



America by E.R. Frank

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Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2015

*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

"Where would you like to be five years from now?" Dr. B. asks.

"Nowhere," America answers.

By age fifteen, America has already been nowhere. Been nobody. Separated from his foster mother, Mrs. Harper. A runaway living for weeks in a mall, then for months in Central Park. A patient at Applegate, the residential treatment facility north of New York City. And now at Ridgeway, a hospital.

America is a boy, he thinks to himself, who gets lost easy and is not worth the trouble of finding.

But Dr. B. takes the trouble. With abiding care, he nudges America's story from him. An against-the-odds story about America's shattered past with his mother and brothers. About Browning, a man in Mrs. Harper's house who saves America, then betrays him. About a bighearted, hardheaded girl named Liza, and Ty and Fish and Wick and Marshall and Ernie and Tom and Dr. B. himself who care more than America does about whether he lives or dies.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Frank, the author of the much-acclaimed *Life Is Funny* (2000), exposes with compassion, clarity, and deeply unsettling detail the profound shame and horror of abuse as well as the erratic nature of a medical system that tries to reclaim the victims. She also creates an extraordinary character in America who, with the help of his doctor, confronts the deepest betrayals and, finally, lets himself be found. A piercing, unforgettable novel." – [Booklist](#), starred review

★ "Frank (*Life Is Funny*, 2000) creates perfectly both America at five, unsure of anything except the hope that if he is bad enough, his mother will send him back to Mrs. Harper and the belligerent adolescent convinced that the world has nothing to offer him. A wrenching tour de force despite America's overly symbolic name, it is a work of sublime humanity." — [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review

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Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

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★ “Frank's well-crafted and moving story begins with a teenage America in a treatment facility after a suicide attempt and alternates between the present—mostly his therapy sessions with Dr. B.—and the past...A powerful story of forgiveness—both of oneself and of others.” —[Publishers Weekly](#), starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults
- Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ)
- German Youth Literature Award Nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Tampa Bay Times: An Interview with E.R. Frank](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“If you don’t want your child to read a particular book, that’s your choice. But please don’t attempt to dictate such choices for the rest of us.”—E. R. Frank, author of the frequently challenged *America*

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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