

Take Me to the River

Will Hobbs

Reviewed by: Rachel Johnson, 42

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

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14-year-old Dylan Sands takes a trip from North Carolina to Terlingua Ghost Town in Texas. He is to meet his Uncle Alan and 15-year-old cousin Rio for the first time. The plan for the summer is to spend a week on the Rio Grande running the river. Upon his arrival, he finds out that his uncle has gone to Alaska to work and Rio is home alone for the month. Instead of informing his parents, he and Rio decide they will stick to the plan and run the river alone. They pack their supplies and with the help of a friend they head for the Big Bend National Park.

Reports of a tropical storm coming does not stop the boy's plans. Dylan in the canoe and Rio in the raft, they begin down river. Along the way they get word that a shooting and kidnapping has taken place at a nearby lodge on the Mexico side of the border and the suspect could be on the river. They are having an enjoyable time, until Tropical Storm Dolly is on top of them. The river is rising and moving faster than normal. While taking a break from the waves they are approached by the suspect who has the kidnapped child with him. The kidnapper demands to be taken down river. Now at gunpoint, Dylan and Rio must figure out how to get home alive.

This is an action-packed adventure. Will Hobbs has authored an interesting story of two normal teenage boys that face adversity and become heroes. This page turner is filled with suspense and will keep you glued till the end. The amount of detail put into the story really brings it to life. The author touches on some issues affecting the United States/Mexico border (Cartels, Crime, Poverty). Although the story is fiction, some aspects of lifestyle and culture along the border feel realistic. This is a terrific book for ages 10+.

Recommended Titles

The Great Trouble, by Deborah Hopkinson

Peak, by Roland Smith

Tangerine, by Edward Bloor