Can You See Me?, by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott

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Starting secondary school is a daunting time for any 11 year old – and Natalia (known as Tally) is no exception. Acclimatising to new surroundings and learning the ways of different teachers is proving tough. Plus there’s the boy who calls her names, and her friends from primary school upon whom she’s always been able to depend but who have started talking about things that just don’t interest her (like boys) and cautioning her when her behaviour is embarrassing.

In addition to the universal challenges of being 11, Tally is also autistic. She often struggles to make sense of other people’s actions and language. And now, as she enters this new stage in her life, she is becoming painfully aware of the way she is perceived, feeling an almost unbearable pressure to try to conform.

This innovative book is a collaboration between author Rebecca Westacott and a talented young blogger (herself autistic). In addition to helping shape the characters and plot, Libby supplies Tally’s diary entries, offering the reader an authentic insight into one girl’s perspective of the condition, along with valuable practical tips.

Endearing, insightful and warmly uplifting, Can You See Me? is a story of autism, empathy and kindness that will touch readers of all ages.