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The Amazing True Story Of A Teenage Single Mom



Synopsis

In a form usually reserved for superheroes conquering universes, *The Amazing True Story of a Teenage Single Mom* tells of a young, poor mom with a simple dream: She wants to go to college. To get there, she'll need superhuman stamina, impossible good luck, a few miracles and, spurred by deep down love for her child, the ability to evade monsters, overcome abuse, and choose hope, faith, and the possibilities of her great expectations. These expectations take her from the not-so-warm embrace of her family, to a factory job, and then across the country with her daughter and a man who turns out to be a great deal less than her knight in shining armor. But that is not the end of the story. It is in the telling of this fable/memoir that we see the full scope of her courage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA-Black-and-white cartoon panels featuring a mostly cheerful Arnoldi recount her years from the birth of her daughter through her attempts to earn their keep in a latex factory, her initially hopeful but ultimately disastrous relationship with an abusive man, and her eventual success in getting her education back on track and discovering her earning abilities as an illustrator. Although the author does not gloss over the grimmer details of her circumstances-sexual abuse in childhood, exploitation in the workforce, her violent boyfriend-she does not portray them graphically. Arnoldi composed this book to help others in her situation. Her story stands as a role model but she also includes specific and practical tips, including hot lines and college guidance. Not only will this book speak to teens in similar situations or those with friends like the author, but it also serves to inform

the adults who work to help all teens realize their potentials. It should also inspire other young artists to try their hand at autobiography.Francisca Goldsmith, Ber-keley Public Library, CACopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Reviews:12/29/98 Entertainment Weekly picked The Amazing True Story of a Teenage Single Mom as the top ten book of 1998.Ariel Levy of New York magazine writes about the book in "The Mix" section. December Redbook (subsciber copy) reviews The Amazing True Story. December Seventeen lists this book as a pick.November Elle magazine review by Lisa Shea.Christian Science Monitor has an article November 16,1998Associated Press article by Jill Priluck out November 9. Entertainment Weekly review 9/19/98.Publisher's Weekly cites The Amazing True Story in an article about cartoon books 8/25/98. MS. magazine features recommendation in September/Ocotober issue. I made this book just to copy myself and take with me to GED(high school equivalency) programs, along with financial aid forms, to encourage single moms to go to college. What a great surprise it is now published and can maybe inspire many more single moms to fight for their rights to an equal access to education! Thanks for your interest. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoyed this graphic novel as a kid, and it has a good message to never give up no matter how bad things get. Good for all ages. Except maybe little kids, they might be traumatized by the sad themes....

I checked this book out from the library. The next day, I bought a copy. I have bought 12 more copies in a week. Everyone who reads this book gasps at its truth. The blockades of Arnoldi's past abuse and present hardship would have stopped her from becoming who she was becoming before she became a mom. In a perfect combination of words and art, she conveys her perilous journey. Thoughts and emotions overflow her drawings, MAD Magazine-style. As it dawns on you that she's writing from a place of victory, you laugh, cry, and cheer. If you're a school counselor, as I am, buy copies for your teen moms and fellow counselors.

This an important story told in an engaging comic book style. Teen pregnancy is too often associated only with black teens but the problem is much more universal than that. There is no call for pity in the book but a realistic look at the personal cost of teen pregnancy and the difficult choices which result. While there is no happy ending, like the movie Precious, there is a window of

hope.

I read this book for a policy class in college. It was truly amazing, I can't explain it. You just have to see it for yourself

This is a graphic novel. It is filled with fierce hope and love and is an inspiration. I can't recommend it highly enough.

This is the true poignant story of a young woman and her struggles to make dreams come true. Katherine Arnoldi, raped and left with a baby at 17, was forced, out of necessity, to take a dead-end, hazardous factory job. Her dysfunctional family tried to crush her and her dreams; her boyfriend turns on her and beats her. Yet through all of her pain and despair she does not give up. Arnoldi shows, in her comic book form, that if you hold on and pursue your dreams that you can overcome the ugliest past. This book is a treasure. It is simply great. And because it is so good you will want to pass it on. This is a book that can speak to the broken hearts of hundreds, if not thousands, of struggling teenagers, single moms or not. Her enduring love for her child, her courage to change her circumstances, a little luck, and a few kind people, transforms what could be a disheartening story into an inspiration.

This is one of the most popular books in my "Hot Topics" section of the Teen Library. All too many of my patrons can relate to the story of an already emotionally abused girl whose first sexual experiences are rape and who becomes pregnant as a result. Through gritty work, optimism, and luck she gets an education and resolves to help others do the same. Part of that resolution is telling her story, through this beautifully illustrated and starkly written graphic novel. Problem 1: Not enough information. Her rape results in her pregnancy, so you can hardly fault her for being unprepared. But she leaps into a live-in relationship with the first person who seems tender toward her, and I am left to wonder, did she then learn about contraceptives? Or was she just lucky? Since this is meant to be a teaching book, this is a huge omission. Problem 2: Personal view. Yes, it is meant to be personal, and that's why it's so poignant, but her view of teenaged motherhood is in its way as skewed and judgemental as those she attacks. Arnoldi says in the back of the book that teenaged mothers should go to college, and if they can't get a babysitter, bring the child to class. Don't let a prejudiced instructor keep you from getting an education. She seems unaware that she is very lucky to have had a healthy and exceptionally good-natured child. I worked hard for my 2 degrees, and I

have taught at the college level, and I had a baby with colic. Any professor who invited me and my screaming baby to leave would have been right to do so. Not prejudiced or unkind, but interested in quality education. I hope that this book comes back in print, and with additions to the story, both background and "where are they now?" parts. It would be a title I'd be glad to have in multiple copies.

Story was uplifting, but drawing is poor. I wish going to college was a real solution to lack of employment.

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