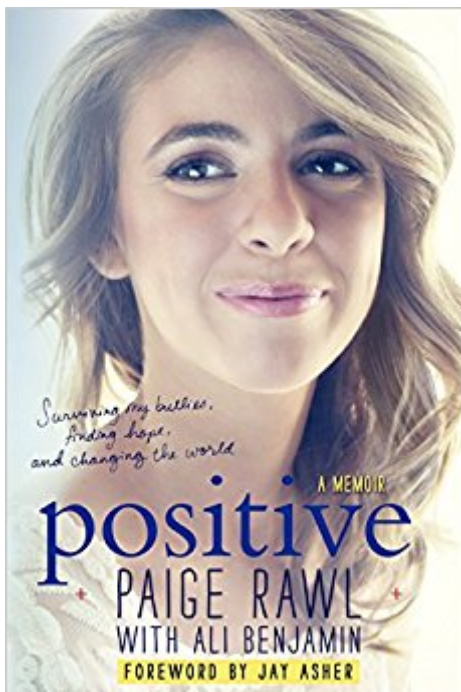


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# Positive: A Memoir



## Synopsis

An astonishing memoir for the untold number of children whose lives have been touched by bullying. Positive is a must-read for teens, their parents, educators, and administrators—a brave, visceral work that will save lives and resonate deeply. Paige Rawl has been HIV positive since birth, but growing up, she never felt like her illness defined her. On an unremarkable day in middle school, she disclosed to a friend her HIV-positive status—and within hours the bullying began. From that moment forward, every day was like walking through a minefield. Paige was never sure when or from where the next text, taunt, or hateful message would come. Then one night, desperate for escape, fifteen-year-old Paige found herself in her bathroom staring at a bottle of sleeping pills. That could have been the end of her story. Instead, it was only the beginning. Paige's memoir calls for readers to choose action over complacency, compassion over cruelty—and above all, to be Positive. Includes twenty-five photos from Paige's personal collection throughout. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Rawl and Benjamin deftly capture the mindset of middle schooler Paige with anecdotes that reveal the teen's innocence and naivete. They tackle tough subjects such as suicide delicately but honestly. Readers will come away feeling inspired by Rawl's work as an HIV/AIDS speaker and anti-bullying advocate.” (Kirkus) “This realistic and honest biography of a young woman living with HIV will draw readers in, shedding light on this difficult topic. The book beautifully conveys what it's like to grow up with HIV, dispelling myths about the

virus and imparting useful knowledge. (School Library Journal)

Paige Rawl was an ordinary girl. Cheerleader, soccer player, honor roll student. One of the good kids at her middle school. Then, on an unremarkable day, Paige disclosed the one thing that made her "different": her HIV-positive status. It didn't matter that she was born with the disease or that her illness posed no danger to her classmates. Within hours, the bullying began. They called her PAIDS. Left cruel notes on her locker. Talked in whispers about her and mocked her openly. She turned to school administrators for help. Instead of assisting her, they ignored her urgent pleas . . . and told her to stop the drama. She had never felt more alone. One night, desperate for escape, Paige found herself in front of the medicine cabinet, staring at a bottle of sleeping pills. That could have been the end of her story. Instead, it was only the beginning. Finding comfort in steadfast friends and a community of other kids touched by HIV, Paige discovered the strength inside of her, and she embarked on a mission to change things for the bullied kids who would follow in her footsteps. In this astonishing memoir, Paige immerses the reader in her experience and tells a story that is both deeply personal and completely universal: a story of one girl overcoming relentless bullying by choosing to be Positive.

Wonderful book - great story illustrating how one girl not only stood up to her bullies - but created a beautiful life doing so. I have purchased several of these books to share with both the teens in my life & the little free libraries throughout my neighborhood. \*the last chapter is my favorite portion

This book is fantastic. I could not put it down and read it all within a day. Paige has been through so much in her short life and has blossomed into such an amazing person. There are parts in the book that will make you so angry at how our world views anyone different. Through all the bullying and heart break Paige has endured over the years, she shows us how you can be bigger than your enemies and your own fears and make something of yourself no matter the circumstances. I have recommended this book to everyone I know, especially families with children as they would benefit from reading another young adult's journey through hardships. Love the book and love the Author! If I could give it 10 stars I would!

As a grandmother whose 12 year old adopted grandson was recently diagnosed with HIV, Paige's book was extremely important reading. She clearly spelled out the various instances of bullying she experienced, and how/why her own reaction to these changed over time. It's obvious to me that kids

with HIV have to grow up very quickly - probably too quickly - in terms of understanding the societal stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. And how they do this without developing self-hatred - just as gay children have had to do - is a horrific challenge. Paige spells all this out so beautifully - how she went from her darkest days to sunshine. I'm so grateful to her for putting this experience into words for the world.

Anyone who has children in middle school or above, or who works with children, must read this book. We all know that bullying exists, but do we really take the time to think about the long term effect it has on the victims? Paige Rawl has been there and is bravely and poignantly sharing her story, striving to make a difference in this complicated world we live in. She shows how searching for the positive side makes us better people and helps us rise above those who suffer from fear of all that is different and unknown. Paige Rawl is my new hero and an inspiration for all.

It was a very good book from the beginning to the end.

I've never understood meanness of any kind. This poor family having to endure worse than meanness, I don't know the word to use... This young woman lets you know how it feels like to be the target of adult & peer bullying. I have a new Mom hero, right up there with Ryan White's Mom. This is a fast read, thank goodness, and you find your self cheering for both. I'm so glad Paige wrote this, people need to understand that words DO hurt, they DO devastate , they DO !

I got this book for my daughter as summer assignment but I decided to read before her. It was a good idea. The book shows all the bullying Paige suffered during her time at school and that made me think about all the kids that go through this every day. About how much the school attitude is important and parents too.

I found this book very poignant and inspiring. I fell in love with Paige Rawl and commend her for being so unveiled in this memoir. She has true fortitude and wisdom. This book has definitely become one of my favorites.

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