

Hillbilly Elegy

J.D. Vance

Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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A memoir by J.D. Vance, who is a former marine and Yale Law School graduate. He tells the story of his life and what a social, regional, and class decline feels like with Appalachian values, starting with his grandparents and ending with himself and his wife. His entire family lived in a similar struggle, of trying to escape their history of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma that is so common with their part of the U.S., and he shows how he lived with this. He continues to move forward and persevere, but he never forgets where he comes from.

While some of his thoughts are controversial depending on who reads the book, Vance's memoir is a powerful one and, to me, a fantastic read. Due to various pieces of content in the book, I would recommend this to teenagers and older, although the message of perseverance and not giving up is one that all should be aware of.

Recommended Titles

Educated by Tara Westover

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls