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Rape Girl



Synopsis

Hey, look. It's that girl. That rape girl, right? Valerie always wanted to be the smart girl. The pretty girl. The popular girl. But not the rape girl.. That's who she is now. Rape Girl. Because everyone seems to think they know the truth about what happened with Adam that day, and they don't think Valerie's telling it.. Before, she had a best friend, a crush, and a close-knit family. After, she has a court case, a support group, and a house full of strangers.. The real truth is, nothing will ever be the same.. Rape Girl is the compelling story of a survivor who does the right thing and suffers for it. It is also the story of a young woman's struggle to find the strength to fight back.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-While her mother is out of town for the weekend, Valerie, 16, throws a party, gets drunk, and is raped by one of the boys the following morning. The rape itself is briefly described. Rather, the novel focuses on its aftermath-how Valerie adjusts to being disbelieved (Adam says they had consensual sex) and losing her friends-but especially her internal struggle as she wonders how much of the blame is hers. This slim debut novel offers insight into the victim, as well as others directly and indirectly involved, but it is not as compelling or as well written as Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* (Farrar, 1999).-Melissa Stock, Arapahoe Library District, Englewood, CO (c)

Klein's debut is an old-fashioned problem novel in the best of senses. Straightforward, tempered, and quietly emotional, it sets up a situation and offers possible avenues for character growth, but it stops short of letting the protagonist follow those—they are for the reader to imagine. Valerie is traumatized after being raped by Adam, the boy she was crushing on, but almost as bad is the reaction of classmates after she presses charges. Everyone saw her willingly follow Adam into the den, and so they accuse her of trying to ruin his life. As strange as her new enemies are, her new friends are even stranger, including the feisty Latina she once punched in a fight and that old standby, the Cute Coffeehouse Boy. There is not always a lot of art to the prose—anyone who reads books of this ilk will be thoroughly unsurprised—but its short size means it can be swallowed like a pill by those who need it most. A side note: most of the characters are Mormon, an interesting tweak, though one that mostly goes unexplored. Grades 7-10. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book is a difficult read. Although the depiction of the rape itself is not overtly graphic in any way, the emotional fallout of the victim is devastating. What struck me the most was the complete lack of support for Valerie after her attack. Not only can the police not seem to put together a case, based on a technicality, but her best friend also turns on her and the entire school thinks she's lying. To add further insult to the situation, the school removes Valerie from a class she shares with her attacker and then later forces a meeting between the two of them. Although the book is not long at just over 125 pages, it packs an emotional punch. Klein does an excellent job of raising questions about how we treat rape victims and pushes boundaries with her writing. For all the pain that Valerie goes through in the novel, it does end on a note of hope. When forced to face her attacker, Valerie turns what could be an emotionally devastating moment into one of personal triumph. She is finally able to tell him that no means no. I recommend *Rape Girl* as a novel for opening the lines of communication. It's all too easy to brush the topic of sexual assault under the table, and this novel does a wonderful job of reminding us that it's an important topic that needs to be discussed. The book is gritty and real and forces the reader to examine the way that we treat victims.

There are three subjects that one is advised not to bring up in casual conversation, Religion,

Politics, and Sex. After I read this book, I realized how over simplified that advice really is. There are plenty of other subjects that will lower the volume to almost nil, and raise the tension to a level that will make you dream of running out of your situation screaming. This story deals with one of those subjects. There is a specific focus to this story. It deals specifically with how rape victims are viewed by those around them. Some are sympathetic, some are judgmental, and many want to pretend the victim is not there. After the protagonist is raped, she finds out who her friends are. She also learns how her family members are under real pressure, not a fun situation. As a whole, I think the book is very well written and takes a very honest a realistic approach to the situation. It is not all gloom and bad while still gritty and truthful about a hard subject to discuss. Ironic thing is it really should not be that hard to discuss. There are not two sides to the discussion. Rape is a crime, it tends to victimize people twice, and unlike stealing or killing, there is no situation where it would be justified or necessary. One thing this book does is try to tell the rapist's side of the story. Most rape stories make every effort to portray the rapist as an unfeeling, sadistic monster that has no sense of right or wrong. In this story, he is a confused child that has not developed the ability to see past his own needs and sees mixed signals where they should be clear. He is not sympathetic, just understandable. This is a bold move, but a refreshing one. The only drawback to this story is that aside from the rapist's portrayal, it was very predictable. I do not want to give the whole thing away because it is a very short book, but if you have read any other rape stories or seen them on television, the protagonist gets the same treatment that most of those victims get. In my opinion, everyone should read a book like this at least once in his or her lives. Man, woman, victim, bystander, friend of victim, they could all benefit from reading a story with this subject matter. If you want one that is shorter, and not as one sided, give Rape Girl a read.

The title is self explanatory, therefore making this a brutally honest novel of what happens when a rape victim reports the incident. To give a slight incite on the book, Valerie is an average girl trying to get through high school. Valerie's world tumbles, when she falls victimized to being raped at a party by one of the most popular boys in school, named Adam. Adam claims how the sex was consensual. Now Valerie must do everything in her power to make Adam face the consequences for what he did. This book has a way with words that helps it stand out among other teen literature novels. Rape Girl is a powerful novel based on the personal experience of the author. This makes the book so real, and in some cases relatable. Rape Girl comes from a teenagers perspective. Therefore the details are simple and easy to understand. Rape girl is not a cookie cutter book. The typical rape story would entail a female being raped by this sadistic man in an alleyway. In Rape girl,

the author did a excellent job depicting the Adam (rapist) as a true character, not just a background character. We received details about his religion, his personality and much more. The author did a remarkable job addressing Adam as an actual character, and not just the rapist. The fact that book allows for the authors story to be told. In addition, allows for the misconceptions of rape to be disproved. This is a thrilling book that is full unexpected twist and turns. In addition, there is an ending that no body would ever see coming, people will just have to read to find out!

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