



The One Left Behind

Willo Davis Roberts

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"Mandy awoke in darkness. For a moment she didn't remember that Angel was gone, that she would not be coming back, and then the pain hit her like a physical blow." For the first time in her eleven years, Mandy is alone. Through a series of miscommunications, her entire family has left her by herself in their big house on Lake Michigan. But it's the absence of her twin sister, Angel, that she feels the most. One year ago Angel died, and Mandy's life has been at a standstill ever since. While the rest of her family has moved on, Mandy still clings to the pain of her loss.

At first, Mandy is almost relieved to have the time to herself. But quickly the loneliness consumes her -- until she stumbles upon two boys, one her age, the other not yet two, who are also on their own. Running away from men who wish to do them harm, the boys turn to Mandy for help. But what can she do for these boys when she can barely take care of herself? If only Angel were here, she would know what to do.

But Angel isn't here, and Mandy can't let the men hurt these boys. So she takes them in, and in turn, makes a remarkable discovery about herself, her sister, and the very special bond they shared.

The One Left Behind Details

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Author : Willo Davis Roberts

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From Reader Review The One Left Behind for online ebook

Ann says

"The One Left Behind" is one of my favorite short reads! (Willo Davis Roberts, The One Left Behind, 2006, 139 pages, Fiction, Three-time Edgar award winner). I love how the author used details to explain what was happening and you could picture all the events in your head.

The book is about a twelve-year-old girl, Mandy who tries to get through life without her dead twin sister. She has a problem when someone breaks into her house while the rest of her family is out of town. Then, Mandy finds a crashed car and gets herself involved in more trouble. What will happen next? I was emotional some of the times and at the edge of my seat at other times, eager to know what happens. I would definitely recommend this book to mystery and suspense lovers who enjoy a good short read. This is a book that you won't be able to put down!

α?iα♥ says

Why did I pick this Book>?

uhmm well one because it was short book to read and I read the back of the book and I liked what I read.(: Its taking place at Mandy house where she lives all by herself..she had a twin sister named Angel but she died of food posin..So Mandy was all alone at home with her only dog she had..The problem in this story is that Mandy one day she found some kids of her age that were runing away from home because they were chasing them so Mandy took them into her house and they were living with her..One day that she was in her room she head someone feeding her dog and the tv was on..Mandy think it was her twin sister.. Mandy and Angel had a lot in comin Mandy sometimes thinks that she's acting like her sister. I think this book was ok..not to good..but its ok I guess.

Ashley Diller says

I read the book called The One Left Behind by Willo Davis Roberts. The book is about a eleven year old girl named Mandy who spent a lonely summer without her twin sister who did a year ago. Mandy is not just lonely she is also alone. Somehow her large family has driven off in different direction. When her family is out of town someone breaks into her house.

My opinion on the book is that it was good and it was bad. But my favorite parts where in the middle of the book because it got interesting when Mandy looked at the lighthouse and walked on the beach. Also the boring parts were in the beginning of the book and last of all the parts I kind of liked was at the end because I did not really like how the book ended because it left you with a lot of questions and how and why he made this book.

I would recommend this book to people who like mysterious books because of when the person broke into the house you really want to know who it is. Also this is the last book of Willo Davis Roberts because he died.

Joan Radtke says

Plot:

The One Left Behind is a fiction novel written by Willo Davis Roberts. Mandy is an 11 year old girl who is all alone. After her twin sister Angel died she was lost. Submerged in her own thoughts, she didn't know how to move on. Her family had left the house for their own plans and Mandy did not want to join. Then someone else came into her life. Two boys, one only a year or two difference and the other still an infant, stumbled into her life. The adventures that her sister and her used to imagine and play were coming to life. Mandy has to help these boys stay away from two kidnappers until their parents come home. But Mandy has a lot to deal with already. Will she be able to support two more people when she can barely hold herself up? In the end, Mandy learns that her sister is never truly gone. She was beside her through the whole process.

Characterization:

Mandy: Mandy is an 11 year old girl who has to deal with the death of her outgoing, twin sister Angel. During the time that Angel has died, Mandy has learned to grow. She started out as a very shy and quiet person trying to isolate herself from the world, but towards the end when she has to help two boys in need, she is exploring old houses, running away from kidnappers and protecting their lives. In the end of the story, Mandy comes to realize that her sister Angel is always with her and that she can independently live to be her true self again.

Zander and Dusty: Zander is the older of the two runaway boys, and Dusty is Zander's younger brother. The two have survived more than they probably thought they ever could of. Their babysitter and their babysitter's brother were trying to set up a plan of kidnapping them and holding them for ransom money. Zander and Dusty made it out safely with the help of Mandy. Zander's role of a bigger brother was notched up a level because of his protectiveness and courage.

Rating:

I rate this book a 4 out of 5 stars. I don't give it a higher rating because there was no complexity to the writing style or the plot. It was an easy read and that I enjoyed.

Recommendations:

I would recommend this book to any age of reader. I think boys and girls would like to read this book. There isn't a high amount of action and there isn't any love in the book. It is very basic.

Natalie says

I had just finished reading this book, I think that it was a really good book. At first I didn't really like it, but then it started getting better and I couldn't put it down.

Mandy ended up staying home with her dog Henry, while her parents and brothers went out of town to do their own things and Uncle Frank went to her aunts. She would have been home with her twin sister Angel, but she had passed away from eating a hamburger that has e. coli in it.

The first night Mandy was home alone she heard something. So she got out of bed and went to go and check downstairs.

On the kitchen counter there had been a knife with the jar of peanut butter. She knew that her family knew to

put things away.

She ends up running into these two boys, one her age and another one about to be two years old. Their running away from two guys, that pretty much want to take there dad's money. They end up asking Mandy for help, but all she thinks about is what would Angel do if she was there. Then she realizes that she has to start doing things on her own beacuse she's not Angel.

Sarah Crawford says

Mandy is eleven years old and she has a really big family. She also once had a twin sister, but the sister died of food poisoning.

Mandy's parents, all her brothers and one brother's wife have left for a variety of different activities. Each one of them thought that one of the others was going to be taking Mandy along with them, but through miscommunication Mandy gets left behind at the house, alone except for the presence of a huge but rather cowardly dog.

It's Mandy's chance to show she can be grown-up, but things take a dark turn when she finds out her house has been entered and someone has been taking things. She finds that she's now involved with a young kidnapper and his even younger brother and men who will stop at nothing to get their hands on the two boys.

With her life and the life of the older brother in danger the only thing between her and death is her cowardly, ever-hungry dog.

This is basically a mystery-type book. It's ok but it's a little contrived, what with her having that large of a family and everyone just happens to get confused about who is taking care of her. It also might be a little on the scary side for young readers, at least for very sensitive ones. It's worth reading, but not something that I would put in a "must-read" list.

Kaylin K-T says

Grade/interest level: MS

Reading level: 850L

Genre:Fiction

Main Characters: Mandy

Setting: Lake Michigan

POV: 3rd

Mandy awakes in darkness and hopes to see her twin sister, Angel, but Angel is gone. She has been gone for about a year now. Mandy's relieved to be alone, but then suddenly, she misses Angel. Everyone in her family treats her differently, because they're all guys and at school, her classmates are treating her differently, because she didn't need them, since she had Angel.

Then, one summer, her parents and brothers are all about doing something. Mandy decides that she doesn't want to go with any of them, because what they're doing is boring. Mandy stays home with her dog, Harry. Then one day, she hears some sounds in the kitchen, there's peanut butter and bread that's missing, and the

TV is turned on...which means someone was in her house.

Then, one afternoon, Mandy decides to take a walk in the woods. She finds a crashed car, that's abandoned. In the car, is the peanut butter and bread from her house. Later, Mandy discovers that the car belonged to some boys, the ones that were in her house. Then, she discovers that they're being chased by these guys who want to kill the oldest one, and sell the others for money. Mandy decides to help them and keep the boys safe, but the guys keep finding them. Will Mandy be able to keep the boys safe...or will the guys find them?

Sarah says

The One Left Behind is an intriguing story about a young girl. The author has thrown many twists in the girl's path, as well as a few surprises about some characters. The style of writing has a unique distinction from other writers. The characters have distinct personalities, and are well established into the plot. It also provides an insight into the grief felt from the loss of a sibling.

Emily says

I read this book because I liked the back and I got it really cheap at a store. On the back it says how Mandy is trying to cope with the loss of her twin sister while she is home alone. She is scared of her own house without her sister(Angel). I wasn't expecting this to be a mystery (this is my first Willo Davis Roberts's book). Instead I was more expecting this to be a story on how Mandy came to better cope with the loss of her sister while she was by herself. However, strange things start to happen to Mandy while she is home alone-making this story more a mystery adventure on finding out who is disturbing Mandy's home. It was a pretty good read. I rated it 3 out of 5 stars because although I liked it at times it seemed to drag on, Mandy wasn't a very interesting character(I would have rather had Angel be the main character), and the ending seemed abrupt leaving me still with some questions unanswered. I recommend it for a quick read on a mystery story during a rainy day.

Emily says

This is Roberts last book, published after she died. I get the feeling there was supposed to be more to it, because it seems a little incomplete. However, I've only read a couple of her other books and one I don't really remember well.

The One Left Behind is the fairly straight-forward tale of a girl who is accidentally left alone in her house for a weekend by her large family. (Home Alone, much?) She encounters a kid and his little brother who are on the run from some bad men and helps them escape. Also, she had a twin sister who died and her uncle has schizophrenia. These last two are the elements that seem like they should have been developed more. Interestingly, the schizophrenic character is very realistic, as though the author has some first hand experience with a person living with that particular mental illness.

The story climaxes and ends rather abruptly and there is no real twist involved. Mandy is a very sympathetic character and is well developed, although almost too introspective. No one else gets much dynamism to their character and I think that's what makes the book feel kind of flat. If you're looking for a good book by this author, try The Girl with the Silver Eyes.

Rebecca McNutt says

A gripping story with underlying themes of moving on from grief, *The One Left Behind* is a short but amazing middle grade novel about an isolated and abandoned girl who discovers friendship from two boys on the run.

Jordan Federer says

I absolutely loved this book! I loved how Willo Davis Roberts wrote this book. I like how things happen in this book that you wouldn't suspect. For instance when Mandy is home alone for the weekend and someone broke in their house. The next day when she walked her dog and they find this wrecked car and that was the boy's car that broke into their house. I would have never guessed anything like that would happen in this book! I like how the author kept this story alive for the whole remainder of this book.

I really enjoyed the characters and I can relate to Mandy because when I am home alone I always hear every little sound in the house. Now, Angel her twin sister, who died from eating a raw burger is the one who Mandy refers to the whole story and what she would do. I like that Willo Davis Roberts did that because that shows Mandy and Angel's relationship. Alexander is the guy who is 14 and took his 2 year old brother and his dad's car while his dad was in Japan and crashed it, he is also the boy who broke into Mandy's house looking for food.

The Author had a really good style in voice. He always keeps the story filled with interesting ideas. I seriously think that this is the best book I have ever read! That is how much I liked this book. At first I didn't think this book was going to be good, but once I read the first couple chapters I couldn't put the book down! I would strongly recommend this book to any ages. It is kind of like a mystery but it kind of isn't because it keeps you on your toes the whole time, and that is why I like it. The reason why I say any ages is because it is a book where it isn't really childish and it isn't really hard to understand. I think that anyone who will read this book would love it because it isn't some stupid fantasy book, it is a really life deal that could happen to anyone.

Lyn says

Eleven-year-old Mandy has spent a lonely summer without her twin sister who died a year ago. Now she is not only lonely, she is alone. Somehow every member of her large family has driven off in a different direction, each of them thinking that Mandy is with someone else.

With the family dog as company Mandy decides she'll just spend the weekend alone, rather than trying to track down her brothers or her parents who are enjoying a rare solitary weekend for their anniversary. Strange things begin to happen almost immediately. Food is stolen, footprints appear on the beach in front of an empty cottage and a TV is left on when there is no one else in the house. Mandy's state of mind intertwines with a suspenseful plot including the rescue of a toddler and his older brother. Mandy relies on memories of her braver sister to see her through her adventure and comes out of it believing that their bond will never be broken.

Beyond Words says

This is just such a suspenseful piece of work that I read until 2 am. It was so frightening but great at the same time, I loved it. There was a great writing style by the author and it had such an amazing story that was told.

Elena says

My book is called: The One Left Behind. The author is Willo Davis Roberts. Its genre is mystery nonfiction. I choose this book because I haven't read a mystery book. I didn't like the book, I loved it! :) I would totally recommend the book! What I learned 2 things in this book: that bad things happen, but you should make yourself sick because of that and that you have to be brave! The purpose for me was that to show young readers like that you should not be scared. This is a short summary of the book from chapter 1-5: :) This book is about a girl whose twin sister died a year ago. All her family has moved on, but she hasn't. Her mom and dad are in a vacation and all her brothers and her uncle Frank are away too. She is left alone with 120 lbs. dog, herry she feels so sad and abandoned without her twin sister! On the middle of the first night alone she hears a noise..she goes down stairs and sees thinks she didn't left them like..and she sees a knife with peanut butter on the kitchen!!..she thought it might be one of her brothers came. she checked all the rooms and none was there!..then she remembered her uncle Frank lives here, she got more confident..but she didn't went to check:S

I LOVE THIS BOOK!!(:):):)
