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Saving Grace (Turtleback School & Library Binding Edition)



Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Evie is determined to care for her baby, even if it means kidnapping her.

Book Information

Library Binding: 112 pages

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up
Evie's first mistake was getting pregnant. She admits that. The second mistake, giving her baby up for adoption, wasn't her idea but her father's. So to fix it, the 15-year-old takes drastic action by kidnapping Brianna, now named Grace, from her adoptive parents and running away with her. She convinces Justin, the child's father, to drive them to Montreal so they can start over as a family. His change of heart puts Evie's plans for a new life in jeopardy, and Brianna's rising temperature turns up the heat on the decision that Evie knows in her heart she must make. The novel's fast pace will keep reluctant readers turning the pages to the end. Ryan has created a wholly believable protagonist in a novel that has a 2.4 reading level. Readers will sympathize with her plight even as they cringe at her series of bad choices. While the book is written with struggling teen readers in mind, more sophisticated readers will find themselves drawn to both the content and character.
H. H. Henderson, Heritage Middle School, Deltona, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"The novel's fast pace will keep reluctant readers turning the pages to the end." (School Library

Journal 2007-03-01)"Lots of authentic dialogue and engrossing subject matter." (VOYA 2007-02-01)"This is a compelling, insightful addition to the Orca Soundings series. Recommended." (Canadian Book Review Annual 2008-06-01)"This Orca Soundings title with its fast-pace, high interest content, and low reading level is a perfect choice for a struggling female reader." (NMRLS Youth Services Book Review 2007-11-18)"This high-interest Orca Soundings book will be sure to stimulate good discussions about responsibility, good and harmful decisions and hard consequences." (Puget Sound Council for the Review of Children's Books 2008-11-01) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

When I first saw this book I thought "Is this made for a 3rd Grader?" because the book looked like a kid book with large print in it. My view as far as Evie kidnapping Grace/Brianna was a selfish move. Yes she was her mom but she had no idea how to even be a mom. She should have left Grace/Brianna where she was at, in a nice home. Evie couldn't even take care of her, she had little money, nowhere to live and no job. She didn't even know how to burp Grace/Brianna, the Waitress had to show her. I don't know what Evie was thinking when she ran from Justin and took her 5 month old baby out in the middle of the night. She put both her and her baby in danger. I thought it was cold hearted for Justin, Brianna's dad to say "I don't want to be her father, she was an accident." All and all this book was too short and left us with a cliffhanger.

To start this review I am going to say that the author and book are good. I liked the story line but was a little slow reading in some areas. The characters for the most part were believable and well written. The plot was left with a little bit to desire. As a mother I could relate to not being able to leave a child with strangers, especially if I was suspicious of them. There was suspense, mystery, love and more within the pages of author Darlene Ryan's book. I will be checking out more of this author and will be checking to see what other genres she may have. And so due to the above I am giving this book as of now a Breath of Life Rating of: Four Clock Rating!!! Disclosure: I did not receive this book in exchange for my review. But the opinions are mine, your opinion may differ, and that is fine with me.

Part of Orca Publishers' popular Orca Soundings series, *De nadie mas* is the Spanish translation of *Saving Grace*. As is typical of the Orca Soundings series, the book is written at a level accessible to most middle school students and is an excellent resource for ELL and struggling readers. Evie is a teen mom who was forced to give up her child for adoption. She kidnaps five-month-old Grace, who she calls Brianna, from her adoptive family and convinces the baby's father to drive them to

Montreal. The story is full of poor choices, but they are realistic choices when viewed through a teenager's lens: the action of taking what Evie believes is hers, the thought that reading a parenting book and getting an infant car seat and baby formula means she is prepared to take care of the child, the belief that two teen parents could raise a child on their own in a big city with little skills and little resources. There are a couple words which might cause problems in some schools or communities but in my mind, they are words which most teens probably hear most every day of their lives.

This is the first Orca Soundings book I've read. Designed for reluctant readers of high school age, they are all short (not even really long enough to be considered a novel) with large type and simple words. But in spite of all of that, I don't think this book talked down to the reader and I was pleased by the ambiguous ending. You are holding your breath throughout the story and wondering just what this desperate young mother/kidnapper is going to do next. The author could have had a different ending and then the Moral Of The Story would have hung heavy in the air, but instead she left the reader wondering a bit. I think teen girls in particular would like this.

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