Run by Kody Keplinger
Reviewed by Fadila

★ ★ ★ ★

Stand Alone, Realistic Fiction

Give a summary without spoilers!

Told from two perspectives, Run is the story of two girls who go on a wild adventure to find who they are. Bo Dickinson has a bad reputation in the small town she lives in. Her family has a past of being druggies and alcoholics. And Bo does nothing to prove them wrong, even though she has really done anything to make people hate her. Agnes Atwood lives an extremely simple, strict life. She is legally blind, which makes her parents treat her in an even stricter manner. She feels as though she hasn't truly lived, and is scared of being trapped in the small town she lives in forever.

As Bo and Agnes's friendship evolves, and they learn more about each other, they discover they have a lot more in common than expected. But the town, more specifically Agnes's parents, don't approve of Agnes and Bo's friendship.

But then one day, everything changes. Acting in the spur of the moment, Bo and Agnes run away together. Their journey is emotional, about self discovery, and keeps the stakes high with constant action.

What drew you to this book?

I was sifting through Mansfield Public Library's YA fiction section, and I saw the book Run by Kody Keplinger. I recognized her name from the book/movie the DUFF. After reading the side panel about the book, I knew this book was going to be good. I love books about running away, facing the world with no previous planning, and spur of the moment/constant action books, I was able to infer than Run would meet all those standards and more.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

Run by Kody Keplinger reminds me of Don't Breathe a Word by Holly Cupala. They're like similar books but from neighboring realities. Both follow the lives of girls who feel as though their parents are strict, and unknowingly suffocating them. Both include characters who end up running away as a means to dealing with their conflicts. But

that's about where the similarities stop, the rest of the adventures separate into completely different directions.

To whom would you recommend this book?
I would recommend Run by Kody Keplinger to anyone who is in a reading slump or wants to get into reading. The language is super easy to understand, and the plot moves fast, ensuring the reader doesn't get bored. Anyone who likes realistic, almost contemporary books will certainly find worth in this book. There is quite a bit of bad language and some sexual references, so I would recommend the audience be 14-15 years and older. I would warn readers to be aware that the book contains some verbal and emotional abuse.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?
While not one of my favorite books, Run by Kody Keplinger is definitely worth reading. The end was satisfying, and I got the happily ever after I was hoping for. The action was there, as well as the character development, and I didn't feel myself losing motivation as I was reading. But for some reason, this book didn't quite do it for me. I felt like something was missing in the plot, like the author left something out when closing off the story. It's not a waste of time to read this book, but it isn't the first book that comes to mind when I think of a book to recommend to friends.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?
Run is a fast read. I recommended it to my younger sister and she finished it in one day.