

The Castle School for Troubled Girls

By Author, Alyssa Sheinmeil

Reviewed by: Sharanya 12

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

<https://www.bethestaryouare.org/>

Moira Dreyfuss recently lost her best friend Nathan to cancer. Trying to hide her emotions, she constantly acts out to which her parents constantly berate her for. The last straw for them is when she gets a tattoo. Angered, they sent her to a boarding school to help her open up about the untimely demise of her best friend. There she finds many girls with mental issues, and she learns to lend a hand to those in need. While learning about friendship, Moira uncovers a ghastly mystery. Together, with her newly acquired friends she sets on a journey to learn more about the boarding school dedicated to the psychology of teenage girls.

The Castle School For Troubled Girls is a realistic fiction book which battles against the stigma of mental health. The main character, Moira's outlook on life is refreshing from the typical acceptance that most mental health books provide. Her urge to battle against all odds made her a character I was rooting for throughout the book. The plot is very powerful and moving! I wouldn't classify this as a light read, as there was a lot of meaning behind the book. This is a suitable read for teens because of violence and graphic content about the struggles behind many mental health issues. I wouldn't recommend this book as a gift due to the heavy topics, but I would definitely recommend one to read it by themselves. This book was certainly a different taste of realistic fiction, and all in all a wonderful read.

Recommended Titles

Girl in Pieces by Kathleen Glasgow

Faceless by Alyssa Sheinmeil

The List by Siobhan Vivian

Outer Banks by Alyssa Sheinmeil