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Confessions of a So-called Middle Child: Watch Out, Hollywood!

Gabrielle Borg

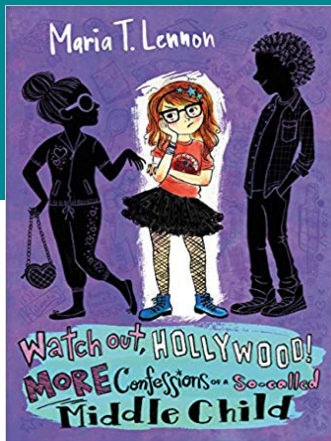
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Book Review

Confessions of a So-called Middle Child: Watch Out, Hollywood!

Author

Maria T. Lennon

Illustrator

Reviewer

Gabrielle Borg

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate, Young Adult

Pages

213

Year

2014

Publisher

Harper

ISBN

9780062126931

Charlie C. Cooper is a twelve-year-old ex-bully turned do-gooder who becomes famous overnight after helping her friend Marta. When Chad, her Hollywood agent, calls with an audition for a new TV show, Charlie will do anything to get that spot, including lying to her friend. The only drawback is that the role requires gymnastic skills, which Charlie definitely does not have. Chad wants Marta, an amazing gymnast, to audition too. Charlie trains with Marta and everything works out until her lie is exposed. Charlie works to fix her situation. If Charlie is anything, she's someone who won't give up, and that just may be her greatest strength.

This book is a great example of a tween girl's struggles with defining who she wants to be and what she is willing to do to get there. Maria T. Lennon writes with humor and honesty, a refreshing style in a world full of drama. The characters have personality and spunk. Friendships are tested and tried, an experience many adolescents will be able to relate to. Self-reflection is a major theme throughout the book, reflecting on friendships, choices, and the consequences of telling lies. The book gives insight into the life of an overnight sensation and what it takes to be a Hollywood star. The story will make readers laugh, cringe, and reminisce about their own experience with siblings, family, friends, and tween years. It is a great read for tween to young adult audiences.

*Contains moderate language and mild substance abuse.