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Out Of Reach



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Synopsis

Pip dreads every soccer match. His father is always there, yelling and arguing, pushing him to be more like his older brother a winner. Plus, there’s the girl next door who outshines him on the field and overlooks him off of it. Then one day, Pip stumbles into a new world inside a rock-climbing gym. He even stumbles into a new, cooler name: Phil. But he still has to find a way to break free from the old world and his father’s grip. An award-winning New Zealand author makes her U.S. debut with this powerful novel. "And in the unreal twilight of the deserted Igloo, it was as if someone else had taken over my body . . . and my mind. Suddenly I wasn’t Pip McLeod, forever messing up. Pip; Pippin; Piphead; Pipsqueak: battling to be the son Dad wanted, and never even coming close. No-this was a new me, Philip McLeod, who’d been hidden away somewhere deep inside . . . who with each new handhold, was slowly but surely clambering his way out."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had no idea what this book was about. It was a very pleasant surprise. I read the whole book in one sitting. A very well-written book with amazing characters. This is a really good book and a very

fast read. This book could be very inspiring for teens. I do recommend this book.

This book isn’t something I would normally read, but it came to my attention, along with the ratings and reviews so I thought I would give it a go. And I am glad I did. Excellent story, very good writing, the characters were real, and I was sorry when I hit the end.

loved the story of this young man finding his niche in sports and using his head to create solutions to his climbing, to juggling, to encouraging his baby sister to walk, and most of all to a sense of his own worth...a good read for sure

Something a little different. Really enjoyed reading this book.

I saw this book and I believe downloaded as a cheap or free book. It was a cute book and the struggle that the lead had was believible. I enjoyed the book more than I thought I might....

It was an ok read. Decent coming of age story with the classic conflict between a teenage boy and his father. Perhaps a tad trite in some places. The writing was ok but didn’t knock my socks off. I was actually reading the book to see if it was something I would want to recommend to students. I’m not sure it could keep their attention. If you have a kid who is into climbing, maybe he/she would enjoy it as there aren’t many books like this out there with the main character interested in climbing but other than that, I was underwhelmed.

Thirteen year-old Pip hates going to his soccer games because of his dad. He’s one of those obnoxious parents who yells and complains about every call. To make matters worse, Pip’s older brother Nick is much better at soccer than he is. But when Pip accidentally sneaks into the brand new sports center just down the street before it opens, he finds the room with climbing walls and - before he realizes what he’s doing - he climbs to the top without any ropes and finds a sport where he’s a natural.Pip - who starts going by Phil at the climbing gym - is especially likeable and you really feel his discomfort with soccer and his dad. There’s also an awkward romance mixed into the story that will resonate with a lot of kids. In some ways it even felt a little like the original "Karate Kid," with the hero, the girl, and the bully, although with some slight variations, but still a well-written and easy read with a satisfying ending. There’s a small amount of profanity and one crude joke, but it’s mostly a clean book. I also liked the New Zealand setting in the story (at least I think that’s where

he lived).

There are plenty of stories about coming of age, so why do we need yet another one? We really don’t. But if you’re looking for a gem among all of the stories belonging to such an overcrowded genre, this is a good one. Don’t let the book’s categorization as a "teen book" dissuade you from reading it. Anyone who has ever been a teenager, especially a teenager whose parents pushed them to be something they weren’t, will have no problem identifying with the main character, Pip. The author captured the angst of the adolescent-parent and sibling rivalry relationships very well, managing to portray both Pip and his father as sympathetic characters. Even Pip’s smart aleck brother becomes almost likable by the last chapter. Some of his antics had me laughing out loud.Although the end of the story is predictable, the book was still a fun read that leaves you with a good feeling afterward. It would be a great book to take to the beach or the pool for a few hours. It would also be a good book to give to an adolescent who is struggling to find his or her own place in the world, especially one who enjoys activities like juggling, soccer, or rock climbing.

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