

Title: *Call it What You Want*

Author: Brigid Kemmerer

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Rachel G. 8th grade

Date Reviewed: March 21, 2020

The book starts by introducing us to the characters, Rob and Meagan. Rob's father used to be a wealthy businessman, who happened to lose a lot of people's savings in his town. This does not make Rob very likeable in school. After getting much backlash and charges, he had a failed suicide attempt which left him non responsive and in a wheelchair, for Rob and his mother to take care of. Most of their belongings were taken away by the authorities, and Rob's family is now financially struggling as well. Meagan comes from a normal family and her father is a police officer, and he was one of the first to come to Rob's house after his dad's failed suicide attempt. Meagan is also not very popular in school- but for a different reason. She cheated on the SAT and got many other student's scores invalidated. And when her sister also comes home from college pregnant, this shocks her family. What infuriates them even more is the fact that she won't tell them who the father is- which Meagan finds out to be her professor. The story is set in an affluent suburban town in the 21st century. The story starts off when the two protagonists are paired together for a project in calculus class. At first they resent one another, but after a short while, they start working together and building a friendship, and bonding over their social struggles. Rob is a social outcast, but starts to befriend Owen, whom he sits and talks to at lunch. However, Rob begins stealing from his ex best friend, Connor, whose family used to be close with Rob's through their fathers. Soon after Rob's father's business fell apart, they drifted apart quickly, when Connor was not there for Rob. Rob justifies stealing money from a school bake sale and taking Connor's mother's diamond earrings by saying how they won't even notice they are gone. Rob and Meagan also begin to have feelings for each other when working together. However, Rob soon finds out that Connor's father was in on the scam with his father that lost people's money. Later in the story, Rob realizes that his stealing was wrong after Connor tries to make amends. So, he decides to sneak back into Connor's house and put back the stolen earrings. Of course, Rob gets caught by the family and is arrested, but tells Connor about what his father did as he is being taken away. Eventually, Rob is bailed out of jail and Connor turns in his father for his wrongdoings.

Did the plot keep you interested? The plot was very intriguing and there were constant twists and turns to keep my attention. The characters themselves were also very unpredictable, and there was definitely lots of character development, especially with Connor.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right? While it definitely kept me interested, I found that there was a little too much going on. It just seemed to go from one shocking plot twist to another, which tended to be a bit crazy. If I were the author, I might have given the characters a little more time to adjust in between.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for? I think that this book is appropriate for grades 7th through 11th, simply because it deals with suicide.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to? I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy realistic fiction and lots of action, because the characters are always running around or finding out new information. What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book? I don't think that teens would really need to go into this book with any background information, because the author does explain most of what is going on, or it is revealed later.

I would rate this book 4 stars. I think that the plot and the overall story was interesting, but once again, the pace of the book really threw me off. I think that had it been a bit less eventful, I would have enjoyed it more. However, I thought that the characters really developed throughout the story.