

The Waning Age

S. E. Grove

Reviewed by: Sireen Mohammed, 14

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The novel *The Waning Age* by S. E. Grove is a fictional book that explores the emotionless world of protagonist Natalia Peña. Natalia and her younger brother Calvino are two newly orphaned children living together under the care of their foster parents - Nat's best friend Joey's parents. In their world, everyone stops feeling emotions (they refer to the process as waning) after a certain age - almost everyone that is. Nat knows her brother is special, he can still feel things even after he has passed the age, and he does not seem to be waning anytime soon. This unusual occurrence starts grabbing the attention of important people and Cal is called in to be tested.

Nat tries to comfort Cal and tell him that it should not be a bad thing but she's mostly just trying to comfort herself. It gets harder to pretend that nothing's wrong when Nat gets a call while at work saying that Cal has been taken for more unauthorized testing. Nat hurries to the school to see her brother and put an end to the testing when she is informed that he is not there, and that he was taken to the RealCorp facility; the company that researches emotions and sells fake ones to only those who can afford them. Nat rushes to the building and is told that Cal is now legally under RealCorp's authority and that she cannot see him.

Nat spends the rest of the book hunting for her brother and trying to save him any way she can. *The Waning Age* is a very well-written book that gets you thinking about the importance of emotions in our everyday lives. It points out the things we do not seem to notice about emotions, instincts, and rationality that have huge influences over all our decisions, and it makes for a wonderful plot. It was a somewhat difficult theme to grasp at first, but it is a good book. I recommend reading this book for children ages 13 and up.

Recommended Titles:

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Lord of the Flies, William Golding

Maze Runner, James Dashner