

Student Book Review
Margaux with an X, By Ron Koertge

Imagine never being understood until the most unlikely person steps into your life. That is exactly what happens in Marquax with an X. I thought it was a very complex book. I also thought it was confusing because it uses hard vocabulary words. There are many twists and turns. Margaux goes through the trouble that a lot of teenagers go through, so I could relate well with her. The author wrote it in a way so that she was the teen.

“She leads the way out front. He’s dying to talk. Make her laugh. Get her going. Score some points. Boys make her feel like she’s in a video game, one with a lot of twists and turns, caverns and blind alleys. And when they win she loses.”

That is why I recommend this book to teenagers, especially girls. Even though it is a bit hard, it is well written and described. You can imagine a lot of the scenes perfectly.

The book is about a girl who hates her life at home. Her dad is a gambler and her mom is a shopping channel addict. She thinks her social life is tedious. All the guys like her because she’s gorgeous. There is always a guy asking her out that she turns it into a game. That is until she meets a different guy. “She hears a microgram of disappointment. He was a welcome distraction, a new book from the carton of her little island.” He treats her with respect and listens to her, and that surprises her.

“His silence disarms her. She’s used to boys chattering away, complimenting her, joking with her, offering things – a kind of rapid fire sharp shooting that clips buttons off her dress, shatters buckles, and leaves her standing in stolen underwear while they take a bow.”

Danny is an outcast in society while Margaux is part of a popular crowd. Her best friend, Sara, can’t help her with her problems. She is always doing drugs and dating a different guy. She is never there for her. Danny on the other hand affects her life tremendously. He listens to her and understands what she is going through.

The good part of the story is when they start sharing painful memories. She tries sharing it with her mom, but she doesn’t listen. “When I was ten -” Her mother actually does something Margaux has only seen on TV. She puts an index finger in each ear and begins to yodel. Like one of the monkeys in that famous trio of monkeys, she wants to hear no evil. The mom does this when Margaux is trying to tell her something very important from her past.

I think the author wrote this book to show us that there are people out there who can understand us. Margaux thought that no one understood her pain that she kept locked up until she met Danny. Together they share their pain. They try to cope by writing in journals. I also think she wrote the book to tell

us not to give up in life and to keep trying your best. No matter how hard it gets, we can always try to find someone that understands us. We have to be able to trust others because there are always people that we can rely on.

Reviewed by Adaivet Martinez
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