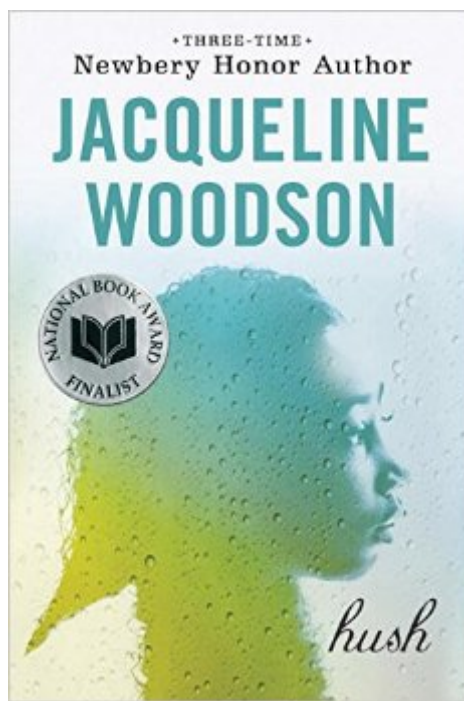


The book was found

Hush



Synopsis

A powerfully moving novel from a three-time Newbery Honor-winning author Evie Thomas is not who she used to be. Once she had a best friend, a happy home and a loving grandmother living nearby. Once her name was Toswiah. Now, everything is different. Her family has been forced to move to a new place and change their identities. But that's not all that has changed. Her once lively father has become depressed and quiet. Her mother leaves teaching behind and clings to a new-found religion. Her only sister is making secret plans to leave. And Evie, struggling to find her way in a new city where kids aren't friendly and the terrain is as unfamiliar as her name, wonders who she is. Jacqueline Woodson weaves a fascinating portrait of a thoughtful young girl's coming of age in a world turned upside down. A National Book Award Finalist

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0640 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (72 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The book I read was Hush, By Jacqueline Woodson. This book was a fictional, drama, ethnic book. The most obvious problem in the book was the family's race, being african american. A summary of the book Hush would be based around a girl whose birthname is Toswiah, which is later changed to Evie when put into the witness protection program. Toswiah faced many problems in this novel. After being used to living in Colorado with her family, grandmother, and having her best

friend live down the street, everything changed in a matter of a day. The day and event was a hard decision for her father, who was a police officer. He witnessed a racist homicide on a teenage boy by his two white partners. After days of thinking of what he should do, he came forward to the police department, who witnessed and interrogated witnesses. In the mean time, the two cops harassed, and called the family. The witness protection program relocated their family, giving them new identities, and they could not come into contact with any of their family or friends from Colorado, until the police department arrested the two cops. Toswiah is forced to reinvent herself and not think of the past at all. The book was interesting because it shows how certain people, even cops, deal with racial problems and how it affects their families. One wrong move by anyone, can affect all parties involved. The book was also inspiring because it shows how a young girl could be so courageous and have the ability to put up with leaving family and friends, to reinvent herself and not say anything about her past. Possibilities and questions the book raises are how did the family and friends live after they left Colorado? What ever happened to the two cops and their families?

It has never really mattered to Toswiah's family that they are one of the few black families in town. Her father is a police officer, her mother a teacher, and her older sister is a popular cheerleader. Toswiah has a best friend and she loves Colorado. Everything is going well for them. Even though her father is the only black police officer on the force, the rest of the police officers are as close as family to them. Then her father witnesses two white officers shoot a black teenager. They say they thought he was in a gang and was reaching for a gun. Toswiah's father saw that his hands were fully visible, up in the air, and the police officers shot him anyway. He agonizes over the decision he has to make. Should he testify in this trial and help to put his fellow police officers in jail? Or should he follow the code of the police officers and turn the other way, pretending he didn't see anything? He decides to testify. Suddenly Toswiah's world is turned upside-down. Her family leaves their home in the middle of the night. She will now be known as Evie, and moved to a different place to start over as a different person, telling lies instead of history. Being in the witness protection program is hard on the entire family. Toswiah's mother has found religion and lost herself. Toswiah's father sits all day by the window, feeling like he somehow made the wrong decision. Toswiah's sister is angry at everyone, especially her father, and is doing all that she can to get away. Toswiah is proud of her father and thinks he did the right thing, but she is sad that everything is falling apart. Can this family come together and survive this? I liked Toswiah and her narration, and I liked the flashbacks to the times before the family had to move.

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