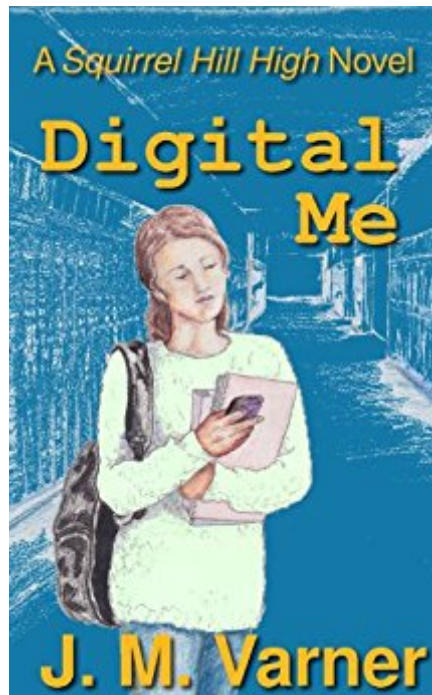


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Digital Me (A Squirrel Hill High Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

Megan doesn't want to lose her best friend Sara, her closest companion at Squirrel Hill High, but Sara's new popularity on the social network Digital Me threatens to tear them apart. Sara wants to Connect with Squirrel Hill High's most popular guy, Josh, on Digital Me, but in the digital world, not everything's as it seems. Jaron wants to hack into Digital Me to prove his worth to the global hacker community, but living in Russia leaves him blocked behind a digital iron curtain. Digital Me -- Where these three lives collide in a way that's only possible in the brave new digital world. A Young Adult Realistic Fiction novel of approx. 38,000 words (~180 pages). Note to Parents/Guardians: Digital Me does not contain explicit language or mature scenes. References are made to photographs that contain "inappropriate" interactions between a male and a female student, but details of this interaction are never specified.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent morally sound book. I commend the writer.

This cautionary tale is geared toward middle- and high-school students but has an important message for digital citizens of all ages. It would lend itself well to a classroom or family discussion centering on the differences between the "digital you" and the "real you."

I loved this book! I think everyone in middle school should read this book. Great job Mr Varner!!!!!!
you're a great writer

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All kids these days have been warned about the importance of discretion on the internet. Most, however, have not witnessed or experienced any situations personally that would prove why being careful is so important. This book gives one such example. And it does so in such an initially innocent way that the same situation could have happened to anyone, making it hit even closer to home. Sara couldn't wait for the social networking site Digital Me to be opened to high school students (think Facebook in 2005). Soon she is consumed in the online world, creating her own new persona and alienating her few real-life friends in the process. When a computer hacker across the globe targets Sara and her friends, things spiral out of control very quickly in this novel that serves as a warning of the dangers of personal information on the internet. My only concern with this book is that the target audience might not have witnessed the significance first hand of Facebook opening up to high school students. I remember this being a huge deal, and could therefore relate to this book on a personal level. However, I love that this book can still be applicable today, nearly ten years later. The only possible mature situation in the book was merely implied, so I love that this book can also be suitable for middle school students who will soon be able to create their own Facebook accounts.

* I received this book in exchange for a honest review. *Megan and Sara are high school students with two totally different mindsets. Megan is the rational technophobe and Sara is a smart but reckless social networking fanatic. Although their viewpoints differ drastically, they manage to keep their friendship alive and thriving...until Digital Me, a fictional version of Facebook, allows users under the age of 18 to join its ranks. With that small change in policy, the girls' friendship takes a drastic turn that neither of them expected. This book was an okay read for me. It wasn't necessarily bad, but it wasn't the greatest book that I've read either. Besides some basic grammatical issues, it suffered from a few issues. The main issue that I had trouble with was that it lacked an identity. In

some parts of the book, it seemed as though it would be perfect for a middle grade audience but in others the plot would be way too mature for middle graders to understand. A secondary issue that I had was with "plot holes". There were several plot lines that were not wrapped up by the end of the novel. Additionally, the plot had a tendency to change very rapidly without warning. One minute, the plot would be revolving around Sara and in the next paragraph the plot would focus on Megan with little to no transition. Although an older reader would not have an issue with following the plot, younger readers would struggle to follow along. With that being said, I give the author huge credit for tackling an important message. Given the prevalence of social media in our daily lives, it's necessary to examine the consequences of too much social networking. This novel could provide valuable discussion material for a parent to use when talking about social media with their children. Overall, I recommend this book to younger audiences who have good reading comprehension skills and to parents looking for helpful tools to use to discuss the dangers of social networking.

A cautionary tale for everyone who is on the internet- be careful what you put out on the internet and protect yourself. Although Sara's obsession with Digital Me was annoying, I don't think it was too far off from today's youth. Despite my overwhelming desire to slap Sara in the face, I think it's a good story for everyone to be reminded of. Recommend for those who like YA, technology, social media! I received a free copy of this ebook in exchange for an honest review*

This is a good book to have your children read and discuss with you before allowing them to have a Facebook or similar social account. It is a soft lecture wrapped in subtle warnings attempting to reach preteens regarding potential real world consequences. With no truly traumatizing or explicit situations the author leaves it as a jumping off point for parents to broach the topic with their elementary or middle school children. It was well written and relevant.

A really great book! Now I will tell my kids to beware of hackers. If they read this, I won't always have to tell them to be safe, they'll just know by reading this. So anyone like my kids, very social, this book is perfect to let them know what to do and do it just to be safe from anyone. Great Job!

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