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Exiled To Iowa. Send Help. And Couture



Synopsis

This is the story of me, Collin Murray, a bright, witty and charming L.A. teen who is cruelly transported to a small town in Iowa by parents who delight in my suffering. It tells the tale of my struggles against such obstacles as flannel, packs of bullies, lack of car, hoodies, crazy English teachers and vengeful former friends. It is an epic tale of survival in a savage denim wilderness.

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you've ever lived in or been to Iowa, then this title ought to catch your attention quickly, as it did me. I found that the view of Iowa was a bit stereotypical, and during the three years I lived there, I didn't really run into the sort of stock characters that O'Guinn littered his story with (that may be because I was in a college town, however small it may be, and so it tended to be more liberal). However, despite the fact that I found O'Guinn guilty of perpetuating these small-town-people stereotypes, I really enjoyed the story. Collin was perhaps the most amusing main character that I've ever come across, because he seemed so oblivious to the fact that he was so transparent with

people--especially his family. I would definitely describe his narrative as a coming-of-age story, which will attract some people and repel others. The angst that can often be found in these types of stories still exists with *Exiled to Iowa*, but it is dampered by the humor and wit of Collin's personality, so it's easy to appreciate the trials he faces as a gay kid in a foreign (and small) land. If you like witty comedy and lovable characters, this book is definitely worth a shot.

Just when I thought I liked the m/m romance and all the sex, here comes Chris O'Guinn and his little tales of teenage coming out angst. We've all known the character, we've probably avoided him as I did, not wanting to draw any attention away from him and to us instead. I never had Collin's strength and support, but that was 55 years ago and the world has changed a lot since then, or has it. Chris O'Guinn has a style of writing that is fresh with humor, catchy, and makes you relate to his challenges and everyday life. Unlike so many other gay genre books of today, O'Guinn writes about an average type guy who is not a Greek God walking the halls of school but a thin, normal type who is trying to duck under the Gay radar guns at high School. As in another of his books, *FEARLESS*, Chris does not write a lot of sex into his drama, actually very little if any. It is surprisingly highly acceptable because his stories get by on real life substance and you don't feel like you are reading something so far over the top as not to be believed. His hero, Collin, is a bit of a wiseacre and has a comeback for most barbs sent into his direction. A bit of a fashion snob from LA, relocated to Iowa, Collin must confront the bullies and everyone not wanting the apple cart disrupted. Lots of good humor and real friend moments in this the second of Chris's Gay Kindle books that I enjoyed so much. I got in touch with my past reading this book, and recommend it most highly. 5 Stars
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A great discovery. The snarly title is perfect for twitter and the cover art well represents the angst, the humor, and the horror of high school. I like how Chris O'Guinn used the pacing of the story development to reflect how Collin, our fashion snob from L.A. and story hero, feels his life is speeding from his control. My rare full 5 stars was given because Chris O'Guinn wrote a great story about what it means to be a human who just happens to be gay. I thought leaving the anatomical correct details to a book left by Collin's mother for his self-education instead of filling page after endless pages with endless sexual positioning that 99% of authors of M/M stories abuse was a nice literary touch. It showed that Collins parents did truly support him by searching for and providing a source of accurate sex information they felt our hero is going to need while it also showed that like all parents they were not comfortable actually talking about those details.

~3.8 stars~Most of my absolute favorite books are YA, and a lot of them are lgbt. I have read and discovered some pretty amazing authors and writing. So any YA book I read, I end up comparing and rating to the best YA I've read (Suicide Watch by Kelly York, Gives Light by Rose Cristo, Collide by J.R. Lenk). There were niggles, but I really enjoyed this. This was a relatively shorter book compared to what I'm used to reading for YA, and the length did affect the story for me. I felt some things were rushed and skated over, particularly towards the end with the bullying. But overall, I thought the issues and consequences of bullying itself was still handled well enough for what was a light-hearted book. I also did feel things were just a bit too happy-go-lucky, with the successes of the play, the store, B's transformation. Generally, I like my YA stories to be more depressing, or at least emotionally heavier. But this also made it a nice change of pace. What worked for me so much was the MC, Collin, and Austin. I loved Collin's voice. He initially came off as snarky and moody as most teenagers are wont to be, but once he got over his anxieties over the move, he turned out to be a likeable character. A little self-centered, yes, not to mention flamboyant, but also funny and brave. I loved his relationship with Austin, the school outcast, and his family. I might have wished the story went deeper in some areas like the characterizations, but it still made me smile and feel hopeful, even tear up at times, crybaby I am. I think we could always use more stories like this.

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