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Deacon Locke Went to Prom

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Deacon Locke is terrified of girls and of everyone else. His own grandmother Jean is his best and only friend. So, when senior prom rolls around in Deacon's quiet town, he unintentionally causes an uproar by inviting his grandmother to be his date. He gets more than he asked for, however, when a video of him and Jean dancing goes viral and he's offered the chance of a lifetime to dance in a reality show. His new friends and his budding romance are jeopardized by his choice, compounded by Jean's growing dementia.

Deacon could be anyone—that's what makes his story so appealing. He's tall and awkward and afraid to socialize, yet he wins fame and friends and the affection of the girl he likes. His love for his grandmother is both his strength and his weakness; her instability likewise sets Deacon's life into a whirl that he cannot emotionally handle. Yet, his decisions in this book showcase his growing maturity and his ability to adapt to change, and make Deacon relatable to teenagers, (even if they aren’t offered the chance to dance on TV). His fears about college and relationships make him even more compelling a character, embodying the terrors and anxieties of a young adult. Deacon's triumphs and failures end in a tentative happy ending, reflecting that there is always more beyond life's trials.

*Contains mild language and mild violence.