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# High School's Not Forever



## **Synopsis**

Your survival guide to the maze that is the maze that is the high school experience. With real-life stories from teens across the country - as well as high school "survivors" - this book paints a real picture of how teens like you feel about the struggles and triumphs of the daily grind and how they get through it. If you ever feel like you're on the sidelines or that the pressure to perform, conform or maintain appearances gets to be too much, this is the book for you!

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up "Many teens find their high school years to be trying, angst ridden, and downright rotten. Culled from the responses of some 2000 high and post-high school students, this title gives voice to young people who have lived through the experience and who offer both affirming and cautionary tales as they attempted to navigate the uncertain seas of friendship, depression, academic achievement, drugs, and sexuality. Of all the observations contained in this unusual book, there has to be at least one that will resonate with readers. No one commentary is more than a page. In addition, there are advice sections and an entire listing of organizations that can provide help with problems. There is no question that this book will enhance most YA collections." Carol Jones Collins, Columbia High School, Maplewood, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Jane Bluestein, Ph.D., is the award-winning author of 21st Century Discipline, Being a Successful Teacher and Creating Emotionally Safe Schools. A former classroom teacher, crisis-intervention counselor and teacher training program coordinator, she heads Instructional Support Services, Inc., a consulting and resource firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Eric D. Katz, MSAC, is a psychotherapist and a New York state certified school counselor who works on the front lines in a wonderful, diverse high school in Newburgh, New York. He is a consultant to the College Board's Equity and Excellence Program, an advisory board member for Long Island University's Graduate Program for School Counseling and the coauthor of the advanced series of school counselor workshops for the College Board's Pathways to Excellence Program. He is a featured speaker at the state and national level and is deeply committed to helping teens succeed not just in high school but in life. Mr. Katz is available to speak with groups of teens, educators, parents and all caring adults.

I am giving this 1 star because it is impossible to give it a 0. I ordered this book only because it was required reading for my 13 year old daughter for school. This book is a collection of stories and memoirs from the most messed up teens that the author could possibly find. The things that this book exposed to my 13 year old were totally inappropriate for her age. It was thoroughly depressing reading, at best. My daughter and the all the young people she knows are for the most part, healthy and happy. She has seen some sad incidences with some of her peers and she can recognize that most the time this is due to this young person's life not having the structure and support as children should have provided to them. However, this burden should not fall on another child, as my daughter. It takes all she has to take care of her own needs as her age at 13 is challenging enough, as she takes on increasing responsibility in advancing to quickly approaching adulthood. This should be required reading for teachers, administrators, health care professionals to teens, and parents of challenged and damaged teens, not other kids who are relatively happy. This is too much of a burden to weigh on kids who don't have the tools to deal with this because they are just that, kids. It is sick to make the entire goal in compiling a book to collect only the most severely dysfunctional cases among teens that can be found and put into print to convince your reading audience that every teen is on drugs, failing school, abused, suicidal, pregnant, miserably gay (yes, "gay" kids are portrayed as miserable in this book), incestually sexually abused, schizophrenic, or has some other issue that makes them unable to cope. This is where older children's and teen literature has gone, to the most depraved and desperate levels that the imagination can fathom. We

have stolen our children's childhoods away from them where they are not permitted to have a childhood anymore and no happiness and joy is allowed to be offered to them. Literature like this for our kids, which I am including this book in that category since it was required school reading, offers our children no hope in their futures. Where is there inspirational reading for our children and stories about the winners in our world who can be celebrated because of their accomplishments through hard work? Where are the models of what we want our children to become? This book goes right along with teen-based television viewing. Do we really have to suffer another teen pregnancy show??? And the teen-based movies are right there with the literature and television. How about another kill or be killed movie, everyone? That's our form of entertainment today, to watch our children kill each other? Sick. This book goes right along with the rest of modern depravity. Am I actually alone in wanting my children to be able to experience a childhood, and be able to be kids, and BE HAPPY, while everyone else funnels their work-earned dollars into this garbage? My kids will have the rest of their lives to deal with society's problems, when they have the adult tools to do that with and a solid strong foundation of knowing what HAPPY should be: responsible, mature, strong, healthy, and helpful and caring to others.

I thought that this book should the hard truth most people don't want to except.... Really good! Everyone should read this because it shows the struggles of a teen which I got a lot of this year.

As a teacher contributor with 12 students acknowledged in this wonderful book (and many more who contributed anonymously), I was expected to say something nice. I held off until I read the book cover to cover, not once but many times. I immediately sent a copy to my 14 year old daughter who is a freshman in high school in Maryland and made other copies available at the school where I teach. Dr. Bluestein captured the essence of what the kids are saying, in their own words and on their own turf. This is an easy to read book designed so that any teenager can get to the substance of a topic quickly. Too few adults can relate so poignantly to areas of high school life that need to be understood. I urge parents to read this book and make it available to their teenager. I urge my colleagues who teach the precious youth of our country to read this book to hear what their students are thinking and saying and to know where to send them for sound advice. John Keydash, Lt. Comdr., USN (Ret), High School Teacher, Stuart, FL

I really loved this book. It had a lot of information that most teens do not know. Some teens think they can only talk to their friends about personal things that are bothering them. Students think

teachers are just against them and just don't care about them. I know this book relates to me. Some of the stories told by the students, I could relate to. I felt the exact same way they did. I recommend this book to any teen who is having trouble in life and needs help dealing with it or anyone interested in reading a very interesting and educational book.

I'm a big fan of Dr. Bluestein's work and this did not dissapoint me. This book is real...real kids, real problems, and blessedly real hope. I'm sorry it wasn't around when I was in high school, but I know it will help someone now. For too many kids, high school is a nightmare they live with their whole lives. This book lets them know they're not alone - a solution all by itself. But, as usual, Dr. Bluestein packs more goodies. If you're a fan, you'll already have this book. If you're not, you soon will be if you read it.

This book offers wonderful information, resources, and advice for people going through the trials and tribulations of high school. It deals with just about all the issues high schoolers deal with: relationships, friendship, fitting in, suicide, narcotics, academics, you name it. It's written in a way that makes the reader fell like s/he can confide in the authors because it takes on a very understanding, nonjudgmental, and loving tone (crucial). Every high school should carry a copy in its library.

There is nothing like this book anywhere...for helping, confirming, educating, tickling, prodding. Not only does this book clue me in as a parent, it is a great resource for kids trying to get through high school the best they can, or failing to. I bought 3, one for each of my nieces and nephew. They have all commented on how "hip" and "with it" it is. And helpful, which they casually slide into the conversation.

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