

# Reviews

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"Bowles . . . clearly understands the world of young adults. Her depiction of Harper—her anxieties and excitability; her inner and outer personas; her heightened sense of the importance of 'now'—cannot fail to pull readers into a teen mindset. The story is increasingly dark, yet in the telling it neither wallows nor depresses. Harper is allowed strength in her vulnerability. For all her isolation, it is her empathy that makes her special. There is a message here but not one that is pushed beyond the pale. Bowles writes to engage and to confront yet always seemingly with the intent to uplift. The resulting novel, far from being a leaden treatise on teen suffering, spurns literary pretensions and strives instead to include Harper's generation of young adults and give this group its due. Girls especially will relate, but there is room here for everyone. A sage, vivacious tale of people set apart and brought together." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A wonderful book that cleverly explores some powerful and painful emotions." —Victor Catano, author

"Tackles sensitive social issues with heartfelt emotion and tender wit . . . [an] inventive, revelatory novel." —Kathleen Gerard, author

"[This] is *Ordinary People* for a new generation." —Jason Parent, author

"Humorous and harrowing, romantic and revealing, and an honest true-to-life lesson about being a teenager in this most interesting of times." —Shawn Clingman, English/drama teacher

"The most important aspect is the messages that it conveys. . . . To be brave, even when you do not think you cannot be; you belong even when you think you do not." —Timmie Quitugua, librarian

"This book literally had me crying. It was really good! . . . I would totally recommend this book!" —Erin B., teenaged reviewer and book blogger, NetGalley



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