Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story

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From the critically acclaimed author of Anything But Typical comes a touching look at the days leading up to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and how that day impacted the lives of four middle schoolers. Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day until a plane struck the World Trade Center. But right now it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will’s father is gone, too, killed in a car accident that has left the family reeling. Naheed has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school she’s getting funny looks because of the head scarf she wears. Aimee is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business. These four don’t know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined. Award-winning author Nora Raleigh Baskin weaves together their stories into an unforgettable novel about that seemingly perfect September day—the day our world changed forever.

Book Information
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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (36 customer reviews)
Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews
As we approach the 15th anniversary of September 11, 2001, it is becoming more and more clear
that an entire generation of children exist who were not born yet when the tragedy happened. Nora Baskin Raleigh is an author who writes books straight from the heart. Her book, NINE, TEN: A September 11th Story, sets out to describe the kind of world children were accustomed to living in only two days before the planes crashed into the towers. There are several plot lines in this story as it switches viewpoints between chapters of various middle school students in different parts of the United States. One character named Will is from Pennsylvania and another character, Nadira, is a Muslim girl from Ohio. There is also Sergio from Brooklyn and Aimee who just moved to Los Angeles; however, Aimee’s mother is away on business in New York City. NINE, TEN gives the reader a glimpse of a single moment in each character’s life before the planes hit. As expected, each middle schooler has their own problems and concerns at that particular point in their life --- worries about their crush, their future, their parents’ relationship or even being bullied. It is a clear example of how no one saw the events of September 11th coming nor did they realize just how everything would change completely from that point on.

As the reader follows along the events of that fateful day for each student, they will feel so much anxiety for characters like Aimee, whose mom is on her way to a meeting in the World Trade Center; or Sergio, who worries about his new firefighter friend, Gideon; or Will, as he skips school that day; and finally Nadira, who wears her hijab every day to school. It takes nearly two-thirds of the book before the terrorist attack begins and each plot line ends with a cliffhanger.

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