

Mariah Embry's

Book Talk

10 Things I Can See From Here

By Carrie Mac



About the Author

[Carrie Mac](#) recalls in her youth being a “compulsive liar.” For a creative fiction writer, it seems it is a requirement. Mac could not see herself doing anything other than writing. Through her various travels and “wandering” she finds stories in everything she sees and her imagination. She sees the world as being various stories. Everything seen in life is a story. She is so committed to her work and love of the arts that she makes herself available for appearances anywhere in the world. She also offers writers workshop for small to large groups of people all over the world as well. Mac specializes in YA fiction. She has won various awards including; CBC Creative Non-Fiction Prize, the Sheila A. Egoff Children’s Literature Prize, and the Arthur Ellis Award.

Synopsis

Maeve suffers from severe anxiety. Her mind is always in emotional turmoil with thoughts of the worst possible outcomes of her situations. Even when her life is still and nothing seems to be going wrong, Maeve finds something to worry about. In one of the worst states of her life, Maeve finds herself being shipped off to live in Canada for six months with her alcoholic father, pregnant stepmother and two brothers. After the witness of a suicide, immediate death seems to be Maeve’s most imposing anxiety. With a stepmom about to give birth, her father having relapsed, Maeve’s anxiety seems to be at an all-time high. However, with newfound responsibilities, Maeve is finding herself having to overcome her anxious nature and take action in her life. Of course, it does hurt to have a little

push from her new girlfriend. When the life of her family is placed into her own hands Maeve rising against the fears that arise in her to take care of the lives that mean so much to her.

Quote 1

“I didn’t want to call Dad again. If he was on his way, he shouldn’t pick up. He knew better...Every year over three thousand people died because of distracted driving...Not as bad as the one death every forty-eight minutes from drunk driving, but bad enough. Dad had already been lucky in that category once...Or what if he was looking for his phone when I called and it was in his bag and he leaned over too far and lost control. What if he was in the hospital on life support and they couldn’t find a number to call because his cell phone had been destroyed in the crash and he’d forgotten his wallet at home again...What if he was dead and I was sitting there waiting for a dead person who would never be coming. An accident at work. He’d fallen off a catwalk on set and broken his neck and they just hadn’t called Claire yet. *William ‘Billy’ Glover, aged 41, died tragically in a workplace accident. He leaves behind his wife, Claire: his daughter, Maeve; his two young sons, Corbin and Owen; his unborn child due in September. After a successful career as a musician with the Railway Kings, Billy became a scenic artist in the film industry, working on major films such as--*”(16-17)

Significance

This quote shows the complexity of Maeve’s mind. When she has to wait--to worry, her mind races thinking about all the terrible things that could have happened. This quote shows the first time that she is really anxious about a loved one. So anxious that she is thinking that

her father could be dead, and even goes as far to think up an obituary.

Quote 2

“And all the while, in between the words, all the things I wasn’t saying. So I said some of them. I told a little bit more, like I was letting out a string on a kite, just a bit at a time...After I told her that, there was a long pause on her end...’Mom’

‘I’m sorry that you found her,’ she said. ‘I’m sorry that I wasn’t there to comfort you.’

And dad. What could I tell her about Dad...

‘No. He’s not okay...’

‘Oh, Maeve. I’m so sorry. Are you okay to stay there?’ she said. ‘Should I call Dan?’

This was my chance to go home. It hadn’t occurred to me, until that moment, that Dad was the reason I was there, and that if he was a mess, he could be the reason Mom would let me go home. I could get the five a.m. bus. I could be home the next afternoon...But I didn’t want to go. And it wasn’t because of Salix. It was because of Claire and Owen and Corbin and the baby. and it was because of Dad, too, because even if I couldn’t fix it, it didn’t seem right to walk away.,”(190-191).

Significance

This quote is the turning point for Maeve. She is coming to the realization that she has a place in all the craziness that is going on around her. She realizes that it’s her family on the line and she has to be there for them. At this moment, she rising above her anxiety and puts the emotional needs of those around her above her own. In this scene, a lot of her anxiety dies.

Quote 3

“Marvelous. Causing wonder, admiration, or astonishment--surprising, extraordinary. Yes to all of those things. And I didn't mean just Alice, even though her birth was marvelous, in every single possible way. I meant me. It was marvelous that I had done it. I was astonished and surprised. It was extraordinary for anyone, but especially for me. Maeve Glover was not someone who could deliver a baby in a parking lot but she'd done it anyway. I admired myself for it. I was astonished at what I could do. And I wondered what else I could do. Maybe I would always wear the heavy boot of anxiety and the prickly coat of worry, but maybe--even still--I could just be a person who belongs in the world, even if it's hard.” (307).

Significance

Maeve accomplishes so much during the first few weeks of time away from the safety of her Washington home. Maeve realizes her worth, and what she can do on her own. She found her neighbor dead, she gave birth to her baby sister, she helped her dad get clean, she has a new girlfriend so much good and so much bad that she was able to survive. She has come to the realization that life is hectic and she will get anxious, but she will survive it.

Complexity

According to *Lexile reader*, this novel is the best fit for high school students fourteen and up.

Interest: upper grades (9-12)

Lexile Level: 1335L

ATOS®: 7.0+

Personally, I agree with the *Lexile reader*, and would also recommend this book to be for high school students and older, due to the psychological complexity of the story.

How I would teach this novel

Due to the psychological complexity, I would teach this to high school students only. Since the main character has an extreme type of anxiety I would want the students to have a clear understanding of what it means to suffer such a disability. Even though it would be an English class, I would want to teach the students a sense of psychology, so incorporating some type of exercise that helps them understand the psychology behind her behavior. Examples of exercises can be, a creative writing project where the students try to write for someone with a type of mental disability. That way they could understand the mind of the person/character. A lot of teens watch YouTube videos, and a lot of YouTubers have mental disabilities, so I could screen a video of someone living with it. This would be a novel I would like to read in class due to the complexity of the inner dialogue Maeve uses to tell her story.

Adolescent in the Search for meaning

This story would fit best in chapter four, due to the family struggles Maeve faces and the choice she has to make

Work Cited

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