



BOOK RESUME: PERFECTLY GOOD WHITE BOY

Perfectly Good White Boy

by Carrie Mesrobian

Carolrhoda Lab, Lerner Publishing Group, 2014

ISBN: 9781467734806 (Trade Hardcover)

*Age Range: 13-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 8 – 12 (Suggested by Publisher)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Sean Norwhalt knows Hallie just dumped him. He was a perfectly good summer boyfriend, but she's off to college, and he's got another year to go. Her pep talk about future "possibilities" isn't comforting. Sean's seen his future "possibilities," and they all look disposable. Like the crappy rental his family lives in. Like the filthy clothes he stuffs into the rag baler at his thrift-store job. Like everything good he's ever known. His only hopeful possibilities are the Marine Corps, where no one expected he'd go, and Neece Albertson, whom he never expected to care about. Carrie Mesrobian follows her critically acclaimed debut, *Sex & Violence*, with another powerful and wrenching novel.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Engaging, perceptive, witty and at times gut-wrenchingly sad—this is an extraordinary addition to fiction for teens and adults alike." —starred, *Kirkus Reviews*

★ "Mesrobian... excels at conveying the awkwardness and wonder of sex.... [She] deftly conveys just how much drama there is in the everyday, especially for a 17-year-old trying to figure out not just what's next, but what's happening right now." —starred, *Publishers Weekly*

"This slice-of-life novel should appeal to mature readers who are puzzling through their own nexus of paths towards the future." —*Booklist*

"Mesrobian's subtle theme of the disposable nature of contemporary objects and relationships is reinforced through literal details that have metaphoric impact." —The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

"Pitch-perfect dialogue and narrative prose reveal teen culture and the journey of self-discovery." —*Foreword Reviews*

"A melancholy but honest examination of life in transition." —The Horn Book Guide

"Charged with a truth and an ambiguity that makes hope and love believable." —*Star Tribune*

Updated 7.17.2024

Lerner Publishing Group

Contact mciskowski@lernerbooks.com

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Foreword Reviews' 10 Best Indie YA Novels of 2014
- Tayshas Reading List

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[TeachingBooks.net](#) – Author Page, Cultural Representation Reflection, Story Map Multi-Levelled Lesson, Qualitative Text Complexity Rubric

[Lerner Blog](#) – Auditions for a Book Cover

*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.

Updated 7.17.2024

Lerner Publishing Group

Contact mciskowski@lernerbooks.com