

Title: *Me (Moth)*
Author: Amber McBride
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewer Name: Brendan M.

Date Reviewed: April 1, 2023

Me (Moth) is a fictional book about a 17 year old girl named Moth, her boyfriend Sani, and the adventures they go on. This book takes place around 2021, and starts off in Virginia. Here Moth tells the story of how her parents and brother died when their car split in half on the highway. These events traumatized both her and her Aunt Jack, who has taken to drinking away her problems. Before the accident Moth loved to dance, and even though she was mocked and verbally assaulted by her peers because she was black, she insisted on dancing. After the accident she is quiet and hides like she is trapped in a shell. This is until she meets Sani, a boy who doesn't talk much but is always moving, whether it be tapping a pen on a desk or fidgeting his hands. Right as summer starts, Aunt Jack decides to leave Moth, saying she'll be back soon. One day Moth decides to visit Sani, only to see his step-father abusing him while his mother stands by, not doing anything. The two decide they are fed up with adults, and decide to take a road trip in Sani's Jeep to where Sani's real father lives, in New Mexico. As the events of this book unfold more and more about Moth's Hoodoo culture and Sani's Navajo culture unfold, showing how the two different beliefs have some similarities. Throughout the trip Sani keeps taking mysterious pills with a clear shell and herbs on the inside. When they finally reach Sani's house it is revealed that Sani can see ghosts and talk to them, and that Moth did not survive the accident. Sani has been guiding her to the spirit realm, so that she may rest easy now. The goodbye isn't easy, but the two part ways, knowing they will forever be with each other.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot always seemed to lead me somewhere new, with ups and downs, it was an emotional rollercoaster, and it always left me wanting to read more.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

I think that the pace of the book was right on the border of too fast and just right. Although Moth and Sani stopped at many places along the way, it felt like they were rushing from one place to another, and in certain places I had to stop and go back a little bit so that I could understand what was happening, but for most of the book I was able to follow the plot.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

I think that *Me(Moth)* is appropriate for grades 7 and up. There is the use of the a-word twice, but the real reason that I would say grades 7 and up is because even I, an eighth grader, had a little trouble following the book, mostly around the end.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers that like to read books with teenage romance and a wide variety of culture, and to those that have a wider knowledge of Hoodoo or Navajo culture so that they could enjoy the little spots in this book where that culture is celebrated.

What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?

This book isn't something that you can zone out while reading, this book requires careful attention so as not to miss certain things, because small details in this book come back in the end.

While this book can be challenging to read, have fun with it and enjoy reading it for the first time.

4 stars (I enjoyed reading this book and found it worthwhile reading)

This book was a joy to read, and I'm glad I decided to choose this book to do a report on. With that being said it still doesn't hit that spot where I'm emotionally invested in the characters to the point where I feel for them, but it was a great read.