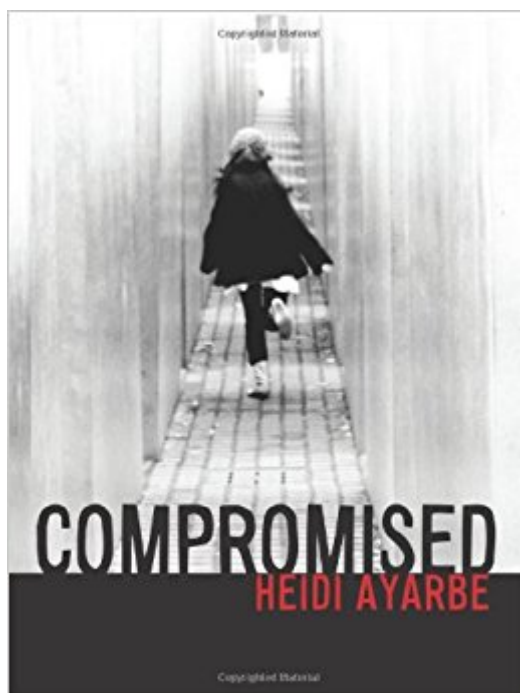


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# Compromised



## Synopsis

Maya's life has always been chaotic. Living with a con-man dad, she's spent half her life on the run. Whenever her father's schemes go wrong, Maya finds a scientific way to fix it. But when her dad ends up in prison and foster care fails, Maya grasps at her last possible hope of a home: a long-lost aunt, who may not even exist. So Maya formulates a plan, and with her wits, two unlikely allies, and twenty dollars in her pocket, she sets off in search of this aunt, navigating the unpredictable four hundred miles from Reno to Boise. Life on the streets, though, becomes a struggle for survival—those scientific laws Maya has relied on her whole life just don't apply. And with each passing day, Maya's definitions of right and wrong are turned upside down when she's confronted with the realities and dangers of life as a runaway. She can't help but wonder if trying to find her aunt—and some semblance of stability—is worth the harrowing journey or if she should compromise and find a way to survive on her own.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up The daughter of a con man, Maya's been on the a run all her life, but when her dad's bad deals finally catch up to them, she loses the only family she's ever had and ends up in the Nevada foster-care system. Passionate about science, the 15-year-old seeks to develop a hypothesis and follow the scientific method to get her father out of prison. Realizing this plan's futility, she goes back to the only other thing she really knows how to do: run. Maya formulates a new hypothesis that will hopefully lead her to an aunt in Idaho whom she's never met and some

type of normalcy. One variable that she doesn't anticipate, however, is the addition of two other runaways who are also looking for something more. Gritty and realistic in action and language, this novel brings to light the plight of displaced teens. Maya is a strong character who tries to be true to herself while playing the caregiver role she always seems to fall into first to her dad and now to her fellow runaways. The three form a strong bond that rings true even though the setting will likely be unfamiliar to many readers. While sympathy is evoked for the characters, emotions are not overplayed. The quick pace and flesh-and-blood main characters will appeal to avid and reluctant readers alike. Gina Bowling, South Gibson County High School, Medina, TN Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Maya's narrative of youngsters who have slipped through the cracks is both heart wrenching and hopeful. An absorbing tale. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) )With a sharp ear for dialogue and prose propelled by a searing urgency, the author plumbs the depths of her characters' souls for horrors and treasures alike. A poignant portrait. (Kirkus Reviews )A gut-wrenching, terrifyingly authentic story and memorably etched, courageous characters. Reminiscent of Adam Rapp's 33 Snowfish, this challenging read will leave readers holding out a faint hope for Maya's future. (Booklist )

This review is overdue but I was recently asked to share ten books that impacted my life and *Compromised* is on my list--I think about this story often. It is a story that weaved its way into my heart. For one, I could relate to the characters on some levels, and secondly, I can no longer drive by a park, or field, in the freezing winter without a little heartache, and now, I always look at the postmark on my personal letters. *Compromised* inspired me to look at areas of life with new perspective, and though a difficult topic, I left feeling hopeful for change. The author writes exceedingly well.

Page turner from the first chapter. Loved how these lost kids find themselves in each other while facing hardships most people couldn't imagine. The main character is irritating at times but her flaws just make her obstacles and reactions to those obstacles seem true. Absolutely loved it and recommend all books written by this author. Keep tissues on hand this one's a tear jerker

All of the previous reviews tell the whole story. I'm glad I did not read them before I read the book. The ending is predictable. The story is well written and holds your attention to the end. The story is

about real life on the streets and very depressing to read. This is a sad commentary on our world today. This is not light uplifting reading.

Maya loves science. She approaches every situation first with a "hypothesis" and then a plan of action. Her life is filled with situations that need her attention. Raised by a single father after her mother's suicide, Maya has been shifted from place to place as her father has "hustled" to make a living for them. He was caught in his last con-game, and now he's in prison and Maya has become part of the system. As the newest resident in the orphanage, Maya's latest "hypothesis" is focused on escape. She puts her plan into action when she learns she may be headed to live with an odd, overly-religious family. Her brief visit with them made her extremely uncomfortable, and she knows she doesn't have much time before she could be living with them permanently. She packs her few possessions and, following her father's vague instructions, heads back to the last place she called home to find a box of her mother's things that supposedly holds valuable information about an aunt who might be her last chance for a real home. Maya is joined by Nicole, another resident from the orphanage. Not long into their journey, they meet Klondike, a homeless street kid with a disfiguring burn and Tourette's syndrome. Together they begin the search for Maya's aunt. Life on the streets is tough. The three leave Reno behind by hitchhiking and bumming rides however they can. The little money they have doesn't last long, and as hunger sets in, they resort to raiding dumpsters and shoplifting. They sleep on the streets and try to warm up by stopping in libraries as Maya tries to gather information about her only surviving relative. Author Heidi Ayarbe does not glamorize life on the streets. Her story of Maya and friends is bleak and without much hope. Readers will be driven to read out of morbid curiosity as they observe the downward spiral of the three travelers. COMPROMISED gives insight into the increasing problem of the homeless and the sad fact that innocent children are among them. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunk"

This is Ayarbe's second YA novel. and the author has been honing her craft. It's always been just 15yr old Maya and her dad a con -man. Maya has a mind for science, using hypothesis, to outline ways to keep her dad from getting caught. This time there is no getting away. Maya's dad is sent to prison and she's placed in orphanage. After Maya meets her potential foster parents she decides to runaway. Maya's searching for an aunt she's never known and is not 100% sure exist. Maya's plan to go it alone is changed when Nicole, a girl who has always been in the system follows. The two walk and hitchhike to the state Maya's aunt may or may not be in. Maya formulates hypothesis that read like journal entries. Nicole is still with me. I never really thought she'd actually go through with it

- running away for real. It's unlike her previous patterns of sticking around and waiting to be found. That's the thing about humans - highly unpredictable variables. I have to construct a new hypothesis, change the materials and variables. And that irritates me, because even my purpose has to change. Maya's is book smart. Nicole can keep them safe and feed on the street. The two had the worst luck finding places to spend the night."I sigh. It's like we're doomed to share our sleeping arrangements with druggies. From the smell of things, we might as well have been lying on a bed of smoldering pot."After Maya and Nicole feel each other talking becomes easier. I'd call what Maya and Nicole had conversations not dialogue. Ayarbe's has written a wonderfully realistic well layered novel. I loved Compromised, especially the ending, which Ayarbe crushed.

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