

The Honest Truth

Dan Gemeinhart

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In the book “The Honest Truth” by Dan Gemeinhart, the main character is a boy named Mark. Mark was diagnosed with cancer when he was five and has a best friend named Jessie. One day, Mark decides to run away from home to a mountain known as Mt. Rainier. He buys a bus ticket to Spokane and puts his dog, Beau, in a duffel bag. Meanwhile, back home, Mark’s parents notice that Mark has disappeared, so they ask Jessie if she has seen Mark, in which she replies by saying that she hasn’t seen Mark since school. The cops eventually come and tell Mark’s parents and Jessie that Mark is taking the bus to a city called Spokane. Then, at 9:00 in the night, Mark decides to eat at a diner, and he sees his name and his face on TV, as he has been reported as missing. After leaving the diner, he encounters a group of teenagers who beat him up and decide to take some of his money. Beau manages to get the group of teenagers to run away and leave Mark alone. The next day, he decides to call his parents and lies to them by telling them that he is at a place called Moose Lake. He then takes a bus, where he meets a girl named Shelby, who is six and is visiting her divorced dad with her brother. Just like Mark is angry about him having cancer, Shelby is angry at how her parents are divorced. After leaving the bus, Mark takes another bus to Paradise Visitor’s Center in Mount Rainier National Park. However, the driver kicks him out of the bus after he realizes that Mark didn’t pay for a ride. Because of this, he decides to walk to the mountain instead.

Mark decides to seek shelter on an island but regrets doing so, as he ends up falling into an ice-cold lake. However, he manages to survive. He then meets a person named Wesley, who decides to let him come with him to Mt. Rainier. Wesley tells Mark about his son who died in Iraq. When they finally make it to Mt. Rainier, Wesley is skeptical to let Mark climb the mountain but eventually consents. When he gets to the mountain, he decides to call Jessie and tell her goodbye one last time before climbing the mountain. However, at the same time, there was a storm. As he climbed the mountain, all of the thoughts about his family and friends were hard to forget about. However, he said to himself that he would keep climbing the mountain and nothing could stop him. He managed to get past the crevasse, but Beau, however, got stuck. However, Mark was able to help him get unstuck from the crevasse. At that point, however, Mark completely changed his mind about himself, as he now thought about all of the moments from the past and that he did not want to die. Mark eventually falls asleep, but then a search party comes to the base of the mountain and finds Mark. When Mark wakes up, he realizes he is at a hospital, and that Jessie is next to him. Mark tells Jessie about his story, and Jessie remembers it and tells his story later that day.

There were a lot of things that I liked about this book. For example, I liked how this book was a very realistic book and how it portrays feelings usually felt during hard times. It also portrays the strong friendship between Mark and Jessie and Mark and Beau. However, what I didn’t like about the book was how some parts of the book were hard to read, such as the feelings that Jessie

had as a result of her best friend disappearing. I would recommend this book to ages 12 and up because of how easy it is to understand and how many of the feelings portrayed in the book are similar to that age group. I would definitely recommend this book to someone else.

Recommended Titles:

Some Kind Of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart

Good Dog by Dan Gemeinhart

Scar Island by Dan Gemeinhart