

All the Broken Pieces

Ann E. Burg

Reviewed By: Anika 16

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

Matt Pin was only ten when his life took a drastic turn in war torn Vietnam. His father, an American soldier, abandoned him. Matt's Vietnamese mother begged other America soldiers to take her son. Matt was taken away from his family and everything he knew. Though he now lives with his caring adoptive family in America. They teach him how to play piano and baseball. But Matt has trouble adjusting and fitting in. His past haunts him and won't leave him alone. Matt is unable to open up and tell anyone about Vietnam. But as Matt gets to know and connect with other people, he's able to tell his story for the very first time.

I'm not one for poetry, but this book surprised me a bit. I thought the use of verse was a unique way sending the story across. And it really helped reinforce the message of words being messy but needed. There were moments in the story where I felt really touched by Matt's sense of honesty and perseverance. I connected with Matt often, feeling alone and unable to share a burden.

With the story being told in poetry, I did have a hard time understanding what was going on sometimes. It was kind of difficult to differentiate between an event and Matt's thoughts. And the ending might not be the best. I wish the author put a little more time into setting up the story and providing the readers with a bit of background. But other than that, this book was an interesting read. I suggest this book for anyone 12 years and up. This would be a great gift for anyone who loves poetry.

Recommendations:

90 Miles to Havana by Enrique Flores-Galbis

Divergent By Veronica Roth

Inside Out and Back again by Thanhha Lai