



## The Battle of Darcy Lane

By Tara Altebrando

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It is summertime, and twelve-year-old Julia Richards cannot stand the anticipation. Everyone on Darcy Lane seems to be holding their breath waiting for the cicadas to emerge, but what Julia and her best friend, Taylor, want is some real excitement. Which arrives in the form of a new neighbor named Alyssa, who introduces a ball game called Russia . . . and an unwelcome level of BFF rivalry.

Suddenly nothing stands unchallenged—not Julia's friendships, her crush, or her independence. But while Julia realizes that she cannot control all the changes in her life, she hangs onto the hope that everything will go in her favor if she can just win one magnificent showdown.

Acclaimed author Tara Altebrando's middle-grade debut features a voice that is true to the adolescent experience, where everything is felt acutely in a whirlwind of all-or-nothing emotion.

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## The Battle of Darcy Lane By Tara Altebrando Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Gr 5–7—Several battles are being waged on Darcy Lane this summer, all of which involve Julia Richards, a supersmart 12-year-old with a passion for reading and the clarinet. She persistently challenges her kind, but protective, parents for a bra, a cell phone, and a less babyish bedroom. She fiercely competes with new-girl-on-the-block Alyssa for the attention of maybe-best-friend Taylor. And she struggles mightily to make sense of who she is and who she might be. (On considering the unicorns and dolls that adorn her room: "I wanted to get rid of everything. The problem was this: I had nothing to put in its place.") Altebrando's clear, intelligent writing captures the sweet details that comprise Julia's everyday life: a fresh coat of paint for her bedroom, a brilliant band-camp concert, a slice of birthday cake shared compatibly with the boy next door. While the book's setting is never explicated, references to a historic cicada swarm plus talk of the "island," the "city," and the "ferry" likely place the story in 2013 and on Staten Island, the author's hometown. Frequent use of the cicada as a marker for nature and time ("I tried to think ahead, another seventeen years, to imagine what things would be like when the cicadas come back") feels a bit forced and may confuse readers unfamiliar with the phenomenon, but this is a slight misstep in an otherwise charming and authentic first purchase.—Susan Wengler, Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

#### From Booklist

Twelve-year-old Julia is looking forward to spending her summer playing with her best friend, Taylor, and nursing a crush on her neighbor Peter. But when a new girl, Alyssa, moves in across the street, suddenly Taylor doesn't want to be friends anymore. For a while, Julia tries to fit in with Alyssa and Taylor, even learning their complicated handball game, but Alyssa and Taylor get meaner and meaner, calling Julia names, teasing her for being nervous about grown-up TV shows, and calling her house so often her mother unplugs the phone. Luckily, Julia's stalwart and loving parents, along with a handful of true friends, help her develop the confidence to be happy with herself. This quietly empowering story from the author of *The Best Night of Your (Pathetic) Life* (2013) is a refreshingly honest take on bullying. Julia is a flawed but earnest girl, and she learns how to deal with mean girls at her own pace and with cheer-worthy dignity. Readers searching for something similar to the books of Beverly Cleary or Judy Blume should look no further.

Grades 3-6. --Sarah Hunter

#### Review

"Altebrando brings rich, realistic depth to all of her characters... It's a smart, sensitive portrait of an age when change is in the air, for better or worse."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"Altebrando's clear, intelligent writing captures the sweet details that comprise Julia's everyday life... charming and authentic".

—*School Library Journal*

"This quietly empowering story... is a refreshingly honest take on bullying. Julia is a flawed but earnest girl, and she learns how deal with mean girls at her own pace and with cheer-worthy dignity. Readers searching for something similar to Beverly Cleary or Judy Blume should look no further."

—*Booklist*

"This book would be a safe read for girls on the verge of adolescence or struggling with friendships, and

would be a good addition to an elementary library or for young middle school readers.”

—VOYA

“Sweet humor, deftly written characters, and a realistic plot make this a great story that is perfect for an upper grade read-aloud.”

—*Children's Literature*

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Robert Grant:**

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important usually. The book The Battle of Darcy Lane had been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The e-book The Battle of Darcy Lane is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship while using book The Battle of Darcy Lane. You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

**Paula Jackson:**

Typically the book The Battle of Darcy Lane will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book The Battle of Darcy Lane is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

**Dana Vinson:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Battle of Darcy Lane, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

**Donald Diaz:**

Many people spending their time by playing outside along with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, think reading a book can really hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like The Battle of Darcy Lane which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

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