

Dying to Know You

Aidan Chambers

Reviewed by: Hannah Yang, age 11

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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The first few phrases immediately drew me in. *Dying to Know You* is an expertly written novel that makes you wish it didn't end. As you read it, you ponder the wise questions- *why are we ourselves?* and think about our life. The feeling and passion that the atmosphere of the book gives off is mesmerizing. In other words, once I picked up this book I simply could not put it down.

When you read the blurb, you immediately think: *this is going to be a love story about how a guy called Karl is trying to win the pretty girl, Fiorella's heart.* But really, it has little to do with Fiorella. The story is a bonding of a famous author and a dyslexic boy, and how Karl discovers himself. Whether it's plumbing or sculpting, fishing or playing rugby, Karl's life will change forever in this heartwarming tale.

I like how wise the book is in such a subtle way. I burst into a round of applause with the way the author makes the story so simple and captivating at the same time. The whole concept of Fiorella's questions makes me think *the author is trying to ask about the purpose of life. Asking about your opinion on life. Pondering about the things more abstract people wonder.* It makes me wonder about the world, wonder if what is, is- as Karl says. What is the true meaning of love? What makes people like things? What is art really all about? This book mirrors life nicely. In brutal honesty, I will say that I loved this book to the moon and back.

The humorous parts of the story are worded carefully. The people who take the time to analyze what the author is saying will get the funny bits, and others will probably think the book is like a lecture. I love the constant repetition of how the author 'consults a bush', because it makes me laugh. I give credit to Chambers for that- I like books that make me laugh.

If I stared down at every page twice, I would probably not find a flaw, or a part of the story that I don't like. Other than some swearing here and there, I can't find anything that is really what I would call *bad*. This book would be a cherished read to middle schoolers and older, especially if you feel lost with your life at the moment. *Dying to Know You* is certainly like a flashlight in the dark.

To conclude, this book is jaw-dropping, and is like a voice that calls to those who are lost- but not yet found. The stunning way Aidan Chambers is able to make you feel like you are watching every moment, how you feel so in-touch and close to the characters. I would highly recommend this book to any person who wants to read something that will make you smile.

Recommended Titles:

The Kissing Game, by Aidan Chambers

This Is All: The Pillow Book of Cordelia Kenn, by Aidan Chambers

Postcards from No Man's Land, by Aidan Chambers

The Toll Bridge, by Aidan Chambers

Now I Know, by Aidan Chambers

Dance on My Grave, by Aidan Chambers

Breaktime, by Aidan Chambers