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Hamilton's "Hear no evil" (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



Hamilton, M. L. (2013). *Hear no evil*. Dumfries, VA: HopeSprings Books. 229 pp. \$8.25. ISBN 9781938708213

Hear No Evil is the first book in the Rustic Knoll Bible Camp series for children ages 8 to 12. Hamilton dedicates it to all children who feel rejected.

Going to summer camp for the first time is hard enough, but when your mother tells you that she is kicking you out of your home, it is nearly unbearable. Brady is distracted by his new friends and outdoor activities, but is constantly haunted by his mom's decision. It isn't until about two-thirds into the book we learn that Brady's mom is scared of something, and the story takes an exciting turn towards a heartbreaking yet clarifying ending.

This book is recommended for children's collections as it gives voice in the Christian fiction genre for children in divorced families. Pew Research shows 74% of all divorced or separated adults identify as Christian, making this a vital topic. Understanding diversity is a highlight, as one of the story's main character is blind, while bullying and abuse are also important themes. It will appeal to both boys and girls as the first third of the book is full of camp fun such as boating, ball games, a water carnival, all supported by a warm and caring camp staff. The moments that may seem "preachy" actually serve a purpose in the story. The book concludes with an appropriate list of resources for kids to get help with issues from abuse to running away, and a list of compelling discussion questions, making this title ideal for a kids' book club.

Hamilton is an author for tweens. She spent 20 years living at a camp like Rustic Knoll. *Hear No Evil* is her first book, followed by *Speak No Evil* and *See No Evil*.

Reviewer

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