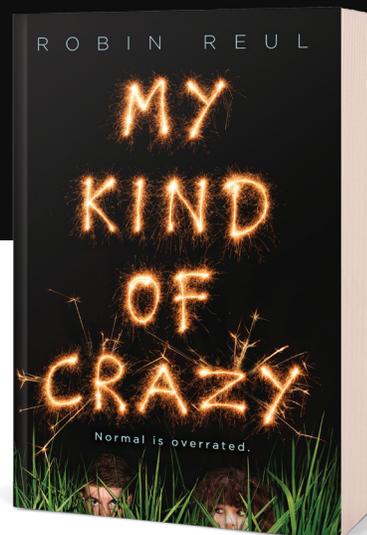


# MY KIND OF CRAZY

ROBIN REUL

## DISCUSSION GUIDE



April 5, 2016 • 978-1-4926-3176-7  
Trade Paper • \$9.99 U.S. • Ages 14+

### Normal is overrated

Despite the best of intentions, wisecracking seventeen-year-old Hank Kirby can't quite seem to catch a break. It's not that he means to screw things up all the time; it just happens. A lot. Case in point: his attempt to ask out the girl he likes literally goes up in flames when he spells "prom" in sparklers on her lawn...and nearly burns down her house.

As if that wasn't bad enough, Peyton Breedlove, a brooding loner and budding pyromaniac, witnesses the whole thing. Much to Hank's dismay, Peyton takes an interest in him—and his "work." The two are thrust into an unusual friendship, but their boundaries are tested when Hank learns that Peyton is hiding some dark secrets, secrets that may change everything he thought he knew about Peyton.

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**"I had so much fun reading this book... Great characters you instantly care for, and a lot of heart."**

—Adi Alsaid, author of *Never Always Sometimes* and *Let's Get Lost*

**"Funny, authentic, and, at turns, heartbreaking...The best kind of story."**

—Jessi Kirby, author of *Things We Know by Heart*

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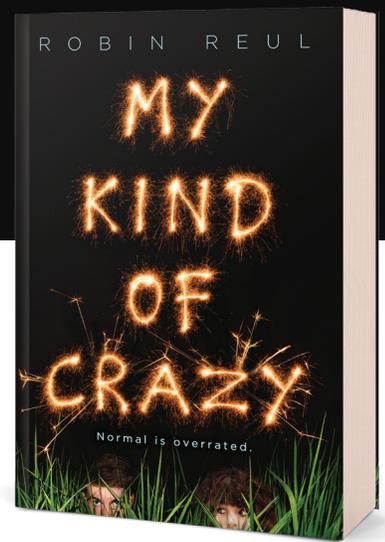
### About the Author

Robin Reul has been writing stories since she was old enough to hold a pen. Though she grew up on movie sets and worked for years in the film and television industry, she ultimately decided to focus her attention on writing young adult novels. And unlike Hank, she does not know how to ride a bike. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, son, and daughter. *My Kind Of Crazy* is her first novel. Find her at [www.robinreul.com](http://www.robinreul.com).

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1. When Hank first meets Peyton, he thinks she is crazy. Discuss how the meaning of his frequent use of this word evolves and changes as the story progresses.
2. Initially, Hank and Peyton seem like very different people. As they get to know each other, what are the ways in which they are similar? How are they each affected by their circumstances?
3. What role does *Freeze Frame*, the comic Hank draws, play in the novel? How does it relate to Hank's life experience?
4. Discuss Monica's relationship with Hank. How is she integral to his character's growth throughout the story?
5. After revealing what happened to his mother and brother, Peyton tells Hank: "Sometimes, to help make sense of things, we tell ourselves stories and we convince ourselves that they're true, but that doesn't mean they really are." What are the stories that each of them has told themselves that may or may not be true?
6. What are the literal and figurative ways that light and dark play a significant role in the story?
7. Hank has a very tenuous relationship with his father. Why do you think that is? Do you think he really blames Hank for the death of his wife and son? Or does Hank's father's animosity reflect something deeper? How does his relationship with Hank change toward the end of the story?
8. How does Hank change by the end of the story? How does Hank's personal growth and self-awareness create a ripple effect for all the characters in the story?
9. What do you think happens to Hank, Nick, and Peyton after the story ends? Do you think that things will go as planned? Do you believe that Peyton will reconcile with either of her parents? Do you think that Monica and Hank's father will remain together?
10. Do you agree or disagree with Hank's decision to stand by Peyton after he discovers her secret? Why or why not? If you were in the same situation, what would you do?