



## What's a Girl Gotta Do?

*Holly Bourne*

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**What's a Girl Gotta Do?** Holly Bourne  
HOW TO START A FEMINIST REVOLUTION:

1. Call out anything that is unfair on one gender
2. Don't call out the same thing twice (so you can sleep and breathe)
3. Always try to keep it funny
4. Don't let anything slide. Even when you start to break...

Lottie's determined to change the world with her #Vagilante vlog. Shame the trolls have other ideas...

## What's a Girl Gotta Do? Details

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Author : Holly Bourne

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## From Reader Review What's a Girl Gotta Do? for online ebook

### **Maddie says**

Lottie has always been the most vocal about her feminist views and that really comes across in What's A Girl Gotta Do? Calling out sexism isn't an easy undertaking, but it was so eye opening! If the other books dealt with feminism in addition to something else, this deals with it 100% head on, and it's such a fantastic read! I literally cannot wait until the novella comes out in November!

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### **Warda says**

“I wanted to be the sort of person who could face themselves in the mirror.”

[4.5] This book was gold. Holly Bourne is a gift to the YA book community. As an author in general. Tackling issues and creating discussions on topics such as, feminism, gender inequality and societal norms, that need to be spoken more often about in books. And she does it so well.

I loved Lottie as a main protagonist. As frustrating as she was at times, I absolutely love that she didn't back down from anything that would get in her way. Of getting her point across. She believed in herself, her cause and didn't give a flying fuck basically, what others thought. She was proud, fearless, reckless but also vulnerable. She was herself. Human.

I definitely came away from this book feeling rejuvenated, alive and wanting to be more outspoken about my beliefs, whatever they may be. And to not back down because society frowns upon it or people that are important to you not supporting etc. She was such a strong-minded character that I really appreciated.

I can't recommend Holly Bourne's books enough. It needs to be read by everyone, young and old.

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### **Abbie (boneseasonofglass) says**

4.5

this book was wonderful, such amazing feminism and friendships in this book, I love Evie, Amber and Lottie and I'm sad that I've come to the end of their story (I do still have a short story to read) but I wish I could read more about them

This wasn't my favourite out of the trilogy, I can't put my finger quite on why, I still loved it, but the other two just beat this one.

Holly Bourne writes such honest and real books and I just hope she continues tackling important issues like the ones in this series, she really is an amazing woman

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## Aditi says

*“When a man gives his opinion, he's a man. When a woman gives her opinion, she's a bitch.”*

----Bette Davis

Holly Bourne, an English bestselling author, pens an incredibly funny, enlightening yet powerful young adult novel, *What's a Girl Gotta Do?* which is the third book in the *The Spinster Club* series. This series welcomes Lottie, the teenage feminist heroine, who has started a spinster club with her best friends, is now eyeing for Cambridge admission while making a name for her video blog where she shames and trolls those who doesn't know how to respect women, but things get bit murky in a long run.

### Synopsis:

#### *HOW TO START A FEMINIST REVOLUTION:*

1. *Call out anything that is unfair on one gender*
2. *Don't call out the same thing twice (so you can sleep and breathe)*
3. *Always try to keep it funny*
4. *Don't let anything slide. Even when you start to break...*

*Lottie's determined to change the world with her #Vagilante vlog. Shame the trolls have other ideas...*

Lottie is back with her bffs, Evie and Amber and this time, their Spinster Club, which focuses on women's everyday battle against the men-dominated society, is on roll. More and more girls are signing up for the club and for Lottie, this is a perfect way to get extra credit for her Cambridge admissions. While Lottie waits up for an interview call from the most prestigious institution of her country, she decides to fight back for the injustice faced by the women on a regular basis, like Lottie who was simply sneered at by some old men at a rather dirty way which made her feel guilty and ashamed, and the sad part is that Lottie could not say or do anything to teach those men a lesson. This incident eventually plants the seed of the idea of starting up a video blog, along with the help of her Spinster Club friends, that will capture the shaming of such acts on live, but things get out of hand, when Lottie makes this idea way too serious, that gradually pushes away her close friends, her crushes and her parents away from her, and with so less time for the interview date, the dream to pursue her college degree at the prestigious college too seems very bleak. Can Lottie really change the world?

After reading this book, my expression was like, *“why haven't I read the previous books in the series before?”* No not because of the fact that I had difficulty in understanding the story line or about Lottie's actions, but mainly because of the author, who is a skilled and smart story teller. The way she have spun this tale with so a little funny anecdotes here and there and with a little flavor of teenage drama, along with a strong concept and message, this book turns out to be a complete package of fun, laughter, emotions and a lot of motivation. And not to mention about that crazy, very, very feminist and an eye-catchy book cover,

that aptly portrays and justifies the story.

The author's writing style is fabulous and really crisp and strong that screams out properly inducing emotions and ongoing real-life social drama, that will keep the readers hooked into the story till the very end. The narrative is absolutely free-flowing and is laced with hilarious yet sarcastic moments that will at times make the readers go ROFL or sometime feel pain. The pacing is really fast, as the story moves swiftly with Lottie's determination to change the mindset of the common people, by making them aware about the ideas of feminism.

The word "FEMINISM" screams out from each and every page of this book and Lottie successfully carries the baton of feminism till the very last line of this story. Well, it's really inspiring the way the author manages to convey her readers that it's necessary to stand up for the injustice, especially if a woman is a victim of verbal sexual harassment, and to fight back against it, no matter what their priorities are. The teenagers of this century can dress however they want to, can hang out with whomever they want to and can have opinions of their own, without being subjected to harsh judgement or abuse or harassment from the society. After reading this book, I'm pretty sure, teenage girls are going to find their own voice and the common people will be forced to ponder about their reaction and attitude towards this era's teenage girls.

The characters in this book are extremely realistic and are featured with their honest demeanor. The main character, Lottie, is very well developed, with her flaws, her shortcomings, her opinions, her impulsiveness, her understanding, everything makes her look real and easy to connect with for the readers. Lottie is brave, has a rocking attitude towards her cause and fight, also she has lots of emotions that run wild in some situations. Lottie is an epitome for all modern day teenagers. Her determination will motivate many girls of today's era. The supporting cast is also perfectly crafted and will leave an impression on the minds of the readers.

The author has successfully captured the voice and the mindset of a teenager girl and has also highlighted the emotional turmoil that she goes through while she is in a peer dilemma or in teacher's dilemma or in parents' dilemma. There is also a bit of romance that the author has innocently yet compassionately depicted into the story line, thereby making sure that the readers can feel that rush of a love affair between two young hearts.

In a nutshell, this is a must read story for each and everyone and I must say, parents must encourage their daughters to read this book, that is highly compelling, energetic and influential enough to bring changes even for a while.

**Verdict:** *A hilarious yet an inspiring read!*

**Courtesy:** *Thanks to the publisher from Usborne Publishing for giving me an opportunity to read and review an early copy of this book.*

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**Emer says**

I'm torn.

I love the feminism angle. It's bloody great. But good god do Holly Bourne's books seem to bleed into one another after a period of time. She has a particular style of writing that is very accessible but ultimately gets tedious. In each of her books her plots seem to follow a similar pattern and nothing feels fresh anymore.

She's incapable of writing well rounded supporting characters: the identikit boys and families all pulled from some book of stereotypical minor characters somewhere. And sometimes I felt she missed the mark with how she wrote her minor characters, both male and female, who opposed the feminist message. They were simply caricature type villains rather than real feeling people with a genuine differing opinion. And it's okay to have a differing opinion and still be a decent human being because of one big fat reason with the populace views on feminism; many people view it as excluding men. It's simply a case of lack of knowledge about the actual definition of what feminism is. It doesn't mean any gender is better than another, it simply means equality for all. And for a book with such a fantastically powerful and important message about raising awareness of everyday sexism the book wasn't perfect with how it treated those characters who were not exactly anti-feminism but were more ignorant of it as a belief in the equality for all.

But this is absolutely fantastic at exposing casual sexist behaviours and preconceived gender constructs that we are all guilty of using and following.

This is the third book in The Spinster Club series by Holly Bourne about a group of three female friends growing up in the uk. Each book follows a different lead character and can each be read as a standalone. However they are much better if read in order as events in earlier books are briefly referred to in this book.

As ever with this Spinster Club series Lottie is an incredibly likeable leading character who is far from perfect. Nothing worse than a Mary Sue type character and Lottie certainly isn't that. She's a perfect example of the concept of cognitive dissonance. She's feisty and flawed, confident and insecure, headstrong and independent yet also reliant on her friends and family. But above all she is an advocate for feminism and equality for all. She is fearless in her beliefs and an immensely admirable character and is a great role model for any young girl who reads these books.

I also very much appreciated the author's note at the end which recognised some of the shortcomings in her books regarding representing of other minorities and explained her reasonings and motivations.

A book with a five star message but not quite executed at that perfect level.

### **three stars**

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### **K. says**

HOLY HELL, THIS WAS AMAZING.

I've loved all three of the books in this trilogy, but this one is easily my favourite.

Reasons why I loved this book:

- So. Much. Amazing. Feminism.
- Seriously. So incredibly feminist.
- Wonderful friendships
- Adorable relationships
- Great representation of mental health issues
- It deals with difficult topics respectfully

Lottie is such an amazingly fierce character. I loved her activism, her determination, and the way that she

keeps going even when she feels like everyone hates her for it. I love her relationship with her friends and her antagonistic relationship with Will. I teared up multiple times and cheered multiple times.

All in all? A.M.A.Z.I.N.G.

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### **Morgane Moncomble says**

My new favorite of the series, probably. Lottie is such a mood.

Honestly, I just love this book so SO much. I loved everything about it, and I'm glad that Holly Bourne managed to correct this "white feminism" vibe that book 1 'Am I Normal Yet?' got.

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### **April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

INCREDIBLE.

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### **Sara says**

THIS TRILOGY. (WO)MAN. I CANNOT. IT IS TOO GOOD.

I came away from this book loving Lottie more than I ever thought possible.

I want to thrust this entire trilogy into the hands of every teenage girl in the country. NAY, THE WORLD.

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### **Sanne says**

I devoured this book. Honestly, I applaud to Holly Bourne to be so direct, unashamed and unapologetic speaking up about feminism in her novels. While the other two books had strong feminist themes, this one is so straight about feminism, that the whole plot is about a girl standing up and starting a feminism campaign because she's tired about the sexist bullshit all the girls have to put up with on a daily basis.

Although this book is fictional it deals with a lot of real shit going on in real life. Sexual harassment, rape, slut-shaming, it's real. Bourne shows the negative effect on women when they speak up to themselves, from rape to murder threats, from "meninists" who slut shame her, from girls who are so far deep in the patriarchy that they don't notice that they're sexist to their own gender (they are many girls in this book who say "I'm not a feminist" because they think feminism is about hating men).

This book is so, so important. While it shows negative effects, it also shows the positive side of feminism and why need it so bad. It shows how hard it can be to be a feminist, that you have to deal with your own hypocrisy and that you constantly have to unlearn the sexist stuff the patriarchy has put on you to control you (cellulite, shaving, inventing the word 'slut' to shame your sexual decisions, etc.) As Bourne herself states, she only could cover a small part of equality but honestly, that doesn't make the book less important. It shows it's necessary to speak up for yourself and others and raise awareness. It encourages you not to be silenced by people who are afraid to lose control over you. It deals with the fact that you have to look after others, but especially after you.

Thank you Holly for this wonderful journey you allowed me to go with Evie, Amber and Lottie, and telling me it's okay to be not perfect, but encouraging me to do good anyway. Please never stop writing and speaking up about those things because as with Lottie, there are people like me who listen to you and agree with you, and who will fight the battles with you, too.

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### **Claire says**

(2.5 stars)

\*sighs\* Same old issues with the same old series. Reading the acknowledgements at the end - 'I wasn't able to touch properly on feminism and how it relates to race or disability or sexuality, or gender identity or class'... and I just can't help but think why not? Why if the author is so passionate about these issues and systematic inequalities did we end up with 3 white straight protagonists exploring how to navigate heterosexual relationships with sometimes even pretty ??? men? (Can you tell I didn't like Will????). Looking at the recommended feminism at the back as well, I can't help but feel it confirms the 'white-staight feminism' issue I have with the Spinster Series (which can I note... Spinster has associations w/ lesbian history... and yet...); Caitlin Moran has famously (infamously???) been dismissive of feminism's intersectionality with race and has very twerf-y(trans women exclusionary) views, Emma Watson who's famously v. white feminism-esque... I don't know. I feel like the author has a solid feminist ideology from what I can gather from the paratext at the back of this book, which involves intersectionality sure, however ABSOLUTELY NONE of this ideology transfers through into the actual text and that upsets me greatly.

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### **Ruzaika says**

Received a physical copy from Usborne Publishing in exchange for an honest review. Another version of this review can be found [here](#)

*"I want to be the sort of person who could face themselves in the mirror."*

I couldn't believe my luck when I received What's a Girl Gotta Do? for review from the publishers- if you've read the synopsis (given below) you'll know why. A YA contemporary that exclusively deals with feminism? When did we last come across anything even remotely talking about feminism? I certainly don't remember and I'm sure you wouldn't too. In YA? Nah. It's therefore safe to say that I was really excited about reading this book, and given my tendency to take the easy way out in practically everything in life (not that I'm proud of it, oh no), I was really intrigued by this:

#### **HOW TO START A FEMINIST REVOLUTION:**

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*Lottie's determined to change the world with her #Vagilante vlog. Shame the trolls have other ideas...*

A girl who is determined to change the world when there were people like me who were prepared to lay low and take the easy way out? Yes, please. My expectations were undoubtedly at an all-time high, and I needed

to read it. However, despite this book promising to work well enough as a standalone, I wanted to read the first two books as well, because they did look really amazing, and they had been sitting in my TBR for too long already, and what better moment to pick them up than this? And so I did. I read both *Am I Normal Yet?* and *How Hard Can Love Be?* and trust me when I say they are so, so, SO GOOD. I really regret not picking them up sooner, but anyway, now that I did, I guess I can now yell in your faces- do yourself a favor and pick them up already!!! \*deep breathes\* Please. And now that that's out of the way, let me tell you why *What's a Girl Gotta Do?* instantly became one of my mostest favoritest books of forever.

The third installment in the one-of-its-kind *Spinster Club* trilogy by Holly Bourne is all about feminism. Where the first two books were Evelyn's and Amber's stories respectively, here it's all about Lottie and her quest to bring down the patriarchy. *What's a Girl Gotta Do?* is a powerful series-ender (even though it can be read as a standalone too, as I mentioned before), and works well as a book that speaks about all that comes along with being a teen feminist. It teaches how important it is to hold on to your beliefs, how important it is to keep going, even when the going gets tough.

After being sexually harassed on her way to college one day, Lottie decides she's had enough of it all and realizes it's high time she started standing up for herself and women everywhere. This makes her come up with the idea of calling out on every instance of sexism she sees in day to day life, filming it all and uploading the videos on her #Vigilante blog for one whole month. She has her best friends, Amber and Evie, and the FemSoc at college by her side to help her all the way through this, and a guy from Evie's film studies class, Will, offers to help her with the camera too- even though he didn't believe in the word "feminism"....!!!

Armed with clown horns to honk the second they spot something sexist, Lottie and her team go about their campaign enthusiastically, even as they face resistance from all quarters. However, as the campaign gathers steam, Lottie starts attracting online trolls who try to bring her down. This is not to mention having to deal with her parents who frown upon her activities, school mates determined to ruin her campaign and her grades which suddenly start suffering too. Incredibly stressed out and with both her sanity as well as her Cambridge interview in threat, Lottie finds herself in the difficult position of having to decide whether to go ahead with the campaign, or admit defeat. Does Lottie succeed or will her feminist revolution lose steam just as fast as it gathered it? You'll have to read this wonderfully thought-provoking book to find out!

“When you fight for what you believe in, you come across a lot of obstacles. People who don't agree with you, people who agree with you but only some bits, people who delight in ripping you down, people who are threatened by the strength of your belief.

But I was beginning to realise, the biggest hurdle to overcome was the hurdle of yourself.”

The author's writing style is as fantastic as always. If you've read her previous books, you'd know of her ability to perfectly balance serious undertones and comic ones, and it's no different here. Despite being quite long, the story is fast paced and filled with humorous, sarcastic anecdotes and for not one moment would find yourself feeling bored (I ended up reading the book even though I had my finals at uni two days later, so you can guess just how addictive it was!). The emotions are spot-on, and you'd find yourself being able to sympathize with the characters.

Just like in the previous *Spinster Club* books, Holly Bourne has once again managed to perfectly capture the voice of a teenage girl and convey her inner turmoil and feelings in a strong, unforced manner. Along with talking about serious topics comes the risk of sounding too preachy about them, but the author cleverly avoids doing that here. While this book deals mainly about feminism and all that it entails, we also get

teenage drama, friendship troubles, falling in love, dealing with parental and peer pressure and much, much, more, and all of this is handled so well and subtly that after reading this book you'd have a lot of thinking to do.

The characters in this book are all very realistic and well developed. Lottie, the main character, was extremely relatable. She was loud, she was flawed, she was insecure, she was spunky, she was frustrated...she was frustrating, and above all, she was human. It was very easy to imagine being in her shoes because what she went through, was what most, if not all, girls go through daily. However unlike her, most of us fail to do something about it, and thus this book serves as a great source of inspiration to anyone and everyone. The supporting cast was perfect, too. I loved her best friends, Evelyn and Amber right from the first book, so it was great to read about their lives now. Will, the cameraman, turns out to be quite an important character, and despite me wrinkling my nose at him at the beginning, he ended up being one of my favorite characters in the series!

*"I want to change things on my own terms, to show that there's no right or wrong way to change the world. There's no entry test. You don't need to suck anything up. Pay any dues. Just you and your anger and your voice is enough. If you only have the courage to use it."*

I definitely came away from this book feeling inspired and wanting to be more vocal about the many issues I generally tend to be silent about- this book makes you realize even if everything is against you, it is always worth fighting for something you believe in. The Spinster Club series will always be special to me, and it's not just because of the various Harry Potter and Enid Blyton references or cheesy snacks either! It doesn't matter if you're well past the intended age group, it doesn't matter if you're not into YA, it doesn't matter if you don't dig contemporary...it doesn't even matter if you don't consider yourself a feminist- this book is a must-read, and while you're at it, consider picking up the first two books too!

The story idea: 5/5

The realization of the story: 5/5

The characters: 5/5

The cover: 5/5 - I can't think of a more apt cover for this book! Love it!

Enjoy factor: 5/5

**Final Rating: 5/5**

PS: ...And a Happy New Year? is a novella that will be coming out this November- which means we'll get to see more of Evie, Amber and Lottie!!! I, for one, simply cannot wait!

PPS: You might want to check out my post about Feminism in YA, if you haven't already. Just click [here](#)! I also created a Pinterest board inspired by this series! Check it out [here](#).

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**Ashleigh (a frolic through fiction) says**

Originally posted on A Frolic Through Fiction

**RATED 4.5/5 STARS!**

I just... **ugh** . So many emotions.

I felt like sludge by the end of this book. In the best possible way.

**Let me explain:**

Holly Bourne has this wonderful way of making Lottie, Amber and Evie seem like real people. People you can – and are – friends with. So reading this book...well, I felt like I was going through all this with our dear Lottie. Which meant one hell of an emotional rollercoaster ride.

So when I read the second half of this book in one sitting and really felt everything, by the end I felt like sludge. Just this ball of gooey mess that didn't quite know which emotion to feel. You could have poked me and depending where it hit, I'd have either gone into a rant about anything and everything...or cried for Lottie out of both overwhelming sadness and happiness. Yes, at the same time.

**In other words, I was broken. Which is a good thing, because it meant this book really hit me hard. It's definitely a story that will stick with me.**

Now, this book is very much about Feminism. And I loved it. There's so many positive messages spread around this book. But even without the feminism, there's still things to be learnt from this book. Reading about how to cope with college work pressure. Or even the pressure of parents expecting you to do well. And how important friendships are. And, how the quote below very rightly says, our harshest judges are most often ourselves, not other people.

“I was beginning to realise, the biggest hurdle to overcome was the hurdle of yourself.”

**I just love how encouraging this story is.** It's fighting feminism but in a fun way (*think clown horns and cheesy snacks*). And yet it shows that even when you're not being particularly aggravating, it can be really REALLY difficult because many people will find a reason to argue. It shows the difficulties...and then focuses on the positives. Because that's what we need to remember. When things are hard, even the smallest reason to put a smile on your face is completely 100% worth it.

There did come a time when the amount of arguing became a bit exhausting and tedious...but I didn't have much of a problem with that, because **THAT'S THE POINT**. It made me feel what Lottie felt at that point in the story, and like everything in this book, it's important.

Somehow, a book full of heavy topics felt like a lighthearted read. And I honestly think that's why it'll stick with me. It wasn't a murky swamp I had to trudge through to get to the other side. It was a quick jump into the life of a very ambitious teenager who, quite frankly, I want to be more like. If I could be even the slightest bit like Lottie... **well, I'd be thrilled**.

I'm glad there's a novella coming out. There were a few loose ties in this book, and I know if there wasn't a novella, I'd have probably kicked up a fuss about that. Because I can't NOT know.

If you want to read about important topics with a fun twist and an absolutely amazing friendship between three girls, I suggest you read this series. **I don't think I've done it justice with this review – or ANY of**

**my reviews to be honest – but I hope I encouraged someone to pick it up.** I've never read anything like it before, and it's one of those series I'll look back on and thank myself for reading. **And I thank Holly Bourne for writing these wonderful books, because I know they'll stay in my mind forever.**

Amazon

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### **Kate (GirlReading) says**

What's a Girl Gotta Do? is a brilliantly empowering, witty read, filled with a cast of badass women, kickass friendships, adorable romances and infuriating stories that make you want to shout at the world.

Ever since I picked up Am I Normal Yet? I've fallen in love with Holly Bourne's comfortable, funny and emotive writing style and even more so with the cast of the Spinster Trilogy. I don't want to say goodbye to these characters but this was the perfect way to do so. I thoroughly enjoyed each and every page of this addictive book, so much so that I ended up staying up until 5am to finish it...

My only criticism is that whilst this was brilliantly feminist and empowering, it essentially wasn't intersectional at all. The reasons behind this were touched on in the book and were explained in the authors note, as not being able to speak about everything or wanting to speak for anyone but I feel as though there definitely could have been a respectful way around that, as this book very much focused on feminism from the POV of a cast of white, straight, cis women? There for portraying one type of decision and a very one sided view on feminism. Which leaves me with the question, is it really true feminism if it's not intersectional, when feminism is all about equality for all?...

With all the being said, I love this book, the writing and the characters. I've loved all three books in this trilogy for completely different reasons. Each one has been a totally different reading experience. It's been heartbreak, relatable, funny, adorable, painful and a lot of fun.

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### **Lily says**

4.5/5.

I am so sad this series as come to an end! This was probably my favourite in terms of themes and feminism but I still related to HHCLB? a little more. Lottie was a fantastic character who was extremely flawed but meant well and did a lot of awesome things. I'm really glad there is an MC in the UKYA community who embraces her intelligence and is unapologetic about her sex life etc. I also thought the way the romance was handled was done SUPER well, so much tension and I really liked Will as a character. I'm glad in both the book and in Holly's letter at the end she acknowledges that she didn't cover feminism in terms of intersectionality that much and she at least explained why she did it.

If you haven't read these books yet then I highly recommend you do! They're funny and fierce and all about female friendship.

