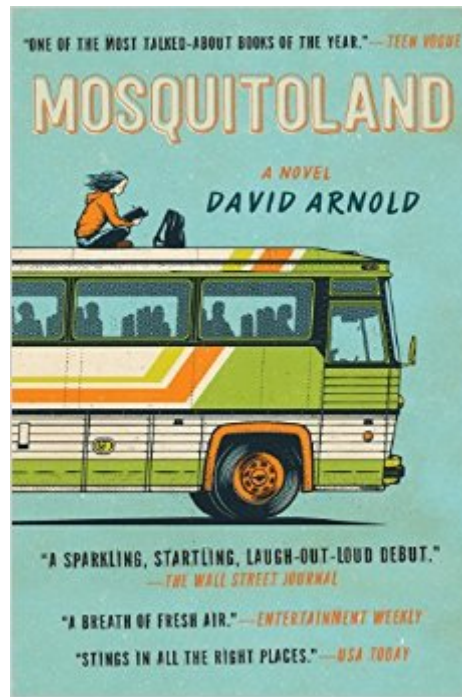


The book was found

Mosquitoland



Synopsis

• "Top-notch" • "USA Today" • "Illuminating" • "Washington Post" • "A breath of fresh air" • "Entertainment Weekly" • "Memorable" • "People" • After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the "wastelands" of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.*Includes a discussion guide, exclusive author interview, and music lyrics written by David Arnold

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (144 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

As a parent of three teenagers I simply cannot recommend this book to the audience to which it is being marketed. Viking has categorized this novel as a children's book for ages 12 and up. Mr. Arnold has written a story about 16 year old Mim, who upon hearing that her mother is very ill decides to run away from her dad and stepmom and embark on a journey from Jackson, Mississippi, to Cleveland, Ohio to see her mom. The author does a fantastic job of weaving past and

present narratives together. The phrasing in this book is often breathtakingly beautiful. Mim's mental health is in question. Her dad and most recent psychiatrist believe she is mentally ill, in fact she is prescribed and takes Abilify. Her mom and Mim both question this diagnosis. When she runs away, Mim stops taking her prescription, so the reader is left wondering till the very end whether what is happening is real or not. Arnold masters the feat of maintaining just the right amount of tension between these two possible outcomes. So given that this is a well written book, why my three stars instead of five? As adult, I am not tempted to follow Mim's footsteps, but a teenager might find her story inspiring and try to follow suit. So here are my concerns as parent: 1. Shortly after leaving Mim decides to go cold turkey on her medication. Yes, there is the question whether Mim has even been properly prescribed this medication, but if a young reader is taking an anti-psychotic drug the last thing I would want a book to encourage is for a young person to decide on their own to stop taking it, as withdrawal symptoms can be very severe. Symptoms include depression, anxiety and hallucinations. 2.

I'm so in love this book! Have you ever just sat and hugged a book after you've finished the last page? I know, I know- there are always books that you love, but I'm talking about books that you just love beyond reason. The books that you won't let anyone touch. This is one of those books for me. I haven't had a moment like this with a book since I read *Eleanor & Park*. I've loved many, but not like this. From the very first page I was hooked. I AM MARY Iris Malone, and I am not okay. This book is equally parts funny and touching. I find that there has been an increase in YA literature that evolves around mental illness, social issues and the like. It's so freaking refreshing! And the way that the author delivered this story, let's just say that I felt compelled to keep at it because I had to know how this all played out. Long story short- Mim Malone finds out that her mother, back in Ohio, is sick. She finds this out when she eaves drops on a parent/principle conference (In which she was supposed to have been there but bails). Firstly, she didn't hear the rest of the conversation between the principle, her father and step-mother. She just ran out of the school and to home, packed a bag, stole over \$800 dollars from her step-mom's stash, and jumped on a Greyhound. All to save her mother. It is during this trip that Mim meets some interesting company, and everything starts to unravel. What the heck? I was so caught up in the revelations in this book. I was seriously going bananas, because when I thought that something was one thing- turns out that it wasn't. This book is crazy crazy crazy. I swear that you will lose your mind by the end of it. But, don't worry, it's the good kind of crazy. I don't want to spoil this book.

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