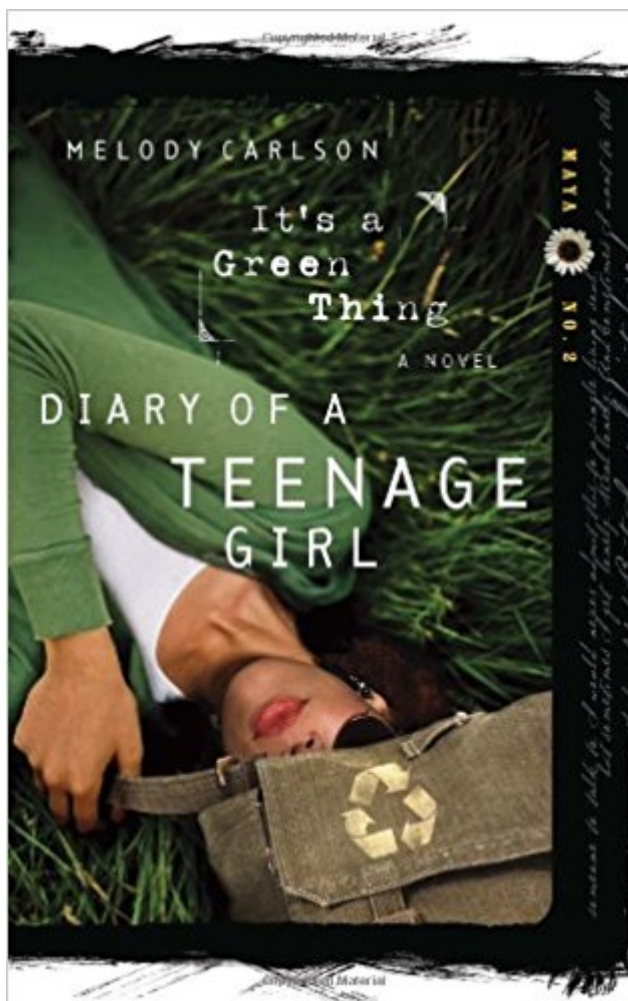


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# It's A Green Thing (Diary Of A Teenage Girl: Maya, Book 2)



## Synopsis

For the first time that she can remember, Maya Stark is beginning to feel like a “normal” teenager. Even with her mother in jail for drug possession and her pop-star father away on his comeback tour, Maya’s new life with her uncle Allen and cousin Kim is coming together. Summer vacation’s just beginning, and with a new job, a new boyfriend, and a new car (hybrid, of course), things are finally starting to look up. But that doesn’t mean life is about to get any easier. Maya’s still devoted to living Green, and her uncle offers her a Green column in his newspaper. With the opportunity to make a difference in the town’s attitude toward the environment, Maya wonders how this fits with her newfound commitment to Christ. And if she can really consider herself a Christian when her feelings toward a fellow youth group member are anything but loving?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Praise for *It's a Green Thing* “Maya is a fun character! It’s not even possible to read *It's a Green Thing* and not relate to her questions, her challenges, and her struggles as a teen and Christian. And I found myself jotting down her awesome eco-friendly tips!” —Jenny B. Jones, Award winning author of *In Between* and *The Charmed Life* series  
Praise for *A Not-So-Simple Life* “As Maya Stark pours her heart out in her journal, readers are treated to an inside view

of a life that is at times exotic and unfamiliar, and at other times hauntingly similar to our own. Maya's struggles become our struggles, her pain our pain, and her successes, therefore, even sweeter. A Not-So-Simple Life is another triumph for Melody Carlson. Virginia Smith, author of Sincerely, Mayla and Stuck in the Middle "Fantastic book! Maya is so easy to like this is a hard story to put down!" Erynn Mangum, author of Miss Match "Melody Carlson has proven her skill once again at writing gritty stories about characters in difficult situations. In A Not-so-Simple Life, Maya Stark seeks to escape life under the controlling hand of her drug-addict mother by acting on a plan for independence with admirable determination." Michelle Buckman, author of Maggie Come Lately and My Beautiful Disaster "I just finished Melody's book and loved it! The journal format makes the story, and Maya, so real and believable. Readers will easily be able to identify with the realistic approach to a prevalent situation." Patricia Rushford, author of the Max & Me Mysteries

Melody Carlson is an award-winning, best-selling author of more than two hundred books for teens, women, and children. She and her husband enjoy an active lifestyle of hiking, camping, and biking in the beautiful yet mysterious Pacific Northwest, where she says, "A new story seems to lurk around every corner."

My girls LOVE LOVE these books. They cannot put them down. Great stories, great morals, and great lessons. A must have series!

This story was totally amazing. I'd had this book laying around and thought I'd give it a try. I didn't know when I started reading it that I'd absolutely love the story. It's not just about recycling. It's more about how God can take the junk in our lives and make something good come from it. I recycled in the 1980s in NY when I lived there, and when I lived in Phoenix in the 1990s, but where I live now there is no such thing. Sigh. Regardless, I didn't think the theme of the book sounded all that amazing when I first picked it up. But when I started reading I realized it was about so much more than recycling. If I were a teen and a new Christian, I would treasure this book. There are so many good conversations about subjects that new Christians and teens would appreciate, from boys to pressure to what forgiveness looks like and how Christians are flawed, etc. just like the rest of the world. It's a Green Thing is a theologically sound novel and I ended up being very inspired by it. I read this book first even though it's second in a series, and now I want to go back and read the first book. I was thrilled to discover that I actually had it on my shelf. Too bad I didn't notice that before I

started this one. Ah, well. I'm still glad I read it. The story even made me cry toward the end. But it was a good, inspiring kind of emotion. I highly recommend this book. Oh, and there are some great recycling tips in there, too.

It's A Green Thing: Diary of a Teenage Girl By Melody Carlson  
My Review: Although I got in on this series in book two, I still found it to be enjoyable. There was a little background I would have liked, but the main points were filled in for me. Maya is a teenage girl who longs for a "normal" life. I imagine it would be odd to think that anyone would want a normal life rather than be the daughter of a music idol, but when that part of your life also had you attached to an addict mother...normal might sound pretty good. Maya is a new Christian and is fortunate to have a mentor named Caitlin who Maya can turn to with her questions. I loved this for many reasons. I think all new Christians should have a mentor for those questions that pop up. Weekly meetings with someone who can kind of direct you to the right scriptures and just be an ear to your struggles rocks. I wish I had that as a teen. Caitlin's advice seems to be very spot on. The only thing that felt wrong to me was when Maya discussed Amanda and Brooke, two Christian girls who helped out doing a mural project. There were things that the girls said that offended Maya. Caitlin at one point told her that "Sometimes it seems that the Christians with the smallest faith have the biggest mouths." I objected to this in my mind as an adult. Because although I knew girls who talked a lot like Amanda and Brooke when I was a teen, I also know that they did have great faith, they just did not have the social skills to know how and when to discuss their faith. They were children who just plain did not have the skills to share. I had a neighbor who was a wonderful and giving Christian, but she had no tact whatsoever. Even though the statement said "it seems," it came across to me as very blanket. I do know that there is truth in that statement as well...it just left me conflicted when thinking of a teen who could read this and get a message that they couldn't fully understand. Enough of that, really it was a small thing. It was nice seeing Maya develop in her faith. She also had a relationship that she was coming to terms with, and I am really glad that we got to see her conflict with getting too physical with Dominic. Melody Carlson really seemed to depict a lot of the confusion that goes on. It feels great at first, but afterward you are filled with questions and often awkward silence. There are so many wonderful parts to this story, and one of the last I'll touch on was Maya's green tips. They were great! We are very environmentally conscious at my home, and I think it is awesome to have a book that can support that to a reader! All in all, I really quite liked this book! I cannot wait to read more about Maya and get into the other books in the Diary of a Teenage Girl series.

The Diary of Teenage Girl series is, in my opinion, one of the best series out there for teens, Christian or not. There have been four girls spotlighted throughout the series and each has been different yet enjoyable to read. Some girls I've liked more than others and I will have to say that Maya's series is my favorite. I like Maya because she asks the questions that challenge Christians who think they know everything and isn't afraid of what others might think of her. In this book Maya feels that she's starting to become a normal teenager and is able to escape the jumbled life she used to live. I really liked Maya's reactions to the Christian girls from her youth group. I have felt that Amanda and Brooke represent a good deal of real Christians teens who are two faced. They act like they are the perfect Christians while they are at church but then in real life they condemn everyone but back down when challenged. They also seem to throw themselves at boys a lot. I've experienced this treatment myself and the way Maya reacted was realistic. If she had just immediately forgiven the girls and let them walk over her, I would have been very disappointed in this book and would stop reading. However, she challenges them, gets irritated and tries to seek justice for the wrongs they caused. I really liked the way that everything got worked out involving the incident between Brooke and Maya. It's not neat and tidy and obviously Brooke needs to work on her attitude but it's an ending that I can accept because it's not sugar coated with fake Christianity. Also the situations with her and her boyfriend were handled tastefully and realistically as well. Throughout the book Maya shares tips on saving the planet. Maya's green tips are great and I've tried several of them myself (although the tip about the car and not using the air conditioner or even opening the windows won't really work during summer). They really make you think about saving the environment but they are not trying to push an agenda. The only thing I would have liked would have been a response from Caitlyn to Maya's questions about being green and being vegan. It would have just been interesting to see what she would have to say or what most Christians think about that subject. This series is a favorite of mine and I'm looking forward to the rest of Maya's adventures.

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