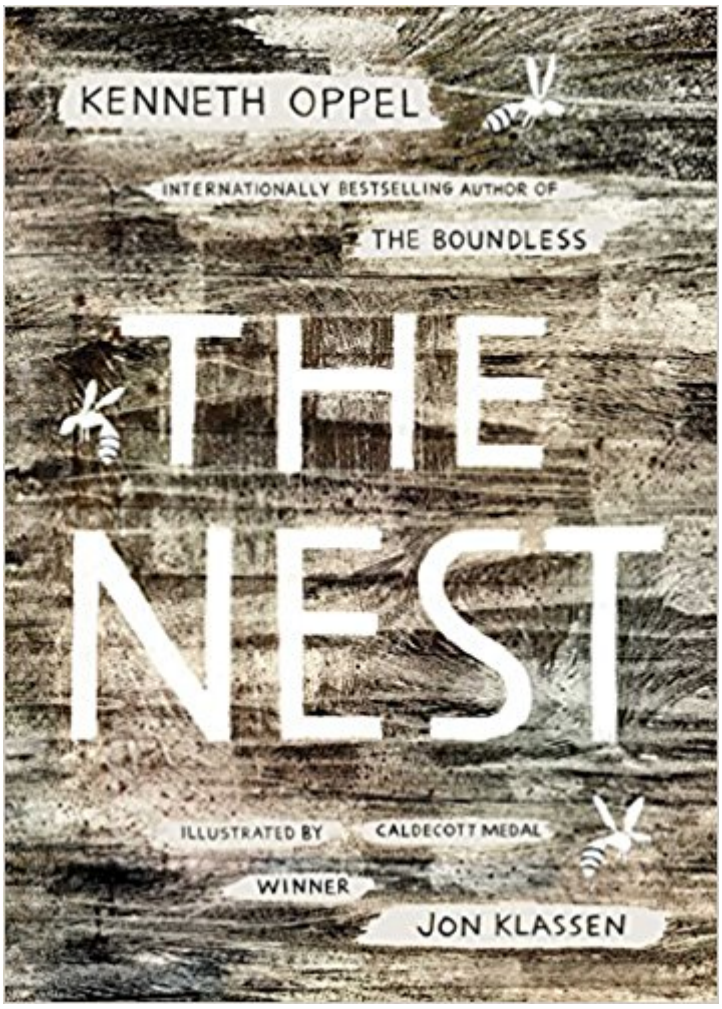
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The Nest



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Nest leaves a lasting mark on the memory.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book Review Steve just wants to save his baby brotherÃ¢â ¬â •but what will he lose in the bargain? Kenneth OppelÃ¢â ¬â„¢s (Silverwing, The Boundless) haunting gothic tale for fans of Coraline, is one of the most acclaimed books of the year, receiving six starred reviews. Illustrations from Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen.For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the waspÃ¢â ¬â„¢s nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to Ã¢â ¬Å“fixÃ¢â ¬Â• the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. All he has to do is say Ã¢â ¬Å“Yes.Ã¢â ¬Â• But Ã¢â ¬Å“yesÃ¢â ¬Â• is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back? Celebrated author Kenneth Oppel creates an eerie masterpiece in this compelling story that explores disability and diversity, fears and dreams, and what ultimately makes a family. Includes illustrations from celebrated artist Jon Klassen.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 4, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481432338

ISBN-13: 978-1481432337

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 90 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #125 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror #1118 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 5Ã¢â ¬â œ7Ã¢â ¬â •Steve has always been a worrier, but since his brother was born he's become even more anxious. When Steve starts having dreams about otherworldly wasps, he takes comfort in their message that everything will be okay. But the more he learns about their plan to "fix" the baby's congenital condition, the more he's conflicted. The tension and unease grow as Steve begins to wonder if the wasps are real or imagined. The story comes to a climactic end that is cathartic and comforting. Set in a modern-day suburb, this quiet yet emotionally haunting book thoughtfully explores themes of safety, anxiety, and the beauty of the imperfect. Klassen's black-and-white graphite illustrations complement the sensitive and powerful narrative, written in first person from Steve's perspective. The images have a retro, printmaker feel and never reveal the entire picture, leaving much to the imaginationÃ¢â ¬â •what is hidden in the unknown? Is it something bad or good? How can you know? The characters are believable and strongly developed, especially Steve, who deals with anxiety and possibly obsessive compulsive disorder. Scientific information on the life cycle, anatomy, and behaviors of wasps is woven in a way that furthers the plot. VERDICT This affecting middle grade psychological thriller is recommended as a first purchase for libraries.Ã¢â ¬â •Amy Seto Forrester, Denver Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"With subtle, spine-chilling horror at its heart, this tale of triumph over monstersÃ¢â ¬â •both outside and inÃ¢â ¬â •is outstanding....Printz-winning, New York Times best-selling Oppel and Caldecott-winning Klassen are a match made in kid-lit heaven. Expect ample buzz." (Booklist - Starred Review July 2015)"Compelling and accessible." (Kirkus Reviews - Starred Review August 2015)* "Oppel uses a dark and disturbing lens to produce an unnerving psychological thriller." (Publisher's Weekly - Starred Review July 2015)* "Emotionally haunting...This affecting middle grade psychological thriller is recommended as a first purchase" (School Library Journal - Starred Review August 2015)* "a tight and focused story about the dangers of wishing things back to normal at any cost....the emotional resonance is deep, and SteveÃ¢â ¬â„¢s precarious interactions with the honey-voiced queen make oneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s skin crawl." (The Horn Book - Starred Review September/October 2015)

I was very surprised at how much I enjoyed this book! Now here's a middle grade story that actually appeals to all age groups and has so much depth and character development, but more than that, is smart and does not underestimate its readers.This is my first Kenneth Oppel, and I'm not quite sure if he's written anything else. I purchased it because I really enjoyed the synopsis, but when it arrived

I was a little wary of the number of pages and font size. It looked a lot simpler than it turned out to be. I mean, wow, what a creepy book! I had no idea this was categorized as middle-grade horror. It really was an excellent read that pulls you in.Stephen’s family is having some trouble, his baby brother was born with problems and the doctors don’t think there’s much they can do for his weak heart. His parents spend all their time with his brother or at the hospital, and he finds himself alone a large portion of the time, either with his younger sister, who is caught up in her own world or with the babysitter. There’s also a knife sharpening man who drives by every so often that plays a role in the book, and of course, the strange dreams.After getting stung by a wasp, Stephen begins to have dreams of some sort of angel speaking to him every night. She talks to him about the baby and offers to help him get better...in fact, she promises Stephen that with her help, the baby can become "perfect". At first, Stephen does not take the dreams seriously, they’re just dreams, right? So he doesn’t ask too many questions, and does not take the questions asked to him by this "angel" too seriously either. However, he soon realizes that this angel is actually a wasp, and she is able to communicate with him this way because he was stung by one (by her, to be precise). She is the Queen of the nest, and she assures him that with her help she can fix all his problems. Stephen becomes worried as things the Queen tells him begin to happen, realizing that these aren’t just dreams anymore. Soon enough, Stephen realizes that the Queen’s solution to making the baby better is to replace him with a completely different one. A "perfect" version of him. Stephen struggles with the temptation as he sees his parents suffering day in and day out. He doesn’t know what to do, and can’t seem to decide what the right thing to do is.Eventually, he makes a decision. But was it the right decision to make?I read this book in one sitting, and found myself at the edge of my seat as I neared the end. All the characters mentioned above play different parts in how this book ends and the decision that Stephen ends up making.Gripping, terrifying story. I found myself hugging my 5 month old son extra tight that night, grateful for his health and existence.

I think this might be my first book review on , but it deserves to be reviewed so more people can know about it.Best book I’ve read all year, its haunting and fast paced and I got choked up at the end from a two word sentence which I was not expecting.I bought it originally because of the Jon Klassen artwork (being a fan of his) and am so glad I did, the story was amazing and his art added to the creepy vibe. Very unsettling.

I loved this book. It’s creepy like A Monster Calls. I’m not sure I’d recommend it for someone as young as 10 unless they were really into scary creepy stories and could handle it. I would probably

recommend for middle school, like 7th graders. It’s not gory, which I appreciate, just a nice psychological thriller because you don’t know what’s real and what isn’t.

I loved this book perhaps more than my students did when they read by themselves. I was pulled in from the very beginning left wondering why there would be a strange man allowed to be running the street in a vehicle similar to that of a ice cream truck sharpening knives. This book is a fast paced book great for any R.L Stine fan. When I used this as a hook to encourage my students to read it they seemed to drag it and lost interest however when I read it to them they were completely engaged throughout. Not sure if it’s the tone and rhythm in which I read it to them , or perhaps the age group.

I bought this for my daughter who had to read it for her summer reading to enter sixth grade. She loved it, and devoured it it one evening.

This is a great book for middle schoolers. It was a quick read and a page turner. It left me looking around for wasps. I loved it! I will definitely add it to my classroom library.

My son loves this book.

My 13 year old son who doesn’t like to read much has read this book on his own TWICE. I read it myself and it would make a great movie. Fantastic book. Fast read. Cool chapter heading graphics. Great story. A little scary but not too much. Just right for the age.

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