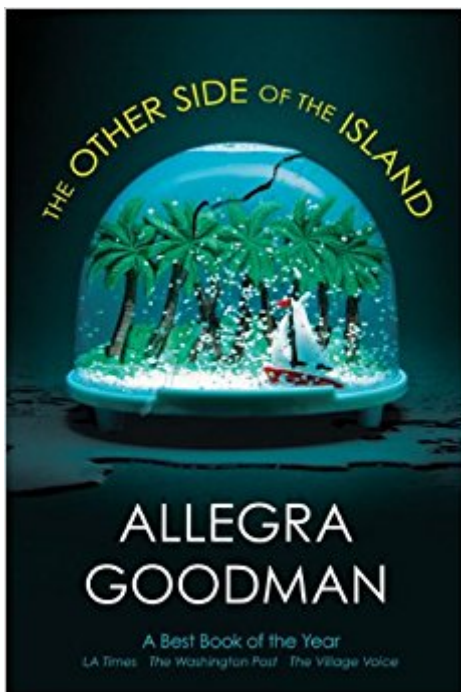


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The Other Side Of The Island



Synopsis

A gripping and beautifully written dystopian page-turner from New York Times bestselling author and National Book Award finalist ALLEGRA GOODMAN. In the eighteenth glorious year of Enclosure, long after The Flood, a young girl named Honor moves with her parents to Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea. Life on the tropical island is peaceful—there is no sadness and no visible violence in this world. Earth Mother and her Corporation have created New Weather. The sky is always blue and it almost never rains. Every family fits into its rightful, orderly, and predictable place—except Honor's. Her family does not follow the rules. They ignore curfew, sing songs, and do not pray to Earth Mother. Honor doesn't fit in with the other children at the Old Colony School. Then she meets Helix, a boy with a big heart who slowly helps her uncover a terrible secret about the Island: Sooner or later, those who do not fit disappear, and they don't ever come back. Honor knows her family could be next, and when the unthinkable happens, she must make the dangerous journey to the Other Side of the Island—before Earth Mother comes for her too.

Book Information

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in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. From Kaaterskill Falls to Intuition, Goodman's fiction proves that she can tackle big

subjects with unobtrusively graceful and perceptive prose. Her first YA offering, a dystopian eco-fantasy in which a malevolent Corporation lulls North America's few remaining inhabitants into complacency with memory-altering substances, misinformation, fake skies and a leader named Earth Mother, is a top-notch genre piece—but not her most robust storytelling. Honor is 10 when she and her parents are forcibly brought back from the supposedly uninhabitable North to Island 365; in one of the few but clever twists on convention, it is Honor's parents who actively rebel, and Honor who embraces Earth Mother's laws, at least at first. When her parents are inevitably caught, it falls (predictably) to Honor and another child to rescue them; this plot line depends on coincidence and inconsistencies, but dramatic pacing and otherwise shrewd psychological insight help camouflage these flaws. A subtle frame places an omniscient narrator in an even more distant future; in slyly casting a retrospective eye on her story, the author opens the apparent outcome to the reader's questioning, and this may be the most innovative aspect of her novel. Ages 12–18. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5—8—Honor and her parents have been forcibly relocated to a seaside shack, the most dangerous living facility in this carefully constructed dystopia. In this future world, reminiscent of that in Lois Lowry's *The Giver* (Houghton, 1993), the Corporation, headed by the mysterious Earth Mother, has created a totally controlled society. Lands are being enclosed to protect the inhabitants from freak natural weather, and "safe" weather is created with overlays—fake sunrises and sunsets projected daily on the sky. Honor's parents refuse to conform. Honor suffers from being different, but when she meets Helix, a boy whose parents are also intent on rebelling against the Corporation, the two children must discover a way to rescue Helix's parents and Honor's mother, who have been "taken" and turned into the zombielike orderlies who mindlessly serve the government. Honor's evolution from someone willing to conform to make life easier and safer to one committed to fight for her individuality is believable. The increasingly sinister atmosphere, echoing elements of National Socialism and China's Cultural Revolution, is well done. Parodies of self-help books for children ("What It Feels Like When Parents Disappear") add grim humor. Miss Blessing, one of the Corporation toadies, with her perfectly buttoned cardigan and high sweet voice, is a particularly chilling character. A compelling science-fiction novel.—Quinby Frank, Green Acres School, Rockville, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gift for my 9 year old niece...she asked for it by name....she was happy to get it

great story, needs a sequel. left open tho- when is the next book coming out?

This book was a book read by my daughters book club. While I did not read it, my daughter raved about it. She could not put the book down the first week she received it and kept telling me how good it is to read. My daughter is an avid book reader and she knows within a few pages if the book will appeal to her. As it happens, the main character is a female which is always a positive for our daughters in lieu of reading stories with males as the main character. I would recommend this book for any middle schooler

sigh I SOOO wanted to like or love this book but I just do not, I felt more let down. Fundamentally It has the right structure and bones to make it strong. But the whole written package just does not deliver any strength or even much of a punch at all. I would label this Dystopian lite. My first impression is that this is not a teen level book at all, I found everything about this story to be simple and easy. Too simple and easy to recommend it for my YA adult dystopian friends or the true Teen fantasy fans I know. I am the mother of a 8 1/2 year old and a reluctant almost 11 year old reader, this falls right into both of their reading range. In fact I would say this is the perfect introduction to dystopian reads for my 8 1/2 year old. There is no meat in this story, the emotion does not come across in the writing at all. Even when Honor is scared for her parents I do not feel it. You can not just write Honor was scared for her parents, and expect that to be enough to build an emotional connection. I found this entire book to be truly devoid of any emotional pull, making it come across more like reading a history textbook. Some characters are only mildly developed and do not lend themselves to feeling invested to their lives or drawn to their story, the rest are robotic. And not robotic in a good way for a dystopian coldness and ambivalence. Robotic in how they were written and developed, or lack of being developed as real humans.*I also have mention that the whole Octopus story just does not work for me, it only comes across as a Gimmick and does not flow. First it gets lost during the first storm, then all of a sudden Honor is feeding it in the classroom aquarium (And it attaches itself to her?!?) with not mention of it being back. I am also the mother to an almost 4 year old little boy, I found Quintillian to be so unrealistically written in the 3 and 4 year old time frame that it was distracting. Even trying to pull myself back and say dystopian, different time and place, he did not feel like Will and Pamela's 3 and 4 year old. If he had been 5 or 6 it would have fit better

IMO. But that is just my opinion. With so many great dystopian reads out there today this one just does not measure up in the YA genre IMO. Fundamentally it has the right bones to build a great dystopian world, but we need so much more from it. We need more history, and not just the stucoco cold classroom lessons. The characters need to be stronger, more fleshed out, more developed, more relateable. I just feel that so much is vague about this book.

This is considered a young adult novel, but I found it an excellent read for any age. The story presents a future for the planet that is "Unpredictable" (an especially pejorative term in the lexicon of the Earth Mother corporation running the world in this post-global-flooding story). The contradictions and questions raised in the portrayal of the new social order are unique and unexpected. The plot moves quickly; the characters are sympathetic; and the story's originality and suspense keep it engaging throughout.

This is a really good story - keeps moving and is thought provoking. Some details could have been flushed out, and the ending was sparse and felt rushed. I previewed this for my young teen and found nothing objectionable - no foul language or smut. For those especially particular, conditions in the story conjured up images of Nazi overlords (along the lines of brainwashing, controlling people by meds, dissidents disappearing).

Overall Review: This novel has taken a very different viewpoint. This is told from the point of view of the daughter of characters who are involved in the underground rebellion against a `dystopian' society. It was so interesting to see the thought processes of a young girl who is trying to protect her parents whom she thinks are being reckless. She goes to extremes to help her family `fit in' so nothing bad will happen. In her little girl mind, she feels she is helping. She goes from beaten down and trying to save her family to totally empowered. And yet, she's not a physical part of the rebellion. But it does bring to mind questions: Is it really bad to make everyone be the same and `feel safe'? Does that really take away our freedom? Or is it better to be honestly free to be ourselves and do what we choose? Are we really free when we do that? And, what happens to those we love when we choose to give ourselves to a cause? I was honestly surprised at the ending, but found it fitting. A very tame, and yet still chillingly scary novel! I loved it! Overall Rating: 4 out of 5 stars! Content Review: PROFANITY: None SEXUAL CONTENT: None VIOLENCE: few mild instances MATURE THEMES: Mild RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 14+ A wonderful lack of foul language! There is no sexual content. There are a few mild instances of violence where some

characters attack another group of characters, but it's not gory or full of fierce fighting. They're just looking for someone and used the `attack' to divert attention. Many of the adult characters are harsh. As far as mature themes, there's always the intensity of the dystopian society itself. There are many instances of parents disappearing and the question of where they actually go. "The Other Side of the Island" is a Squeaky Clean read for ages 14+! This review was written by EmilyA Squeaky Clean Reads Book Reviewer To see this and other fantastic books on review, visit us at squeakycleanreads.com!!

Goodman used such creative ways to address our earth's growing environmental problems. There was so much detail in her description of Honor's dystopian world. This is why I enjoyed this book... mostly. Then there's all the other typical reasons that you can find out yourself when you read this book! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

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