



Remember Dippy

Shirley Reva Vernick

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Johnny's plans fly out the window when he finds out his single mother is leaving town for the summer. She has a breakthrough job in upstate New York. He can live with his Aunt Collette but only on the condition that he "help out with" his autistic older cousin, Remember. Yup, you heard it right: Remember Dippy. That's his cousin's name—and Remember is a gawky awkward kid with some pretty strange habits, like repeating back almost everything Johnny says and spending hours glued to the weather channel. Johnny's premonitions of disaster appear at first to come to cringeworthy fruition, but when the two boys save a bully from drowning, salvage the pizzeria guy's romance, and share girl troubles, Johnny ends up having the summer of his life.

Shirley Reva Vernick's debut novel *The Blood Lie* was named on the 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults list from the American Library Association. It also received the Simon Wiesenthal Once Upon a World Children's Award and Sydney Taylor Honor Book Award. Shirley lives with her husband, two daughters, and two frisky dogs in western Massachusetts. In addition to running a popular storytelling website—storybee.org—Shirley has written for *Cosmopolitan*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, national newspapers, and the publications of Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Boston universities.

Remember Dippy Details

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Author : Shirley Reva Vernick

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From Reader Review Remember Dippy for online ebook

Sarah Evans says

Good middle grade read about acceptance of others with a variety of differences.

Jimmie says

OK!

Jeanne says

This book was on the United Methodist 2017 Reading List. It was recommended for Youth and Adults and was in the Nurturing for Community category.

Entertaining book that shows acceptance of people with differences and disabilities.

I enjoyed it.

Michael says

From my blog review... (Middle Grade Mafioso)

What I liked:

I pretty much say it about all the books I like: VOICE. By this I mean that the voice (the outlook, the word choices) of the main character, Johnny, is spot on. Johnny would much rather hang with his friends, Mo and Reed, than with his cousin Remember ("Yes, that's right, his name is Remember--straight out of some New Age baby-naming book.") Remember (or Mem, as Johnny calls him) is on the autistic spectrum and does indeed have several habits that would exasperate a neurotypical teen. Mem repeats parts of what others say; he throws tantrums when he feels he can't control what's happening in the world around him. But he is also sweet. Therefore, while Johnny views his neighbor, Mr. Boots, as a "cranky old man," Mem calls him his best friend. Mem also doesn't get rattled by the boy whom Johnny can't stand, Dirk Dempster. In the end, it's Mem who teaches Johnny acceptance.

Cast of Characters: There's actually a lot going on in this novel. Johnny's Aunt Collette, who is Mem's mom, and with whom Johnny's spending the summer, has a suitor. Niko, who owns the pizza parlor in town, has lost the engagement ring he wanted to present his girlfriend. There's a girl, Leesha, visiting from Chicago who actually likes it in Hull and doesn't want to return home. (Mem, of course, befriends her.) Dirk Dempster has a rotten home life, but he and Johnny come to an uneasy truce. There are rescue ferrets. And Johnny and his pals end up helping (and growing to appreciate) Mr. Boots after he falls and breaks a leg.

Humor: Yup, there's a lot to laugh about. Middle school boys playing mini golf with... hard boiled eggs?! "So that's how we invented a new sport called Egg Whack. Mo actually wanted to call it Egg Roll, but Reed and I vetoed it on the grounds that it sounded like Chinese take-out." There are haircut disasters: "Who was this alien with the spikes and poufs staring back at me...? I looked like a rock star on a bad hair day, only worse."

But I think my favorite line is near the end, when the kids have pulled off something major and Johnny says "For a terrifying moment, I thought we were going to have a group hug. Leesha put both arms out, and Mem started leaning in--but I was saved by the bell. The doorbell, that is." See what I mean about voice?!

In conclusion, **REMEMBER DIPPY** doesn't have a huge promotional budget. It's being published by a small press. But it was definitely one of the more endearing novels I've read in a while, and I would encourage you to seek it out. Middle Graders will find the attitudes and experiences of the novel ring very true to life.

Patricia M Thompson says

This book is perfect for a 6th to 7th grade student, particularly a boy. The author did an awesome job in telling a story about how important friendship and helping others is in our lives. You cannot help but be drawn into the life of the main character. The decision the young boy had to make the one summer of his life that started out as the "Pits" and turned out to be something "Exceptional". I recommend this book to all parents, grandparents, and teachers to add this to a child's reading list.

Tu?çe Gök?rmak says

3,5 stars -

Kitap, tam olarak Beni Seç'in neredeyse b?rakt??? yerden devam ediyor. Ama art?k Beni Seç kadar tatlı? ve yumu?ak bir hikaye ile kar?? kar??ya de?iliz. K?saca, America Singer'in iki harika çocuk aras?nda bir seçim yapmas? laz?m, ama zaman? azal??yor. ?syanc?lar iyice ön plana ç?kt? ve Seçim'i durdurmaya azimli gibiler.

Dedi?im gibi, ilk kitaptakinden daha karanl?k, daha sert bir hikaye var bu defa kar??m?zda. ?lk kitapta, Aspen'in saraya gardiyan olarak girmesiyle birlikte i?ler America için kar??m??t? ve bu kitapta America kendi seçim becerisini iyiden iyiye kaybediyor gibi, bir Maxon, bir Aspen derken kendisine bir hayli sinir oldu?umu belirtmeden edemeyece?im. Maxon'layken gönülü onunla ve onunla olmak istedi?ine gerçekten inan?yorsunuz, ama Aspen'le korkusuzca bir araya gelince bir parças?n?n onu hiç b?rakamad???n? görüyorsunuz. Ve bir de her an yakalanabilecekleri konusu var oraya hiç girmiyorum bile. Açı?kças? bu tavr? ile America'y? ilk kitaptaki kadar sevilesi de bulmad???m? söyleyebilirim. Yine de hikaye aç?s?ndan tabii ki, iyiydi. O her ne kadar karar verememi? olsun, ben hala Team Maxon'?m, ama onunda s?n?rlar? zorlad??? yerler yok de?il; bu karars?zl?k hali bula??c? san?r?m ;) – Hem Maxon, hem benim aç?mdan ;) Gerçek itiraf etmem gerekdir, her ne kadar Cass'?n özel bir yaz?m tarz? yoksa da, hikayenin bu iki ki?i aras?nda gidip gelmesinde okura America, Aspen ve Maxon'?n durumlar?n? gayet güzel hissettirmi?; okurken yer yer midenizin dü?ümlendi?ini hissediyorsunuz, biriyleyken di?eri için üzülüyör, k?z?yorsunuz, zaman zaman America'n?n karma?as?n? anl?yor, zaman zaman anlam veremiyorsunuz, fakat hissetti?i karma?ay? her iki ko?ulda da anlayabiliyorsunuz.

“Evet demenin, senin için nefes almak kadar kolay olmasın istiyorum.”

Diğer kolların da artı Maxon için daha fazla savaştılar? gerçeği ile birlikte, rekabette iyice arttıyor ve yaptı? yanlı? hamleler America için zaman? daha hızlı? daralttı?yor. Ve tam America kararının vermişken, korkunç bir olay ile her şey tepe taklak oluyor.

?kinci kitapla birlikte bir kaç karakteri daha iyi tanıma ?ansız?m?z oluyor, kral ve kraliçe gibi. Ve kraliçe ne kadar tatlı? ve iyi olarak sunulmuşsa, kralda o kadar zayıf?, ikilemlere devam yani...

Ve tabii ki, giderek artan bir gizem hakim; isyancı?lar baskınlar? arttı?r?yor ve bir ?eylerin pe?inde olduklar?na dair ipuçları?n? görebiliyoruz, ama peki neyin pe?indeler? Ba?lar?nda kim var? Bu gizemle birlikte macera da tabii ki, arttı?yor, fakat yine de ana odak noktas? haline gelmiş bir macera ya da gizem durumu yok. Buna rağmen, aynen ilk kitap gibi bir çırpıda okunuyor.

Kitabının, daha doğrusu serinin güzel bir yan?, karakterlerin seri boyunca gelişmeye ve kendini bulmaya çabalamaya devam etmeleri. Henüz tam olarak oturmamış? noktalar?n?n olmas? ve hata yapmaktan çekinmemeleri, böylesine gerçek üstü bir hikaye için gerçekçi bir zemin hazırlıyor. Gerçi bu noktada en zayıf karakter Aspen sanır?m, ilk kitapta nasıl?lsa hemen hemen aynı?, sadece America'nın sevgisi için biraz daha fazla çabalıyor diyebiliriz.

“Seni seçmem için bana bir ?ans ver.”

Tıpkı ilk kitapta olduğunu gibi, keyifli ve ilgi çekici konusuna rağmen, fazla sıradan yazım kalitesi ve anlatım tarzı?nda bu kitapta da bir de?i?iklik yok. Konunun ak? h?z? tam karar?nda, ne fazla h?zlan?yor ne de sallan?yor, bu nedenle kitabının en önemli noktas? hala konusu ve hikayenin ak???, gidi?at?. Bu sebeple de sonunu nasıl? getireceğini merakla bekliyorum.

Sonuç olarak, Beni Seç'in odaklandığı? k?z?ar, güzellik ve seçim konusunun aksine, üçlemenin dünyasına, sava?a, isyancı?lara ve daha önemli tarihe odaklanan The Elite, üçlemelerdeki ikinci kitapların genelde ya?ad?? zd?rapl?, vasat olma durumunu ya?am?yor diyebilirim. İlk kitapta sunulan dünyayı daha iyi anlamam?z?, her şeyin göründüğü? kadar pembe olmad??n? fark etmemizi sa?ı?yor ve üçüncü kitap için merak uyandıran, güzel bir zemin hazırlayarak son buluyor. Neyse ki, yine bir beklenen son olmasına rağmen ilk kitaptaki kadar fena de?ildi. En az?ndan feryatlar?m duyulmadı? ;) gerçi onlar? bol miktarda, kitap içerisinde America için sarfettim bu defa...

Merry Greene says

Appreciated the book more after the book group discussed it...could be an interesting choice for One Book, One School

Lindsey Hoskinson says

Intermediate Multicultural Book
2014 Dolly Gray Award Winner
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I loved reading Remember Dippy by Shirley Reva Vernick and thought it had great educational value while

being an extremely easy read. I think it is important for all students to understand that children with disabilities face challenges everyday but one challenge they should be able to completely avoid is not being able to make friends. I think no matter disability or no disability all children need to be able to experience friendship.

Text-to-text: For some reason, while I was reading Remember Dippy, I thought of the book "A Child Called It." I think this book was stuck in my head while reading Remember Dippy is because I know that Dippy was struggling to make friends. In the book A child Called It, David was in desperate need for someone to befriend him and for anyone to pay attention to him because he lacked that at home. Although this might not totally go hand-and-hand, it just reminds me that no matter the situation be nice and friendly to all you whom you encounter because you never know what you friendship could do for someone!

Text-to-self: This book really reminds me of a relationship I had with a peer of mine in high school. During lunch, a peer of mine who had disabilities would eat his lunch and then wonder around the lunch room talking to all of his friends, which happened to be students without disabilities. Our friend, Troy, was the sweetest boy I have ever met. I absolutely adored each day that I was able to spend my lunch with him because he constantly had a smile on his face and was so sweet. He would say things like "you are so beautiful" and we constantly had conversations about our day! It was the perfect friendship, and he was just the sweetest boy I have ever met. As soon as I started reading this book Remember reminded me of my sweet friend Troy!

Text-to-world: This book is a great book for upper elementary and middle school students to read. Those ages are tough for all students, it is the beginning of awkward life changes. One thing I think is most important for students of this age to remember is that no matter what a person is like or if they have disabilities or not, we need to be kind, loving, and friendly to them all. It is the best feeling to have friends, so if you can be a friend to everyone it might encourage others to befriend individuals they might not usually hang around.

Bloom's Taxonomy Questions:

Level 1: Remembering

What were the names of the main characters in Remember Dippy?

Level 2: Understanding

List three words to describe Remember?

Level 3: Applying

Do you think Johnny will care for his cousin in the coming summers?

Level 4: Analyzing

How are Remember and Johnny similar? How are they different?

Level 5: Evaluating

If you were in Johnny's situation, would you have risked your summer to help care for your cousin?

Level 6: Creating

What do you think the rest of Johnny's summer was like?

Karielle at Books à la Mode says

Remember Dippy is a cute, middle grade/young adult coming-of-age novel about the lovable and smart-alecky Johnny whose mother plucks him from his home and plops him at his aunt and cousin's during summer vacation. This is the ultimate injustice to the modern teenager—especially since Johnny has suddenly assumed the role of Remember, his autistic cousin's, caretaker—but soon, his own self-discoveries in tandem with his time with Mem and the things that happen around him, make it clear that this is one summer that Johnny will never forget.

14-year-old Johnny is good-natured and likable. He's such an honest, smart, and self-conscious character who captures teen spirit—and angst—accurately. I loved him as a narrator! Remember, our other protagonist, isn't explored as deeply because we never gain his perspective, but I warmed up to him immediately. He's definitely not perfect, and his lack of awareness and social direction sometimes get Johnny in trouble, but he's affectionate, and he's pure; with all these edgy books about forbidden romances and gangs and communist regimes and love triangles flooding the YA scene these days, a book like Remember Dippy is refreshing and enlightening because it actually has a message—a moral that everyone should take to heart.

This is the summer when Johnny grows up, gets real, and figures himself out. This is the summer when Remember shows Johnny what true friendship is about, as he becomes as much a friend to Johnny as Johnny is to Mem; the entire wholesome, heartfelt journey will stick with readers of all ages.

Pros

Lovable and real narrator // Sentimental // Demonstrates value of friendship and family // Parent- and child-friendly // Lots of plot action—never gets boring

Cons

Nothing phenomenal... overall everything—from the plot, characterization, style, and structure—is good, but not great

Verdict

Shirley Reva Vernick's Remember Dippy is a slow journey of embracing family, friends, and identity—exactly the type of book parents will want their kids (ages 9-13) to read. With beautifully crafted sentiments, heart-wrenching twists and turns, and an emotional, triumphant finish, young readers will be glued to this one, and guaranteed to be cheering by the last page.

Rating: 7 out of 10 hearts (4 stars): Not perfect, but overall enjoyable.

Source: Complimentary copy provided by publisher in exchange for an honest and unbiased review for the Books Complete Me virtual book tour (thank you!).

Julie Suzanne says

Librarians and teachers sang the praises of this book when introducing the Charlotte Award nominees last year. All of the titles selected for the elementary school and middle school categories were "dark" or upsetting in some way, and it was noted. When this was introduced as a high school level novel, the

presenter clutched the book to her heart and said something like, "You wanted a touching and positive book? This one will touch your heart." I made a note to read it, even though it has a cover and title that would normally repel me.

I do regret taking the presenter's word for it. This is in no way appropriate for high school; it is a middle school book at best, and probably most appropriate for elementary school kids. I was bored to death, and the characters acted like elderly people in teen bodies. I guess it was...sweet? I can't think of anyone to whom I'd recommend this, except maybe a kid who is required to read a realistic fiction book with a character who has autism and all of the better ones weren't available, and that's about it. I think it's already dated, unfortunately.

Jessica Leake says

I feel this book had a great learning experience behind it. It could be the lesson of learning to accept one and other as they are. I felt it was meant more for older young adults rather than children. It was very educational, but was not something that I enjoyed reading.

Miriam says

I thought it was a really cute book with good discussion points. It allows kids to see what others with disabilities experience and how families cope with it.

Marnie says

Great story about learning to understand one another.

Hannah Doss says

This is a great novel for young adults, especially those in middle-high school. I loved it and I'm 21 years old so really it could be for any audience. It's an insightful story for someone who lives with an autistic person. Johnny expects his summer to be dreadful because he has to look after his cousin, Remember, while his mom is out of town for work. He soon finds out that it isn't as bad as he expects and remember is a lot more than just different. He is protective, caring, and very enthusiastic about certain things. Along with his friends and his aunt, Remember and Johnny end up having a very successful and eventful summer and it couldn't have ended better.

Concetta Seidler says

This is a great book that explores the clash between different but normal. Johnny is sent to stay with his aunt

and cousin who is very different, over the summer while his mom gets a new job. Johnny and his cousin differ in many ways. His cousin likes every day to be the same as where Johnny likes to be adventurous. The author invites reader to see things through a different perspective and informs them that is it okay to do so. This was a great read and I would recommenced it to all ages.
