

Bone Gap

Laura Ruby

Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15

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

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Finn O'Sullivan and his older brother, Sean, have become comfortable with the feeling of loss. When they were little, their father died in a car accident and their mother left, leaving them to fend for themselves. When a young Polish woman named Roza hides in their barn, the brothers manage to get her comfortable in their apartment in their little town of Bone Gap. Roza slowly learns to trust the O'Sullivans and even become friends before Roza was kidnapped in front of Finn. Finn fails to describe what the man looked like, while Sean spirals into despair. This book follows Finn's journey in understanding himself and saving Roza from her mysterious captor.

From the start, my curiosity for Roza's story and her kidnapper made me finish the book in three hours! I love Finn and his character development. Petey Willis was the most relatable character, and every time she was mentioned I felt I could understand exactly what she felt. I was not only able to understand her but wanted to help her through her issues dealing with the beauty standard. The way Laura Ruby uses the different perspectives of the characters makes this story so much more personal and the characters a lot more vulnerable in their thoughts. It shows how hurt and fragile each character was.

I would recommend this book to teens fourteen and older since it deals with sexual harassment and sexual content. Because of this, I feel like the book is something for your enjoyment instead of a gift to someone else. I love how this book talks a lot about beauty and the difference between internal and physical beauty. The two biggest examples are through Petey and Roza. "Bone Gap" also mentions face blindness, a condition where a person can't memorize or recognize others through facial features. I think it's awesome that the author is raising awareness to a more unknown condition, and using literature to educate others.

Recommended Titles:

Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby

Holding Up the Universe by Jennifer Niven

The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney