

## **The Thing About Oliver** by Deborah Kelly

This beautifully written tale is told through the eyes of twelve year old Tilly, who wants to be a marine biologist when she grows up. She lives with her mum and younger brother, Oliver, who is autistic. Oliver's autism mean that he has major meltdowns and is constantly attending different kinds of therapy, which doesn't leave a lot of time for Tilly. When mum decides to move to Queensland to be with her sister, Tilly is excited about swimming lessons but nervous about how all the changes will effect Oliver. This story of Tilly and her struggle between the love for her brother and her frustration at his condition is heartfelt and very real. I especially enjoyed the descriptions of Tilly's connections with her younger brother and her ability to know exactly what he needed when grownups around her had no idea. A fantastic book highlighting the impact of autism on family life.

