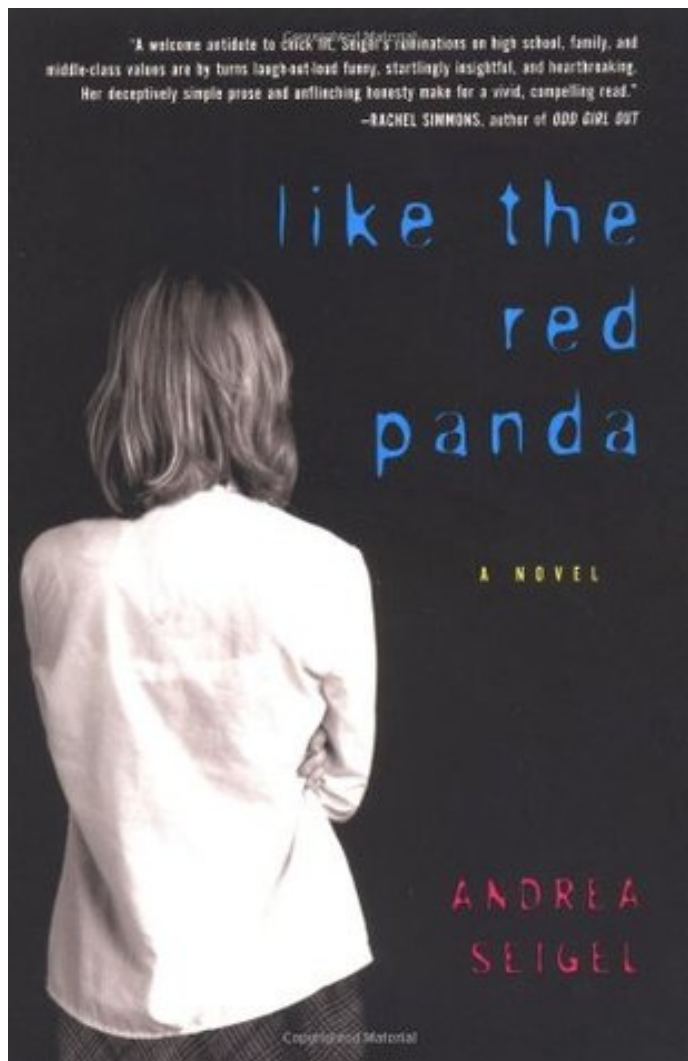

Andrea Seigel

Like the Red Panda



Title: Like the Red Panda

Author: Andrea Seigel

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 280

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0156030241

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.1 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Stella Parrish is seventeen, attractive, smart, deeply alienated, and unable to countenance life's absurdities. She is not nihilistic; she is prematurely exhausted. Since her parents OD'd on designer drugs when she was eleven, she has lived with well-meaning but inexperienced foster parents, while her grandfather, her only living relative, tries ever more ingenious ways of committing suicide in his retirement home. Here are the last two weeks of Stella's senior year in Orange County, California: the intensive AP final exams; the childish, celebratory trips; the totemic importance attached to graduation. Beneath Stella's mordantly funny take on her life is the decisiveness with which she disengages from it, planting clues and providing explanations for those who will try to understand the act she is about to commit. With perfect pitch, remarkable wit, and a spare, vivid prose, Stella turns her farewell to suburbia into a wry philosophical inquiry.

Insightful reviews

Caren: "Like the red panda" by Andrea Seigel is pleasurable read. It unfolds the story of a teenage girl's last two weeks in high school. Unlike other novels, it presents the topic of suicide in a less serious manner. The novel is written in a diary form, the readers will be able to observe things through Stella's perspective and understand the reasons behind her suicide. The readers could focus more on the character's internal conflicts.

The protagonist Stella has an attitude, she is very smart; however, this doesn't stop her from hating school. She doesn't like the idea of how students need to follow the customary path to succeed; nor the idea of taking the courses she doesn't like so she could show a good transcript. Especially for drama class, when the teacher tells her pretend to hit a beach ball, however, she "was too exhausted to pretend to have fun at a beach that doesn't exist." (Seigel 2). Her lackadaisical attitudes toward the surroundings make readers to reconsider the true meaning of life.

One thing I don't like about the novel is that it's doesn't appear too realistic to me. The novel doesn't involve many cliffhanging plots and it's a bit dragging, though the author is able to capture readers' interest through series of small internal conflicts, however, it lacks of a more complex external conflict.

The ending of the novel is very surprising, it doesn't go as the way readers anticipated, in the last piece of her journal; Stella only briefly mentions that "I'm going to stop this." (Seigel 274). I think the author is implying something else rather than what is stated, I reread the last piece of her journal trying to figure out the ending, however, I was unable to because the protagonist's thoughts are very different and unpredictable.

Through the book, the readers will explore through the dark and strange thoughts from Stella's perspective. Her unique attitude and unpredictable thoughts are what make "Like the red panda" an interesting read.

Alicia: This is a compelling read. A teen-lit book, recommended to me by a real-life teen librarian. It's about a Princeton-bound high school senior (Stella) who suddenly stops caring

about pretty much everything, from taking exams, to, well, living. Going in, I thought I was in for a kind of lightweight, angsty, coming-of-age story. And I read reviews that said the book was just a laugh a minute. But the not-caring-about-living part sort of stamped out the levity for me. I suspect that, were I a teen today, I would appreciate this book's non-chick-litty tone, Stella's intelligence and snarkiness, and the not exactly satisfying ending. I remember how I was completely OVER high school at least a year before it finally ended, so I related to certain aspects of the main character, at least in her detachment from high school and its general annoyingness. But, because I am not a teen today, I felt a guidance-counselor-style urge to leap into the pages of this book to encourage Stella to just hang in there (!) because life gets so much better after the blip that is high school.

Michael.ju: Review of Like the Red Panda

Michael.Ju

Sadness is my first sensation when I finished reading this story. The protagonist of this story is Stella who is an intelligent and smart girl in high school, no one can deny that her childhood is totally a tragedy, she early get involved with drugs, sex, and anything a student ought not have because of her environment of growth, anything that can hurt a teenager's heart happened on her, terrified marriage of her parents; adopted at the age of eleven by an emotionally distant couple; and a boyfriend who doesn't real like her, all these kind of dark elements nailed the best time of a girl, so she starts to despair to this world, and finally, she decides that the only solution is to commit suicide by the time her graduation rolls around.

This book is written like a journal that almost record everything and every moment for her last two weeks of her life, I have to say it's really attractive for me to read, it contain every detail in the time of her rest of life, these details also tell me she has a serious attitude treat that, she finally do herself once. When I am reading her as if I am going into Stella's heart world, I can clear find out what her thought is, it's like a process to exploring a person, I even cannot put it down when I put it up. For the end of this story, maybe it's a little bit sad that Stella plan to die, but it's the truth, life doesn't always go where we expect to go, and that's reality. I don't like her choice to her life because I think when she gives up the world is equal to give up the hope, what a terrible thing for a teenager to lose hope to the world, how irony it is. As a conclusion, I think this is one of the best books for the teenager theme, there are many elements to express the trouble during teenager's process of growth, maybe it hurts, but it's true.

Brennan: A suicide journal-the ultimate check out a deeply emotional teen dealing with the mundane motions of each day lifestyles and experiencing every one current second extra vibrantly simply because she isn't interested by the potential of the future. through the second one bankruptcy i used to be thoroughly taken through the writing type and felt like i used to be really taking a look into this younger woman's life. An emotional portrayal of the issues that appear to engulf your international as an adolescent. "Nothing is whatever till I choose to carry not anything subsequent to something, and claim that I see a difference." "I'm attempting to hold going simply because if I maintain relocating quickly enough, i believe I get pleasure from existence more. it truly is while I take a pause and go searching that I see the main points I want I hadn't." "Today in my brain i will really see the best way that each day is a series of ideas made from thoroughly random opposites, and there are even arbitrary methods of breaking these

opposites down...a lot of individuals decide to see all these offerings as evidence of the nice number of life's paths, yet what is lovely visible to me is that once there are such a lot of paths, all of them turn into susceptible and shaky. Which one stands proud one of the others?"

Ab: This used to be an 'alright' read. now not the best, yet now not the worst, either. perhaps my 'not-blown-away' emotions concerning the ebook need to do with how real-life the complete atmosphere of the publication is (and how a lot i may unfortunately relate and was once pressured to relive, ughh, excessive school). the most character, Stella, is inside of weeks of graduating excessive school, and he or she simply type of will get hit with this wave of apathy and 'done-ness' with the full getting on with existence thing. The publication is filled with wit, so the topic of somebody making plans on killing themselves isn't really as miserable because it may seem, yet it truly is no fluffy-bunny read, for sure. Her "awakening" of varieties is available in drama class: "But then today, whilst Mr. Nichols instructed me that my seashore ball wasn't going excessive sufficient (and on account that it is invisible, how did he know?), I knew i used to be done. that is it. There comes some extent if you are simply too exhausted to faux to celebrate at a seashore that does not exist." -- p.2Stella's a straight-A student, at the Honor track, in AP sessions her Senior year, and she's on her approach to the primary because of her refusal to throw an invisible seashore ball and he or she displays at the 'bad' children sitting round now not in class: "When you think that of the undesirable kids, you think that they are those who're sour and hating school. yet this day i noticed that they are really happy. The narcs come through and threaten yellow slips and detention, yet then the narcs simply turn out guffawing with the children and making up within jokes. And then, like I stated before, the crucial watches out for them, and the academics need to make a distinction of their lives, so the undesirable young children are the most cherished humans within the complete school. If Princeton stopped being concerned approximately grades and extracurricular actions and commenced admitting a few of these humans from the quad, it simply may perhaps turn out with a extra likable pupil body." -- p.5Another apt description of this sort of girl, Stella (which i may relate to totally, minus the Catholic schoolgirl gear):"I would not say i am unpopular simply because if you happen to requested different little ones approximately me, they'd say, "She's so smart" first and "She clothes like a Catholic schoolgirl" second. they would recognize who I am. or even even though i do not rather have any pals so far as having anyone to hang around with at the weekend, all people at my institution may let you know i've got plenty of neighbors simply because i've got such a lot of acquaintances. the article with friends is that one acquaintance most likely assumes that the opposite buddies are your most sensible friends, and the the latter workforce assumes that the unique acquaintance is your soul mate, and that is how each person remains at arm's length." -- p.10The final quote, I swear -- essentially the most revealing of the moderate proposal method Stella goes through: "I'd simply quite talk about how this present day I had a few type of summary revelation that confirmed me how arbitrary the area is, and once i spotted that, what was once I alleged to do? faux it wasn't arbitrary? it is like i've got X-ray goggles on that express me that Princeton is simply a Kmart with a pleasant facade on it and John Steiner is simply a skeleton with a few epidermis (and acne, sorry) slapped on most sensible of it. a majority of these items of the puzzle are clicking jointly in my head. They have been all floating round in my mind before, yet i'll by no means make experience of them. each time I felt those tricks of discontent i'd just examine a bit extra or do a little additional credits or follow to a different Ivy League college. yet today, the seashore ball -- it is so transparent how we make every little thing up." -- p.19So anyway, that is simply the 1st 20 pages! What follows

is much less intense, extra plot and situational dealings, much less deep inspiration stuff (which I want there have been extra of, yet oh well). the writer does a very solid task of tapping right into a teenager's brain, and writing a e-book fullyyt from a teenage girl's perspective, so kudos to her for that!

Sarah: just like the purple panada was once miserable as shit. i learn it as a result entire coming of age factor that i like reading, however it wasn't fairly coming of age quite a bit as whatever else. stella (try to learn that with out deliberating elaine screaming it excessive on painkiller) is the most character. she's 18, graduating highschool and shrewdpermanent as shit going to princeton. yet she makes a decision her lifestyles is empty or unnecessary or anything and makes a decision to kill herself at the day after the final day of school. the object that bugged me the main is that i wasn't solely transparent why she desired to kill herself. sure, there has been the overall malaise and so forth, yet she by no means gave an truly reason. at the start i presumed she was once TELLING us the tale of her final weeks of excessive school, yet then i discovered that she had written every thing down and we have been studying it after the fact. does that make sense? her writing jogged my memory loads of raspil's writing (not that i believe raspil desires to kill herself). so anyway. the e-book is depressing. it jogs my memory of why i hated highschool and why it used to be so tough for me. she does not appear to have a foul time of it in class though. her mom and dad died of cocaine/heroin overdoses whilst she was once eleven so she went to dwell with a married couple who did not love her yet didnt' abuse her either. she's clever as hell and has a few friends. she has a type of boyfriend with whom she has sizzling sex. so i am nonetheless unsure WHY she desired to kill herself. she does not even strike me as totally unhappy--besides the actual fact she desires to kill herself. so i dunno. the publication wasn't bad, however it wasn't whatever i'd learn again.

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