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The Other Side Of Quiet: A Powerful Story About Murder And Secrets



Synopsis

2015 KINDLE BOOK AWARD FINALIST 2015 WHITNEY AWARD WINNER - GENERAL FICTION

Mrs. Childs's creative writing students are expected to keep personal journals for self-expression. But when clues from a murder investigation cause police authorities to confiscate the students' journals, writing intended to be private is no longer. Words meant to liberate now condemn. And an innocent writing project, meant to empower students, as well as rescue Mrs. Childs from her own personal tragedy, now open deep conflicts within the class. "A unique and richly interesting story of survival during some of the most complicated years of life; reminding us all about what is truly important." *The Book Stalker*"The Other Side of Quiet has enough adventure and mystery to keep you turning pages, but also an underlying message of love and acceptance. This is a book that all teenagers, and parents should read. It will inspire you to believe in our youth, love them through their challenges, and leave you with a desire to be a better parent, teacher and friend." *Katie Millar Wirig, Founder of The Power of Family*"I am a firm believer in classroom read alouds, alongside in-depth class discussions. This book is a perfect read aloud for middle grade and high school classrooms. Students in your classroom can learn from the students in Mrs. Childs' classroom. The Other Side of Quiet brings up questions that students today should be asking and learning how to answer. This novel will help educators to discuss otherwise difficult concepts . . . and help students come out stronger with more understanding toward others." *Brittany Boman, former teacher, Alpine School District Venture Academy High School Creative Writing Students*"The Other Side of Quiet is written with amazing craft. It portrays life and family situations that are not only relatable, but also intricately weaved into a story that will keep you reading until the very end." *Alana, age 15*"Awesome book. Such a good read!" *- Josh, age 15*"An intriguing novel that can teach anyone important lessons about life and family. Tara C. Allred builds character that feel real, and that many can relate to in more ways than one, and builds suspense with a thrilling murder mystery. Reading this novel you will laugh, cry, and find a certain peace in its ending." *Berea, age 16*

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Customer Reviews

A unique and richly intense story of survival during some of the most complicated years of life; reminding us all about what is truly important. Due to direction the cover review is shown only with full review posted on website of Book Stalking PR.

I really liked it.

I feel honored to be one of the first people to have read this book and to review it. Have you ever been on a nature walk, and seen something really amazing, maybe a rare bird, or a baby animal, or perfectly shaped leaf? That feeling of having discovered something precious is priceless and irreplaceable. This book is a treasure like that. I sincerely hope that word of mouth will cause the popularity of this book to ripple outward into the world. This book needs to be read by teens, parents, teachers, readers, mystery lovers, or anyone who values family. The poignant messages in this book abound. Choose something you'd like to teach students...that our actions have consequences? Check. That family can make or break a person? Check. That good should overcome evil? Check. That kindness and decency should rule our relationships with others? Check. All of these values and more are eloquently portrayed in this book so effortlessly that there

isn't even the tiniest hint of preaching. The author deftly spoke in the language of each student whose journal entries were shared. The main character's humanity and compassion also shown through clearly and realistically. On top of all of this, there is a darn good yarn and a mystery to solve. The writing was tight, flawless and descriptive. I forgot I was reading a book. The plot was well-paced and nicely developed. The story was just really enjoyable to read, and I'm not ashamed to admit that it's all I did today. It was well worth every dime, and every minute. I highly recommend this book.

Excellent novel with unique perspectives on teenagers.

Interesting murder mystery written around the lives of ten students and one teacher. This is a novel geared toward upper Junior High/High School and older audience. Explores dynamics of family as well as issues of puberty and growing up. Well written. Hard to put down. Best book by Allred yet, and I've loved her others as well. Highly recommended reading.

This book is a lot different than I thought it would be based on the book jacket blurb. I thought it would be a mystery. I also thought it might be a good older youth fiction book. Not so. It is clearly adult fiction. It deals with issues and struggles that all teens struggle with, like how to define themselves. But, it also deals with more difficult struggles like those who live in non-traditional families as well as dysfunctional families. She dealt well with them, but a few parts were still a bit edgy--to edgy for youth fiction in my sheltered world. As for the mystery I anticipated, it was minimal. When I first started reading the 9th graders' journals, I kept looking for clues I couldn't see many. Instead, I got sucked into their lives and their struggles as they explored the concept of family. I soon realized that the real point of the book was about different lives and how we come to accept our own lives within our own unique family circumstance. The murder mystery part was solved in the end, and I was a bit surprised, though not terribly surprised. Perhaps it wasn't foreshadowed well, but more likely, I just missed the clues because I was so absorbed in the lives of the individuals. At any rate, I thought the ending fit. That said, I really enjoyed the books' exploration into the hidden side of our lives and how we deal with them. One of my takeaways is that when we hide too much, we only hurt ourselves (but, I've always believed that, anyway). Allred did an excellent job of writing with a different voice for each of the students. Although I must say that it was confusing to keep track of the different students. I am glad I read the book so I could go back and reread parts for clarification. The journals were all first-person, of course, as was the narrator's story. But, I was

never confused at who was speaking. I liked the aspect of writing for therapy. I liked the aspect of how teachers can make a difference in the lives of their students. I liked the undertones of faith that were prevalent yet subtle. I liked the clean perspective of the different students who all had family struggles of a wide and sometimes untraditional variety. This book is the 2016 Whitney Award for General Fiction.

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