

The Dangerous Art of Blending In

Angelo Surmelis

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Having a good family relationship is what most people wish for; in fact, it's what young Evan Panos has spent his entire life working for. Growing up in a strict Greek Christian family with a mother who isn't easily accepting makes it even more hard for Evan to get his wish. His mother consistently finds reasons to deem him as "unholy" or "the devil" and beat him for it. He's debated telling someone else and trying to get help, but he likes to keep everything organized – keep all his worlds separate. It causes him pain to do it, but it's the only way to maintain his life and try as hard as he can to be the perfect son.

It worked for a while, still enduring his mother's beatings, until all his worlds began to collide. He's been keeping a secret from everyone; he's gay. He can't imagine telling his family; he doesn't know what his mom would do to him. He, instead, confides all his beatings and secrets in journals he doesn't ever plan on showing anyone. He thinks his secrets are safe, but he soon finds out his mother had told the priest to read his journal to spy on him. Evan can feel his secrets coming out.

I enjoyed reading this book very much. I could feel Evan's pain and fear throughout the entire book. The book was mostly realistic; a lot of children fear having to face what Evan went through. I liked reading this book and I recommend reading it. I recommend this book for children ages 11 and up.

Recommended Titles:

Been Here All Along, Sandy Hall

Every Day, David Levithan

Honestly Ben, Bill Konigsberg