

House Arrest

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House Arrest is a book about a boy named Timothy who is placed under house arrest after stealing a credit card to help pay for his disabled baby brother's medicine. While dealing with the unfortunate circumstances the house arrest has put him in, he also has to take care of his little brother and his mom all while trying to stay sane and prove to the judge that he would never steal again.

This book is honestly amazing. I have nothing but the highest praise for it. The writing style is so simple and yet it keeps you so invested in the story that its incredibly easy to lose track of time while reading. It truly is like you're sitting down and reading a younger teenager's journal. The story itself takes you on an emotional journey, having you crying one second and smiling the next. It's relatable on so many different levels, and reminded me of one of my friend's living situations back when I was younger. Honestly, this book just brought out so many emotions that I never wanted it to end.

That brings me to my one complaint about the book. It just doesn't feel *finished*. The ending feels entirely too rushed and leaves you wanting more, but not entirely in a good way. It leaves off at a spot where I found myself getting frustrated at the book instead of remembering how much I loved the rest of it. It felt like a cliffhanger to TV show that got cancelled where you sit for hours wondering what you'll do now. It made me want to write a more conclusive ending to the book.

The internet says that this book is good for ages 10-14, and I agree with that immensely. This book, in my opinion, is way too serious for anyone under the age of 10 to properly take in and appreciate. It does also contain sensitive topics like stealing, and the concept of house arrest itself which may be difficult for a younger child to understand. There also is mentions of death and divorce which can be hard for some kids to take in. I would recommend borrowing this book before going out and buying it both due to the unique writing style and also the topics covered in the book.

If you're looking for a book which gives you the same emotional journey that this book took me on I'd recommend reading *They Cage The Animals At Night* by Jennings Michael Burch. For something a bit more mature than this which still covers a lot of the topics mentioned here I'd recommend *We Are the Ants* by Shaun David Hutchinson, and for a sequel to this book which is set a few years in the future I'd recommend *Knockout* by K.A. Holt.