



The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings
Reviewed by Ariella



The Red Kayak is part of a three book series with it being the first book, The Journey Back being the second book, and Cheating for the Chicken Man being the third.

Give a summary without spoilers!

The Red Kayak is a suspenseful story about a teenager named Brady who faces a moral dilemma after a tragedy occurs in a river near his small town. Brady's guilt about the situation pushes him to reveal some difficult truths that put a strain on his loyalty and friendships. The novel is extremely thought-provoking, and it explores the weight of secrets and the courage that it takes to come face to face with those secrets.

What drew you to this book?

Someone may be drawn into the Red Kayak because of how well it explores teen emotions and how these emotions can be destructive. The situations that arise throughout the book make them feel extremely real, especially for teens who are facing moral decisions. Some also may be drawn to this novel because of its exploration of themes that feel relevant to teens but understandable to everyone.

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

The Outsiders and The Red Kayak each dive deep into the situations of young people caught in morally complex situations and dealing with the weight of their decisions. Both of the stories are filled with tension and emotion, with characters who struggle to find their place in their situations. Additionally, the two novels are both coming-of-age novels that explore the same themes pertaining to friendship and loyalty.

To whom would you recommend this book?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy character-driven stories with realistic conflicts. It is a perfect book for readers who enjoy exploring the physiological and emotional growth of teens who face real-world issues. Anybody who is interested in stories that tackle moral questions, and personal accountability would find The Red Kayak very intriguing and meaningful.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

The Red Kayak kept me on the edge of my seat! Whenever I would turn the page, I would find myself truly immersed in what I was reading. Trying to figure out why certain characters made certain decisions is also what contributed to the fun of reading the book. The Red Kayak was an amazing portrayal of the complexity of teen emotions, showing exactly how small emotions can develop into big problems.

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?

The cover of the Red Kayak is something most do not pay much attention to. It sets a somber yet mysterious tone before you even open the book to start reading. The simplicity of the cover gives it such a haunting quality that suggests the importance of the kayak and what happened on the water. The design gives readers a glimpse into the emotional weight that the book holds.