

Refresh

Log-Line: Every morning Elli Kramer wakes up in a different reality. Is the universe playing a cruel cosmic joke on the risk-averse, routine-obsessed 16-year-old? Or is it offering Elli a chance to change her life - one reality at a time?

Hit the reset button. Try something new. Be someone else. Reinvent your life. Rethink your brand. Don't stagnate. Never stop. Change. Anytime. All the time.

That's life nowadays. Keep up or get out. Be onboard or be irrelevant. And who wants to be irrelevant?

Elli Kramer does.

Elli (16) lives in the eye of the storm. And it's a good place to be. That's what she tells everybody. That's what she tells herself.

Life rages around her. Screaming. Howling. Completely unpredictable. Potentially destructive. Elli doesn't go for unpredictable and destructive. Elli is the calm surrounded by madness. She is the routine that brings order to chaos.

Elli is ordinary.

Being ordinary has its advantages. Elli made it to her Senior Year without major bumps in the road. She isn't really popular, she isn't being bullied. Her grades aren't spectacular, but they're fine. She's had the same two friends since elementary school. Elli kinda likes them, they kinda like her. Why not? Elli is kinda likeable. They don't really know who Elli is. Or what she wants. But neither does Elli.

Who needs a life if you can live vicariously through everybody else's? And that's Elli's passion. When it comes to her Instagram / Twitter / Snapchat obsession everyone else is an amateur. Elli knows everything about everybody. From celebrities to her peers. And she uses her knowledge as currency. As fodder for small talk. To get what she wants. To apply subtle pressure when necessary.

Life is comfortable when you treat it as a spectator sport. But deep down Elli knows she's fooling herself. Living inside her bubble isn't living at all. And what happens when you've made yourself totally irrelevant and practically invisible?

People forget (about) you. Running late for a school trip one day the bus has already left when Elli arrives at the school. And no one noticed that Elli wasn't there. Not even her so-called friends.

Elli tries to shrug it off and be all „whatever“ about it (Stupid school trip. Who gives a fuck?), but she's furious. And sad. And devastated. She finally has to admit it to herself: if this is her life – her life sucks! She may not know who she is – but she knows who she doesn't want to be: the girl nobody knows even existed.

The problem: Elli has no idea how to dig herself out her self-imposed non-life. How do you turn something around that already seems too far gone? Elli wishes she could start all over again. She desperately yearns for change. Another chance. A new life.

Wish granted.

When Elli wakes up the next morning – something's off. Why is she sleeping in her little brother's room? Where is her brother? He seems – gone. And who's that person in the mirror? It's her, but at the same time isn't her. She looks like a frickin cheerleader!

At school the weirdness continues. People are talking to her. Voluntarily. Boys notice her. Girls she usually hates are sucking up to Elli while her friends seem almost scared of her.

What the fuck is going on? Elli doesn't know what to think. It's kinda cool. And kinda scary. Is this real? Is she suffering a nervous breakdown? Or is all of this just a dream?

Apparently. When Elli wakes up the next morning everything seems back to normal. She's in her room. Her brother's back. She looks like herself again. Ordinary Elli. But why is she wearing a crucifix around her neck? Why are her parents saying grace before breakfast? And why is her suddenly deeply religious mother home-schooling her?! W! T! F!

And the reality-hopping continues: the next day the (until now) V-card carrying Elli isn't only sexually active but sexually fluid. Greeted by her super-progressive, polyamorous parents she heads off to school where Elli is now leading the Straight / LGBT+ Alliance.

Elli has to face the facts: this is no dream. This is her new normal. She wakes up... and reality has shifted. This is still our world. The Here and Now. But something's always different. Always weird. Always wrong. And Elli has to realize that even minor details can have enormous consequences. The Butterfly Effect at work.

Elli is trying to unravel the mystery of her new existence. But there are no easy explanations. This is no near death experience, no coma delusion, no secret government experiment. A metaphysical test perhaps? But Elli doesn't believe in this New Age crap. And even if she would consider the possibility... why on earth would she be the Chosen One of all people?! She's totally ordinary, after all.

The longer she experiences different versions of her life the harder it seems to hold on to the „real“ Elli. And who's the real Elli anyway? Has there ever been one? And will she be able to recognize her former life if she happens to end up where she started? When she finally gets back to the beginning? Does Elli even want to go back?

„Refresh“ is set at the exact time when we're supposed to grow into the person we want to become and turns it into a dramatic / comedic „What if?“ scenario. After all: never have there been so many possibilities for (re)invention than today. And never have the choices been so hard.

Who am I? Who or what do I want be? Elli will have to find out and find herself in the process. One reality at a time...
