



Immoral Code

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For Nari, aka Narioka Diane, aka hacker digital alter ego “d0l0s,” it’s college and then a career at “one of the big ones,” like Google or Apple. Keagan, her sweet, sensitive boyfriend, is happy to follow her wherever she may lead. Reese is an ace/aro visual artist with plans to travel the world. Santiago is off to Stanford on a diving scholarship, with very real Olympic hopes. And Bellamy? Physics genius Bellamy is admitted to MIT—but the student loan she’d been counting on is denied when it turns out her estranged father—one Robert Foster—is loaded.

Nari isn’t about to let her friend’s dreams be squashed by a deadbeat billionaire, so she hatches a plan to steal just enough from Foster to allow Bellamy to achieve her goals.

Immoral Code Details

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From Reader Review Immoral Code for online ebook

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

I quit Immoral Code at the 60% mark, but I'm adding my write up to Goodreads, since I don't see any other ace reviewers discussing this book.

I love heist stories, and this follows five teenagers who are planning a heist to take seventy thousand from their friend's estranged father. He's never even met her, but his massive fortune means she was denied financial aid and wouldn't otherwise be able to attend MIT. I thought the concept sounded really fun, and Immoral Code has the added bonus of including an aroace protagonist, Reese, one of the five. I reached 60% before I decided to quit. Here's the main problem: all five members of the heist crew have their own first-person POV sections, and their voices are almost completely indistinguishable. I constantly was having to flip back to the name at the start of the chapter to remember whose head I was in. Plus, the narration style is very ramby and not in a way that was working for me. The heist elements also weren't super prominent in the part I read, which was more concerned about the group dynamics... which would have worked better if I cared more about the characters.

I'm breaking my pattern of "one paragraph per DNFs" to go more in-depth on the aroace representation in Immoral Code, since I haven't seen much about it beyond that it's there. I'm asexual and on the aromantic spectrum, and some things about Reese felt off to me. Firstly, the ARC calls her "acearo", which I've never heard before (I've only ever heard "aroace"). Maybe "acearo" is used mostly in another country or in some specific corner of the aromantic and asexual communities? There's also a use of an extended food metaphor to explain asexuality and aromanticism. AKA, "some people don't like chocolate and that's okay." If you are on the aro or ace spectrum, you've likely heard this metaphor before, so it me feel like the whole thing was included for non-ace and non-aro people. Which is fine. More people knowing aromanticism and asexuality would make my life easier, but it also kind of made me feel that I wasn't the target for Reese's character.

Then there's Reese's friend group. It just felt so weird that Reese was the only queer person in the friend group. Out of my close friends from high school, pretty much all of us had come out by the end of our first year of college. Immoral Code does briefly show that Reese has at least one other queer friend, so it's not like Reese is completely isolated. But it also felt weird that all her straight friends knew so much about asexuality and aromanticism, particularly the in-community stuff. Reese's friends joke about her being a "space ace" and at one point use the word "allo" (which means non-sexual or non-aromantic). This is the sort of stuff I'd normally only see from other ace or aro people; I've never had even my allo queer friends use the word "allo" or reference asexual community puns. Legit, the one time I've had the word "allo" used around me was when an ace-exclusionist (AKA queer people who don't think ace people qualify as queer) told me that the word "allo" was problematic. It's perfectly possible that other ace and aro people have had friends more like Reese's, and I don't want to reject the representation that Immoral Code is offering just because it doesn't fit my own experiences. In the end, it's mostly just depressing that what struck me as so unrealistic was the in-depth knowledge and acceptance of her friends.

USOM says

(Disclaimer: I received this free book from Netgalley. This has not impacted my review which is unbiased and honest.)

A MC IS ACE AND ARO AND THIS WAS FABULOUS TO READ K THNX

Immoral Code is one of those books that charms you. Not because it is always shiny, but because there's something so endearing in its pages. In these characters, their secrets, and the ways these friends dance around each other. You fall in love with each of them in turn. And then when they enter together, the whole world bursts into color. If you love books with friendship, with teens who hold their friends accountable, and the last moments of high school, then you have to check out Immoral Code.

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

cover reveal just dropped on twitter but I CAN'T FIND IT HERE SOMEONE ADD IT. this one is about five teens hacking their billionaire dad's accounts for college money. hope we talk a lot about student loans. hope it's the badass YA thriller I deserve.

? Mira * says

This is about organized teenage crime, so I'm declaring it the 2019 YA contemporary version of *Six of Crows* and begging the bookgods for a modern American Kaz.

Samantha (WLABB) says

This book follows a group of five teens as they plan a morally grey heist. At the heart of this, is a story of friendship, and I enjoyed seeing all of them grow and change and still come out friends on the other side.

Full review to follow.

*ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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Carrie says

3.5 stars Review coming soon.

Gail Shepherd says

I read the Advanced Reader's copy of this book, and I was blown away. The Premise: Five very close friends, in their senior year, plan to hack into the bank accounts of a mega-wealthy, .01 percenter

entrepreneur to skim off enough petty cash to pay the \$50,000 yearly tuition of brilliant Bellamy, who has been accepted at MIT to study physics. The mega-wealthy entrepreneur, as it happens, is Bellamy's deadbeat dad. The caper revolves around figuring out the logistics of how to do the skim without getting caught--and each of the crew has his or her own role to play. The plot is thick and delicious, but even more fun is the sharp, totally authentic dialogue between the characters; their observations about life, sex, politics, social justice, and art; and following their growth journeys over the course of the novel. Clark is a master of witty repartee, odd teenager games, Game of Thrones trivia, and cryptic coder jargon. She gets so deep into these characters' heads you'll feel like you know and love them as much as they know and love each other. This is, at heart, a book about big dreams, and the possible costs of making big dreams come true. I really loved it. Highly recommended.

Kimberly Gabriel says

This book had everything I want in a good story—strong characterization, witty dialogue, and a fast-paced, twisty plot—AND it involved a heist. The story revolves around 5 friends and was told from each of their POVs. Clark did a brilliant job of keeping each character and voice distinct and fresh. I found myself drawn to each of them as they work together to pull off a heist that could ruin their promising futures in order to protect one of their own. Through everything they try to accomplish and discover about themselves, their friendships and their loyalty to one another remained their priority. I miss these characters and their banter already!! Clark is an author to watch. I loved this book and highly recommend it.

Idris says

I had the pleasure of reading this earlier in the year and I think you're all in for a treat.

Dianne says

Are you ready for characters that are flesh and blood, honest to goodness teens on a mission to prove that nothing is impossible if you care enough? How far would you go to help a friend who has been let down about one of the most important things in their lives? Do you have the confidence of youth to outsmart a successful corporate mogul? Could you hack your way into the financial funds of a wealthy and seemingly uncaring absentee father to provide his child with a well-deserved college education?

IMMORAL CODE by Lillian Clark is an adventure of a lifetime for a small group of friends determined to help one of their own fulfill a well-deserved dream. Get ready to melt into the world of teens, see the problem through their eyes and plunge right in, right or wrong, because the ends justify the means in their book. Be part of the planning, the execution and the results of a cleverly brilliant, yet highly illegal game of computer Robin Hood.

Witty banter, teen reasoning and the struggle against the dilemma they are putting themselves in, doing the wrong thing for the right reason, consequences be damned, because how could they get caught?

Quick reading, that races along, fabulous characters with more heart than brains sometimes, and there are some pretty big brains involved in this little caper. Absolutely loved this one!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Random House Children's Books!

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Erin Hahn says

Wow. Just... WOW. No spoilers, I promise! This book was spectacular. Brilliant teens, loyal friendships, pragmatic financial strains and a dash of sweet romance. I would recommend this story to anyone seeking a fast-paced and thought-provoking read. I devoured it in an afternoon because I just had to know what would happen!!

Clark's writing is gorgeous, layered and complex. Her FIVE povs stand out, each unique and whip-smart. This author is one to watch!

Glen says

I won this book in a goodreads drawing.

A fashionably diverse group of youths tries to steal a fortune from the father of one of the group in order to pay for her college tuition.

Way too self conscious.

Brenda Rufener says

Loved this book so much I blurbed it!

Kelly Coon says

Wow. Wow. Wow. And Wow. Okay. First of all, you're going to love this. Honestly. Clark wrote a book filled with such real, vibrant, complex characters, that I'm looking around my living room wondering where they are. These distinct (brilliant) characters wriggle through the nuances of a moral dilemma while battling their own inner demons, and you, reader, get to go through the deliberations with them. Twenty out of twenty would recommend it to their friends.

Jennifer Camiccia says

I was greatly privileged to read an Advanced Readers Copy of this book, and (spoiler alert) LOVED it!! So many great characters written with depth and so true to life. I loved the story and how the author used it as a fast-paced vehicle to showcase the vulnerability and awesomeness of her characters. I recommend this to anyone who loves heist stories, love stories, friendship stories, stories with diverse, interesting characters. Or anyone who loves to read. I can't wait to see what else this author writes in the future!
