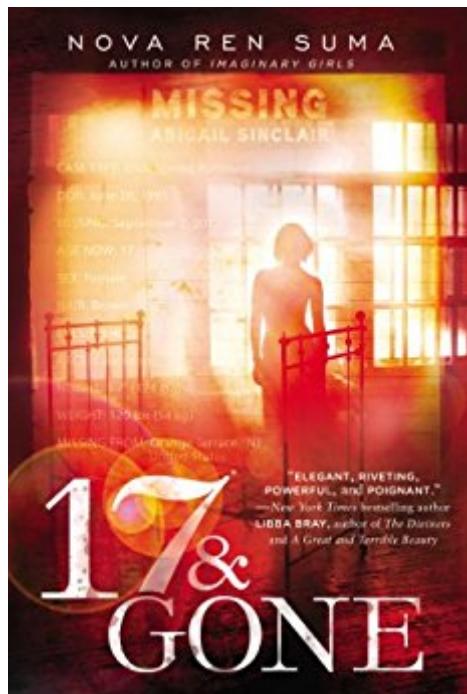


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17 & Gone



Synopsis

Seventeen-year-old Lauren is having visions of girls who have gone missing. And all these girls have just one thing in common— they are 17 and gone without a trace. As Lauren struggles to shake these visions, impossible questions demand urgent answers: Why are the girls speaking to Lauren? How can she help them? And . . . is she next? Through Lauren’s search for clues, things begin to unravel, and when a brush with death lands Lauren in the hospital, a shocking truth changes everything. With complexity and richness, Nova Ren Suma serves up a beautifully visual, fresh interpretation of what it means to be lost.

Book Information

File Size: 982 KB

Print Length: 369 pages

Publisher: Speak (March 21, 2013)

Publication Date: March 21, 2013

Sold by: Penguin Group (USA) LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B007HU7JS2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #508,298 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #43 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #76 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #97 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways

Customer Reviews

Grade: C+Seventeen-year-old Lauren sees dead people. Specifically, dead seventeen year-old-girls who went missing and were never found, runaways. No one else can see these ghosts, not her psychologist-in-training mother or her boyfriend. She's looking for Abby, who went missing from a camp near her school, certain Abigail wasn't a runaway like some of the others. Soon all the ghosts

are gathering in the burnt down main house on the property she rents with her mother and Lauren is responsible for all the girls who will be forever seventeen. 17 AND GONE is a bizarre story. Quite early I decided that Lauren was an unreliable narrator, and I had a idea why. The ghosts had to be distracting and I could see why she became obsessed with solving Abby's presumed murder. Having finished the book, I can't think of anything about Lauren's personality that jumped out at me. Her head was in the clouds, listening to the ghosts give her clues. If I ever went missing, I'd want a Lauren looking for me. 17 AND GONE is often a confusing read, because Lauren spent most of the novel in her head with the ghosts. I thought Nova Ren Suma could have added more tension and picked up the pace to make for a more in-your-gut plot. THEMES: (I'm going light on the themes to avoid spoilers) runaways, missing teenagers This isn't the type of story I'd tell people to run out and read. It's not a book I'll put on my reread list. I wish I waited for a price drop. I did enjoy 17 AND GONE, just not enough to rave about it.

Lauren is driven to find out what happened to Abby, a girl in a missing poster. What's motivating her the most is her ability to see the girl's ghost. Abby was 17 when she went missing, and she's not the only one who's 17 and gone. Lauren is visited by other girls who cloud her vision and surroundings. They fill her with stories about what happened before their disappearances. People think Lauren is crazy. Is she? She usually seems sane and haunted, while at other times she appears to be an unreliable narrator. I loved the storyline and atmosphere of this YA ghost story.

This is one of those books that broke me a little. There is such a well done atmosphere through the writing in this one, a constant emotional oppression that kept me captivated, engaged, and feeling so much throughout. The book leads up to one defining moment: are the ghosts real, or is it in her head? I debated both sides of that as I read, and while I went into that moment with a pretty solid guess of which way it would go, it still hit me hard when whatever the reason is comes out. This aspect of the story is so impressively, brilliantly done, it will always make this a stand out book for me. There is so much to love about this, but that single element defines this book as amazing, and talented to me. Though I have to also admit, Jamie, the boyfriend, made this book pretty dang awesome too. He doesn't run when things get hard, but he's also not a doormat. He's a different kind of guy than often seen in YA, and one that melted me more than once.

I'm not sure how to really rate this book -3 stars is probably a bit generous really. I thought I was going to be reading a mystery or a thriller but instead I got to spend time inside the head of a

teenager with mental illness. I thought it was weird most of the time. Lauren is a 17 year old girl who became obsessed with other 17 year-old girls who had gone missing. She sees and talks to them and dreams about them. I had a hard time distinguishing between mental delusion and reality- as did Lauren and I suppose that was the author's point, but I'm much too analytical to enjoy being taken on a head trip journey. I guess it's just been too long since I was 17, but I couldn't relate to Lauren.

Firstly, I love Nova, so it's tough to review this because of my bias. *Imaginary Girls* was a favorite of mine and so I was quick to order *17&Gone*, but I didn't find the same connection I had with *IG*. I suppose it was the number of characters introduced that pulled me away from the storyline, and the connection I should have felt with the MC was lost. I just didn't link emotionally with this one, but I still love Nova. Still love her writing style and will always buy one of her books!

This book was just the right kind of creepy. I'm not sure how to leave good reviews without giving away spoilers, so don't read this review if you don't want at least mild spoilers. It took me a while to read this book -- not sure why -- but it was worth it. I love books told from the point of view of the mentally unstable. You never know whether what's happening is real or imagined. It's fantastic. Anyway, I'm glad I read this book and will read more by this author.

good read

Wow, this was one creepy book, and definitely not what I thought it was when I began. Excellent, if disturbing, read.

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