

## LOOK BOTH WAYS

was an easy read that could easily be read in a day. I usually find it hard to concentrate when reading but this was very unchallenging. I liked how there were ten separate stories about kids from the same school walking home. My favourite stories in the book were 'Skitter Hitter' -as Pia seemed to be quite a cool person and I found it funny how everyone has to make way at the end of the day in the corridors so that she could skate on her skateboard out of the building. And I liked 'The Low Cuts Strike Again'- this was because I thought it was one of the more unique stories as all of them are friends because of their parents suffering with Cancer and they are not privileged with money and would buy and sell sweets to earn them some to buy food, as it shows them buying ice-cream at the end of the chapter. Although, I do think this book would be better for younger readers as the text is very easy to read and at my age children are discovering more complicated texts. I do also like at the end how it talks about how Canton sees all the kids in which we see throughout the book coming out of school -this was good for the finale. Overall it was a good easy-read book and better for younger kids. Sylvie

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was a upbeat, uplifting and motivational book of short stories. The book was made up of ten short stories which take place on a walk home from school, with no adults around we really get to understand each character's personality, and struggles they are dealing with. The book takes large subjects, such as homophobia and bullying, and projects them in an upbeat manner. Although the main problems I had with the book is that the characters are very hard to connect and relate with and the stories were sometimes great, but sometimes full with lacklustre plot. For example, one story focuses on a group of children as they try and purchase sweets from an old lady. Overall I thought it was a good book, but mainly targeted at a very small demographic. Ilya

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Whilst I feel that LOOK BOTH WAYS is a fun read and quite insightful, I also felt that it isn't a good book for anyone above primary school. It's humour is corny and overdone it's references to characters that we haven't met yet in earlier stories makes some quite predictable- think reading a Sherlock Holmes movie and knowing who did it ( fun but slightly ruined.) I did however enjoy the references to LGBTQ and those who are less fortunate. All in all a fun book but not one of my favourites. Arthur

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My thoughts on look both ways are that it is an incredible book teaching children about some of the great challenges in life and, maybe how some people have to live their lives. I also thought that this book explains complex scenarios very well. I really enjoyed reading all the different varieties of stories in each chapter and I think that I, personally, learnt a lot from this book, and I hope that others may have the same experience that I did when reading this book. Toby

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This book was amazing. I really loved the idea of short stories all the way through the book. The characters felt very realistic and relatable. My favourite story had to be the second one about the "low cuts". This book was a short read, so I would recommend it to younger readers who are looking for a comedic adventure novel. Kwame

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I enjoyed Look both ways as it was easy to read and very enjoyable. It had very smart comedy and nice plots for each section. Each of the stories are different, specifically the last few pages of each as they have unexpected twists that relay an obvious message about all of the characters. I also liked the similarities between each such as the continuation of there being a school bus falling from the sky. All in all look both ways was a good read and an enjoyable book. Ben

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is a collection of short stories each covering moral challenges which many children and adults may go through in day to day circumstances. The stories are all set in the same universe and each story has a small connection to someone or something in another story; moreover, each story could be read in isolation. I found that the stories could relate to moments I have experienced in my life and it gave me a better insight to both mine and others' thoughts and feelings throughout these situations. I found most of the stories easy to read but some of them were a bit confusing which I had to think harder to understand the meaning. My favourite story out of the book would be the first one by far as it was amusing because the children in the story were trying to argue that humans were giant bogies and I also thought that the characters were built well. My least favourite story was the last one as I found it a bit sad as the mother of Canton was hit by a yellow school bus and broke her arm. Overall I found the book a very positive read and would definitely recommend the book to others at my age. Rufus

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This book is simply amazing, when I first saw it, I thought it would just be a regular set of short stories, but this set, after a thorough read-through, is anything but average, as it tackles many different issues that everyone faces, yet are hard to make interesting, but Jason Reynolds managed to make a 14-step plan of walking from home (I'm incredibly sure it was 14 steps) interesting, there are also several references to school buses falling out the sky (no spoilers here). However, my favourite part was when a description of the symptoms of a disease actually managed to make me gag, is that good or bad? I'm incredibly sure it's good. As a summary, I would definitely recommend this book. Ernest

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is all about reading in between the lines. It glosses over some big issues (such as economic standards and relations and race etc.) using comedy and concepts more fit for a child. The only problem for me was the switching of characters and view points was too overdone as there might have been a main story line but its voice was muffled by the constant side stories. Mudiwa

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is an interesting book, looking at a school with many different stories of different children who have their own struggles. Look Both Ways is also formatted in a different way compared to other books. Instead of having one continuous story it's 10 different stories happening in the same school at similar times. It shows that some may seem to be doing well on the outside but on the inside they could be going through a rough time. An example of this is the story about a child called Satchmo Jenkins. Satchmo was attacked by a dog at the age of 7 giving him PTSD (I am not a doctor on this subject so I may be wrong). Everyone in the school knew about the escape plan that Satchmo had to save himself from someone's dog on the street that he walks by to get home but people don't know why he has that escape plan. This book gets the message across about everyone has their own different struggles really well and the author has made get a good view of the characters life in short story. But while being a great book I find that the cover of the book doesn't go well with the context of the book. This is because the cartoon characters make it seem more child like than what it is as it talks about sensitive subjects in a subtle manner. Another issue is the grammar in the book can be wrong sometimes as there can be double negatives. Another issue is that while all the characters are in the same school you don't really see much of a character story arc as they are short stories. The also seems to be stuck in a purgatory between a serious book and a light hearted comedy-esque book. With this all in mind I give this book a 7.5/10. Tadiwa

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is a good book compiled of 10 short stories all about children walking home from school. The stories are linked but very loosely. Characters' names from other stories in the book are mentioned and they all have the same homework. That is as deep as it is and I wish that the connections were stronger because it would've made it better in my opinion. Because they're short stories, you don't have much time to connect to the characters before you're reading about totally different characters with totally different personalities. Nonetheless, you still manage to build a sense of environment because they all take place in the same area. Some children have harder lives than others, for example one's mother has cancer, and another is dealing with bullying. If these darker themes continued throughout the book, I would've enjoyed it more because there is simply more weight behind it. However, it also deals with light hearted subjects like friendships. I think the real issue here is it seems the book doesn't know whether it wants to be a serious book or not. Because the children are all going home from school, it can feel like you've already read that story because of the similarities between another one. Despite what I've said, the book is definitely worth a read and I would give it a 7/10. Will