

## ***Monday's Not Coming***

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Monday Charles, Claudia's only and best friend, is missing. Claudia and Monday used to do everything together. From dancing and studying together, the two were inseparable. Every summer, Claudia goes to her grandmother's house and stays there for the summer. So, the first time Monday and her used to see each other was on the first day of school. Claudia came to school ready to meet her best friend for the first time in months. But, Monday did not show up. Claudia thought that she must be sick, so she called Monday's house, but no one picked up. Monday's mother, Ms. Charles, was known to be tough and unpleasant. Regardless of that, Claudia went to talk to Ms. Charles about Monday's whereabouts. Ms. Charles said that Monday was staying at her dad's house and would not be coming back to school. Claudia was devastated. She had no other friends and would be alone at school. One day she was walking to class by herself, when she saw April Charles, Monday's sister. She asked April where Monday was, and April said that she was with her aunt. Claudia knew something was wrong.

Claudia knew something was not right. Monday would not have disappeared without telling her best friend. Claudia went to her favorite teacher, Ms. Valante, and asked her to help her reach Monday. Ms. Valante called child services to see if Monday was to be found. Child services had no answer. After Claudia heard that, she went to the police to see if she could file a report for a missing person. Her request was denied. Claudia, in the back of her mind, always thought that Monday might be dead, but she pushed away that idea. So, Claudia decided to dig deeper into why Monday might be gone. She goes to the library, one of Monday's favorite places, to see the books she may have checked out. They were all about physical child abuse. She then realizes that Monday is being abused, so she goes to her mom for help.

All of Claudia's recurring thoughts about the investigation and Monday's disappearance were caused by dissociative amnesia. It had been two years since Monday was gone. Claudia was now 16, not 14 anymore. As Claudia came back to the present, all the memories of Monday's now confirmed death came back. Claudia had gone to visit Monday's house and noticed a smell coming from the buzzing freezer. Soon after, the authorities found the bodies of Monday and her little brother August, both dead, in the freezer. Ms. Charles had killed them both out of anger. Monday's sister, April, had helped hide the murder. The book ends as the entire community is grieving, and the story garners nationwide attention. In a final interview with Monday Charles's mother, Ms. Charles claims she has no regrets. She believes that August and Monday deserved to die.

This book brings up so many important issues that are often overlooked. It touched upon poverty, bullying, child abuse, and child abandonment. I think that this book deserves so much more recognition because it really educates the reader on issues they may have not known about before. A lot of the time, such problems are ignored until the outcome becomes deadly serious. I would recommend this book to every teenager, 12 years old and up, who is looking for a good, educational read. This book makes the reader want to keep on reading as it is dark and thrilling but also explores a traumatic reality. This book is definitely perfect to pick up from the library because it is a one time read and easy to finish quickly. Although this book is educational and digs deep into a reality for many children out there, I feel as if it may be confusing for some

readers to keep up with the story. The author writes in the present, before, and after. The setting of the book is constantly changing with every chapter, so it can be a lot to keep up with. Other than that, this was definitely one of the best books I have read all summer. I was extremely captivated and read this book in just one sitting.

**Recommended Titles:**

1. The Hate You Give: Angie Thomas
2. Clap When You Land: Elizabeth Avededo
3. With The Fire on High: Elizabeth Avededo