

One of Us

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K Child has lived a hard life. Her parents died when she was young, leaving only her spiteful grandmother to look after her. And soon she too died, leaving K alone. Despite all these changes in her life, one thing has remained constant for K, her hatred and fear of the brotherhood. The brotherhood is a faction of sorts, full of fanatics wearing red checks. On her way to school, the station is blown up by a bomb supposedly planted by the brotherhood. Had it not been for Oskar, K would have died. After the incident, Oskar gains K's trust and asks her to go on secret mission for him. He asks her to infiltrate a brotherhood school undercover and gather info on their proceedings. K will stumble upon many secrets throughout her mission. She may even find more than she hoped for, something that could change everything she ever knew.

I really enjoyed all the bombshell secrets that arose in K's story. They're too shocking to spoil. The story was also packed with action as well as some very important real-life implications. One of Us has a general theme of us vs. them as in the brotherhood vs. the citizens. And this helps reminds us about the divisions amongst us today, whether it's amongst race, religion, gender, etc. I learned that people who we consider as enemies aren't necessarily so different from us. We all aren't that different, regardless of who we are or what we believe in.

Despite this, there are some things I found a bit of an issue with. For one, I had a hard time understanding the whole history of the brotherhood and what they stood for. The ending also wasn't as good as I hoped for. Readers as well should watch out for the bad language, slurs, discrimination, violence, and intimacy present during certain parts of the book. For these reasons, I would suggest One of Us to anyone 14 years or older. It would certainly be a great gift for fans of mystery.

Recommended Titles:

One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

Sadie by Courtney Summers

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys