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Finding Hope



Synopsis

CCBC's Best Books for Kids & Teens (Fall 2016) " Commended Hope leaves her small town for a fresh start, but her plans are derailed by an online romance and the appearance of her brother.

Hope lives in a small town with nothing to do and nowhere to go. With a drug addict for a brother, she focuses on the only thing that keeps her sane, writing poetry. To escape, she jumps at the chance to attend Ravenhurst Academy as a boarding student. She'll even put up with the clique-ish Ravens if it means making a fresh start. At first, Ravenhurst is better than Hope could have dreamed. She has a boyfriend and a cool roommate, and she might finally have found a place she can fit in. But can she trust her online boyfriend? And what can she do after her brother shows up at the school gates, desperate for help, and the Ravens turn on her? Trapped and unsure, Hope realizes that if she wants to save her brother, she has to save herself first.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,120,623 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Drugs #368 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #674 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 - 10

Customer Reviews

Finding Hope is a nice, quick read that I enjoyed. It is similar to many YA contemporaries in the fact that one of the main issues raised is drug use. However, in no way does Finding Hope glamorise drug use. It's all about the harsh reality of drug addiction and what it leads addicts to do. From what I'm aware, the setting felt real. Finding Hope starts off in a small town which is hard to get out of, and I can somewhat relate to that. However, Hope finds her escape when she moves to boarding

school. I have no experience of boarding school and I don't actually know where the closest one is. All I know is what I come across in books and movies. However, I did find boarding school to be a good setting for Hope's situation. I did like Hope. She's had a tough few years watching her brother struggle with his addiction. It's no wonder she wanted to escape her hometown. However, that being said, she could be incredibly naive and stupid. I wanted to scream at her. One of her actions is just a massive no-no. No girl with half a brain would do what she stupidly did - at least, I'd like to think so. She also had a tendency to let people walk all over her - particularly her brother. However, her backbone came gradually. I really felt for Eric. No teenager (or anyone for that matter) should have to go through what he went through. And because of this it's no wonder he turned to drugs. He goes from being a popular, sporty teenager to a paranoid, addicted mess. And it's heartbreaking. His life would have turned out so differently had he had the bravery to tell someone. Finding Hope is told from the alternating perspectives of Hope and Eric. This gives a good insight into meth addiction, not only for the addicted but also the effects on those closest to them.

Desperation and commitment clung to the pages in this novel. The main characters are each trying to overcome the obstacles that have tainted their lives. Eric is no longer a part of his family for his addiction has become the center of his life. His life is frantic, desperate and high energy as his drug addiction is the ups and downs of his existence. It only took a year for his life to be swallowed away, and Eric remembers what led him down this path. He had it all, it was in the palm of his hand and they allowed him the opportunity to succeed. His future looked bright yet Eric needed more than just freedom. Eric should have spoken up, he needed someone to stand with him and now, his future was crumbling. Hope, she fears for Eric's future now that he was outside the confines of their family home. Hope is looking for her own place to land; somewhere safe among friends where she not labeled according to her brother's past for her own identity has yet to be determined. Unfortunately, it's her last year of high school and she's being sent out of town to a private school, where no one including Hope herself, knows who she is. I worried about what might occur as she finds herself in her new surroundings. She was alone and not sure of herself and left to fend for herself. When she fell in love with Devon, her new online, never-seen-before-boyfriend, I knew this was not good. Devon says the right things, he always there for her and he is one perfect guy - I was cringing. I knew hell was going to open up and swallow her before this relationship was over but just how bad was this going to get? Eric was desperate to get his next high and now Hope is becoming desperate to find her niche in the world. Why must Hope feel like she needs to find someone to fit in?

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