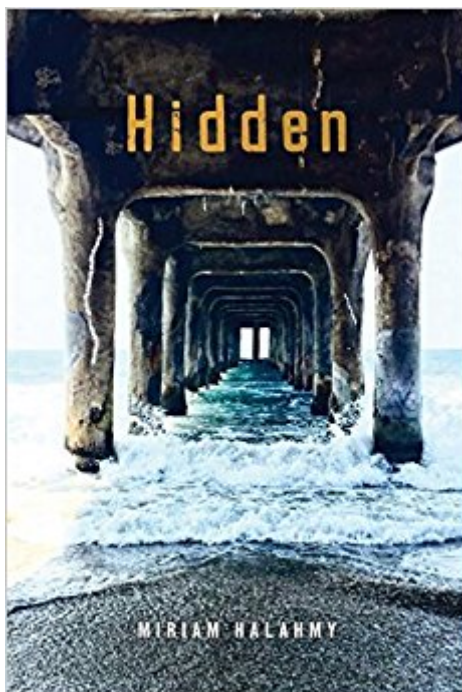


The book was found

Hidden



Synopsis

For fourteen-year-old Alix, life on Hayling Island off the coast of England seems insulated from problems such as war, terrorism and refugees. But then, one day at the beach, Alix and her friend Samir pull a drowning man out of the incoming tide. Mohammed, an illegal immigrant and student, has been tortured by rebels in Iraq for helping the allied forces and has spent all his money to escape. Desperate not to be deported, Mohammed's destiny now lies in Alix's hands, and she is faced with the biggest moral dilemma of her life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; U.S. Edition edition (September 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823436942

ISBN-13: 978-0823436941

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #909,005 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #104 in Books >

Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #188

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-9 • When teenager Alix and her new friend, Samir, see a man tossed out of a speeding boat into the churning waters off the coast of their small English island, they leap into the strong current to pull out the battered man. When they realize he's an Iraqi refugee seeking asylum, Alix is hesitant to help him, but Samir—who himself was once a refugee fleeing Iraq—begs Alix to help harbor the stranger. Over the course of the novel, Alix confronts her own perceptions and prejudices, as well as those of her friends, family, and neighbors. Her development from a self-involved child to a broad-thinking and selfless young adult is gradual and realistic, with Alix making plenty of mistakes and actually learning from them along

the way. The writing is simple and straightforward, and though it won't challenge strong readers, this novel will appeal to younger teens as well as to reluctant readers. VERDICT An engaging, fast-paced story that pushes teens to consider all sides of the immigration issue, this is a great choice for middle school libraries or for struggling readers. — Leighanne Law, Scriber Lake High School, WA

"Written with clarity and immediacy...this is a book to counter bigotry." - NICOLETTE JONES, THE SUNDAY TIMES CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE WEEK "Miriam Halahmy never puts a foot wrong in this gripping story...deserves the widest audience." - NICK TUCKER "Hidden is a terrific story. Miriam Halahmy has managed a rare thing; a serious story told with a comic and emotional touch." - ANNE CASSIDY "A truly magnificent author. She makes you think and think". PHOEBE RIDGEWAY --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is such a great book that had me grinning and giggling with laughter one moment, wiping away quiet tears the next. Hidden is told through the eyes of Alix, a teenage girl living on Hayling Island in England. Her voice is so honest and raw, her emotions there for all to see. Alix has to make some pretty huge decisions and cope with so much going on around her, like an entertainer spinning plates on long bamboo poles. Alix witnesses a gang of thugs tormenting Samir, a lad from her school. A tentative friendship develops after she stands up for him. While walking along the beach, they rescue a drowning man from the freezing waters. The man turns out to be an asylum seeker, but if they turn him over to the police, will he be sent straight back to Iraq and certain death? Yeah, pretty huge decisions. Alix and Samir vow to keep their mystery man safe, but in the best tradition of 'a secret is something you tell one person at a time,' other friends and enemies soon find out what's going on. That's when things become really messy for Alix and the story becomes engrossing. At times, Hidden could so easily veer off to become a thumping big issue, but author Miriam Halahmy weaves a careful path of emotions and maintains the strong narrative that makes this a thoroughly entertaining story first, and an issue second.

Loved this book, written from the perspective of a 14-year old girl who possesses both courage and wit. Don't understand why the goodreads.com rating was only 3-1/2 stars. I rarely enjoy books written from a child's perspective, the one exception coming to mind being Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer. I also loved this young woman's perspective. She's a runner, she works hard at school, she takes care of her Mom when it should be the other way around, she has a paper route.

All this and she still has a sense of humor. There's a strong message accompanying the tale -- about giving immigrants a chance, maybe even extending a friendly hand, what a concept -- but it doesn't detract from the interesting story line, intriguing setting on a British island, and the fun of getting to know the characters, and seeing the lead character and her immigrant friend both find their voices.

Great book! I was really drawn into the story of the characters and was thoroughly caught up in what was going to happen to them. I can see immense appeal to the young adult audience it's targeted to, and was impressed at how well it held my attention as an adult. A good solid story with a relevant topic both in the UK and the US. Best part is that the 2nd book (Illegal) is already out and is just as fantastic - have to wait for the 3rd book though.

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