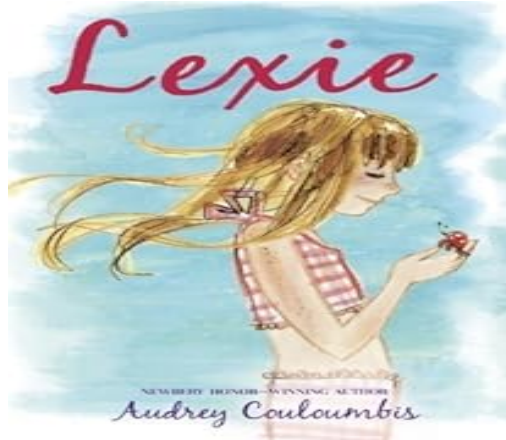


Lexie By Audrey Couloumbis By Audrey Couloumbis To make matters worse Daddy has a surprise—his new girlfriend Vicky and her two sons are coming to stay with them for a week! Now Lexie has to share her house with perky Vicky Vicky's moody teenage son Ben and messy three-year-old Harris. Is there still room for Lexie? In a voice that's sharp funny and sincere Newbery Honor-winning author Audrey Couloumbis tells the story of a girl discovering that if you pay attention sometimes you can find treasure in the most unlikely places. Lexie By Audrey Couloumbis



Audrey is a recently transplanted (yet again) New Yorker (by choice) now in Bunker Hill West Virginia (also by choice) where Civil War ghosts scare the dogs at night where a CSX train track runs behind the house and the romantic sound of a faraway train can be heard three or four times a day where she is starting a new garden of rambling roses and assorted deer resistant flowering shrubs and renovating an old house. The time that Lexie was looking forward to spending with her dad is now time that she is spending with her dad's new lady-friend Vicky and her two sons Ben and Harris (goes by Mack). Both books are remarkably simple relying on authentic ordinary characters to live out a story worthy of being told a story that unfolds as naturally as one would expect it to in real life. There's not a lot of flash to Lexie but there certainly is substance and emotionally receptive young readers will find that author Audrey Couloumbis understands pretty well what it's like to be a kid. Lexie's home life isn't a mess but it's not perfect either; her parents have divorced in the recent past and this summer will be the first that she and her father spend at their vacation house by the sea without Lexie's mother. While driving on the way there Lexie's father tells her that his new girlfriend Vicky will be joining them this year which could end up making the adjustment even harder for Lexie. What's more Vicky's sons Ben (age fourteen) and Harris (three) will be along for the trip as well increasing the number of strangers that Lexie has to learn to cope with on her vacation. There's really no need for explosive secrets or plot twists in a simple tale of two broken families cautiously coming together to form a potential new brood not better than the ones they were part of before but maybe someday worthy of being cherished in its own way. The hypersensitive emotions of imperfect people still carefully feeling their way together certain to trigger resentment in each other at times and not all sure if they even really want to make a go of getting the arrangement to work is compelling reading in its own right without further adornment. What separates Lexie from most other such novels is the unfailing humanity of every one of its characters all of them quite able to make major blunders in their dealings with each other. It's not just the kids who step on each other's toes either; Lexie's father and Vicky are just as prone to making mistakes in relation to each other and their kids as well as each other's kids so we don't feel as if any of the characters are possessed of superhuman wisdom or relational acumen. It's easy to love Harris; who despite his habitual noisemaking that would drive some people up the wall happens to be a bright inquisitive and affectionate child that anyone would be lucky to know and have in their lives. Ben is much more reticent than his little brother occasionally sullen and disposed to creating awkward situations between the two families but his moments of goodness are unmistakable and his general tolerance of Harris's toddler behavior is admirable. Lexie finds herself caught between trying to do right as a surrogate sister to the two boys and enjoying her vacation at the sea for all that it has meant to her in the past and she also has to be careful in what she says and does around

her father and Vicky during this ticklish time when their families are just getting to know each other. The summer will surely be an unforgettable one for Lexie as she tries to figure out how to let some things go and how to move on with her own life while so much about her family is still in transition. One of my favorite parts of this book is when a slightly mean remark that Ben makes causes his brother Harris's spirits to fall and even though the boy is but three years old Lexie gives him the sincerity of regard to realize why he's bothered by what Ben said. I don't know how often I hear people—not just teenagers but adults too and sometimes even other kids—talk about children who are younger than themselves as if being young were some kind of a mental disability that will wear off when they get older when they know enough to shed their silly ways and become more like the person speaking. In a world that doesn't always pay sincere attention to the very young Lexie offers Harris not just a few moments of attention but her very real friendship a gift that means more than all the sand dollars and crabs from the shore that she could dig up in ten trips to the sea. In rating Lexie I'm stuck with the unenviable task of deciding whether to round my two-and-a-half star mark for it up or down a choice that I don't make lightly or without much thought. The book is definitely better than average but in asking myself whether I would be more comfortable giving it two stars or three if I had no way of noting the extra half star I'm thinking that I'm going to round down for now. I surely would act like a big baby (also shame to admit it but that's the reason why I admire her!) My favorite part of the book is when Lexie and Ben discovers the sand shark in a little puddle swimming around and how they both try to dig a canal to bring the shark into the ocean again. Believing she and her father will be going on vacation to their New Jersey beach house together she is stunned to learn that her father did not tell her his girlfriend and her two children would be vacationing with them. Lexie thinks it's just going to be her and her dad for the week but soon learns that her dad's girlfriend Vicky and her two sons toddler Harris and fourteen-year-old Ben will be joining them. As the two families try to live together Lexie discovers that connections can be created over the smallest things and that there is still room for everyone even if the house is a lot more crowded. Read the rest of the review at [Waking Brain Cells 208](#) I don't usually read too many middle grade novels anymore but when I found myself with a copy of Lexie in my hands I jumped on the chance to read a story about a young girl who's summer plans with her father lead to unexpected surprises. And when you learn that she's not going to get some alone time after all and that her Dad has decided to invite his girlfriend and her own two children along without saying a word to her. And perhaps because she's only ten she does lack the bitterness that might have been expected from a character in a YA novel and is willing to at least make the best of the situation. It was a quick read for me but I enjoyed reading every single page of this story nonetheless! It's a cute summer novel that I think younger readers will find most delightful but there's also some important messages you can take away after reading the novel as well! 208.

, For as long as she can remember she's spent every summer there with her parents eating hamburgers swimming in the ocean and combing the beach for treasure: Lexie's Mom and Daddy are divorced and for the first time Mom won't be there, The little beach house just doesn't seem big enough for so many people, Leisure time what little there is of it is spent watching how to acrylic painting videos on youtube and occasionally getting out the paints to play: New books are on the way: *If Wishes Were Princes* *Life and Death at the Warwick Arms* and *Anthony Was Here*: Lovely soft sweet story about Lexie whose parents divorced last year and now her dad is surprising her with company at their shore house, Good book to give to a 10-year-old girl who is getting used to step-siblings. 208 I will honestly admit I picked up this book because it's title is my name. Lexie is about a girl whose parents are no longer together and both of them have started to date again, She deals with the situation pretty neatly dealing with most of her emotion inwardly. Lexie is an only child who thinks she is going away to the beach house on Jersey shore with her dad for a week just her and Dad, But when they get there her father's girlfriend and his two sons also arrive, Ultimately Lexie realizes that change can be ok maybe even good even though its difficult: My main criticism of the book was that Lexie reads as being a bit older than eleven, 208 While significantly different from each other in many ways Audrey Coulombis's *Jake* and Lexie do share a certain similarity in style.

There are adjustments to be made in Lexie's life but she's willing to try even as hard as it might be to go to the sea without her mother this summer. Lexie is a good girl who wants to make things as easy as possible on everyone including herself, There are a few unexpected surprises to be had during the trip though, It's going to be a summer of change but Lexie can take some solace in the fact that the biggest change of all her parents' divorce is already behind them, With that painful break over and done with most of what comes after is about healing old wounds and learning how to begin a new kind of life. What makes Lexie's summer with her father and his girlfriend's family compelling for us to read about is the minimal scaffolding from which the story hangs: They're all just people no more and no less than that and readers are invited to celebrate the sum total of their strengths and weaknesses. I'd only known Harris for a day but I knew he didn't like it when somebody made being a little kid the same thing as being stupid: As I see it toddlerdom simply has its own set of smarts not lesser than those of older kids or adults just different. They have their own innovative thinkers and philosophers and humorists among them and I think that Harris like so many real toddlers qualifies as all three. I too was such a toddler so my empathy is especially keen. Audrey Coulombis has written a lovely story in Lexie one that deserves to be read by as many sensitive readers who will be affected by its emotional honesty as possible: It was was an amazingly well written book! The only reason I rated it 4, 8 instead of 5 stars was because I found several spelling mistakes: But otherwise I definitely would recommend this book! 208 This is a great book for kids to read. But when she gets there she finds her dad invited another woman and her kids. Dad doesn't explain the arrangement to Lexie but she is slowly figuring it out, 208 Confession: I only read this book because the cover art is so darn cute! I know, I feel so ashamed to admit it but it's true (as they say the first step is acceptance). And I'm damn glad that I listen to my superficial eyes because this book is so good: I really love Lexie as a character and how she handles herself with adult problems: I know that if my parents divorce and they try to relive their romance life again well, let's just say that I wouldn't know how to act like Lexie, I really like how their relationship grew within a few hours and really understand each other in a different sense: In a way they're both the same - both are going through divorce and ultimately both are afraid in a way to lose their parent to the stranger in their eyes. Overall this is a good children book with easy writing and easy to understand. The flow of the story sways very smoothly throughout the whole book. I enjoy the writings of this Newbery honor award winning author. It is a simple tale told well of Lexie who is ten and trying to understand her father, Ten years old and precocious Lexie can gauge the difference in personality of the girlfriend and her mother: While her father is loving he is also very self absorbed. Growing to like the girlfriend and her children while trying to understand her father proves challenging, 208 Ten-year-old Lexie is headed off for a week at the shore--a trip she's made with her parents many times before. This trip though is the first since her parents got divorced: Throughout the week Lexie is forced to get to know Vicky Harris and Ben--by sharing a small house playing in the sand and rescuing a stranded shark: This book is pretty simple but can appeal to girls and boys in the middle grades. The beach setting makes the book fun and relaxed especially as it allows for encounters with sea animals: The family structures can appeal to kids with divorced parents, It is a good introduction to talking about ocean habitats and wildlife: 208 The shore has always been one of ten-year-old Lexie's favorite places in the world. She would spend the summer there with her parents playing on the beach finding treasures in the sand and reading picture books. So her mother isn't going to be going to the shore at all, Or so she thinks! On the way there her father announces that his new girlfriend will be joining them and her two sons too: Lexie is pushed out of her usual bedroom into one that is as tiny as a closet. Teenage Ben is also not enthusiastic about being stuck together: Little Harris is messy and doesn't even want to head outside at first, Lexie was a great young protagonist who immediately grew on me right away, Her parents have recently divorced and it's her first summer vacation away from her mother at her father's beach house. She's an avid reader (yay!) so she's already planned her summer books to bring along and hopes to have some fun combing the beach with her Dad, You can quickly understand her point of view and why she's less than thrilled to be sharing her Dad with people that are practically strangers to her. Her hurt feelings and her Dad's

clueless behaviour to the situation will have your heart reaching out to her, This is a week for Lexie where she'll find more hidden treasures than the ones simply found on a beach, just maybe she'll come to form new friendships and learn that family can be found in different forms[1]

Ten-year-old Lexie used to love going to the shore. This summer is going to be different though. Stay tuned. But I was pretty pleased with the story. Lexie is eleven and very mature for her age. I didn't like it either. I'm with Lexie on this one big time. That Lexie is a smart girl in her own right. Of course that could change. Audrey Coulumbis is an author to be treasured. 208 4.8 stars. Lexie's parents recently seperated. Lexie is going on summer vacation with her dad. Lexie is so excited to spend time with her dad. Lexie thinks her vacation is ruined. I love everything about it especially Lexie. She's a pretty brave and mature 10 yr. old - quite admirable really. I highly recommend this book to everyone. 208 While not great this is a book that I liked. Now though her parents are divorced. Lexie is spending a week there with just her dad. your heart does a little flip and plummet like Lexie's