

## **Anatomy of a Misfit**

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The Anatomy of a Misfit speaks up for the inner voice within all of us that speaks what we are really thinking. On the outside, Anika Dragomir, is the third most popular girl in school, on the inside, she is a mix of dark and mischievous thoughts with the help of her 'vampire DNA'.

Anika struggles with an, 'immigrant complex' that can be attributed to her father coming from Romania and now living in Nebraska, which Anika cites as American as it gets, which leads to her thoughts that can be seen as contrary to popular opinion. Nevertheless, they are all thoughts people will experience throughout their life and especially when growing up and going through adolescence.

I liked the Anatomy of a Misfit for its point of view of the storyteller with Anika going through her struggle with identity of who she truly is. I can relate to this myself, as I grew up in Australia and have moved to the United States for school. I myself, constantly have this feedback loop in my mind replaying and reviewing conversations and scenarios in my mind with different endings or thinking, what would happen if I did this instead? I believe it is healthy to always review and debrief situations you think went well and not so well, to live and learn from them, just like Anika does throughout the book.

What I did not like from the book is Anika's need to associate with the number one girl in the grade: Becky Vilhauser, and how Becky will try and discipline her when she steps out of line or doesn't fit the character that is expected. Everyone should be allowed to express themselves in whatever manner they like. Society is extremely diverse and part of growing up and being a teenager is finding yourself and what you are truly passionate about which the book does well through Anika's inner thoughts.

The book does use the 'F' word and expresses some mature themes. The book would be appropriate for audiences that are 14 plus, but also appropriate for audiences that are 12 plus with the guidance of a older person to make sure the content can be understood and any questions raised throughout the text can be answered to avoid any misconceptions. The book should be available in libraries for people to rent out, but it would also serve as a good gift. Themes of coming of age, identity, and the inner mind in all of us are applicable to people of all ages so as a gift this book can be read at multiple times during your life to relate to where someone is in their own life. The book accurately describes the misfit character within all of us. All kids should read this book to know that they are not alone and most of the time, people will be thinking the same thing as you. Tragedy is a time of mourning but what can be learnt from these tragedies is even more critical and in the form of Anika we see her truly coming to identify her true self which is something everyone should do.

Other books to read:

Little Do We Know – Tamara Ireland Stone

The Beginning of Everything – Robyn Schneider

Teen Angst? Naaaah – Ned Vizzini