



2018

Infandous

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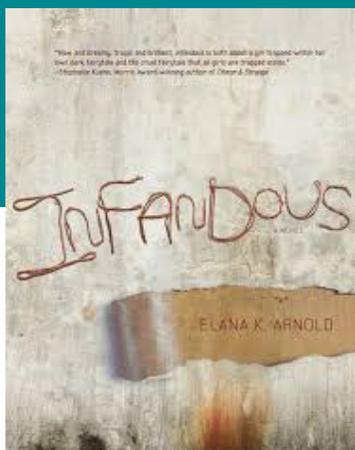
Andrus, Meagan (2018) "Infandous," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 39 : Iss. 1 , Article 42.
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Book Review

Infandous



Author

Elana K. Arnold

Illustrator

Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

Rating

Cannot Recommend

Level

Young Adult

Pages

189

Year

2015

Publisher

Carolrhoda Lab

ISBN

978146771611

Sephora Golding lives in Venice Beach with her mother, Rebecca, whom Seph has always imagined as a mermaid: wildly beautiful and captivating, like the ocean. Seph is nothing like her, instead preferring to wear baggy jeans and make unique art out of items found on the beach where she lives. Her summer at first seems to be relatively boring, but she spends one night with a mysterious but gorgeous older surfer. Throughout the meandering storyline, Seph hints at a dark secret, though it is not until later that she reveals what has been hidden in plain sight for the reader all along: the mysterious surfer she spent the night with is her biological father. It seems that Seph is able to rise above this horrible twist, but the reader is left with not much closure.

This book is incredibly dark. The myths and stories that are (graphically) retold between parts of the novel all deal with rape and sometimes incest. The rest of the story is filled with so much crude language, nudity, and graphic sexual content that it is difficult to find redeeming moments of the story. The final twist, that Sephora slept with her father, is very shocking and sort of horrifying. This book seems to be labelled as a young adult novel, but, in truth, no young adult should read this. In addition to the language and sexual situations, Sephora doesn't even emotionally deal with her big secret. She confronts the mysterious man at the end and tells him who she is, but the reader never gets to see what Sephora thinks of this horrific turn of events. Overall, this book is too graphic and too messed up to recommend in good faith to young adult readers.

*Contains severe language and severe sexual content.