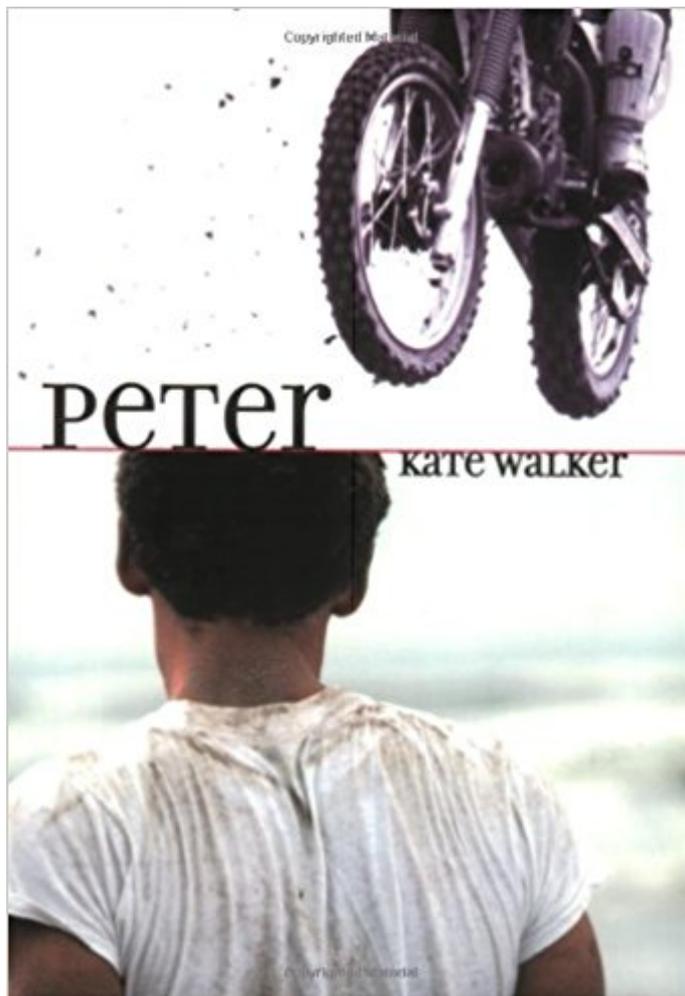


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Peter



Synopsis

Pressured by his peers and society to conform to the stereotyped macho image, fifteen-year-old Peter feels both confused and repelled. His confusion and his horror increase when he finds himself attracted to his brother's best friend, David, who is gay. Here is a daring, exceptionally honest novel about sexuality and the need to be true to oneself. Peter shares his every muddle and perception with us, and his candor just might help us find our own way.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Reminiscent of Diana Wiener's *Bad Boy*, this initiation novel set in Australia convincingly describes a boy's confusion about sexuality and manhood. In order to be accepted by his peers--including a group of rough bikers--Peter, an honor student interested in photography, hides his sensitivity and his reluctance to have sex with a girl he does not love. The discomfort he feels playing the role of tough guy turns to panic when Peter finds himself drawn to David, a gay friend of his older brother. Matters become even more complicated when classmates start calling Peter a "poof" for refusing to break rules set by his mother. Many readers may be surprised by the chauvinistic attitude of Australian society as presented in this novel, and will have no trouble empathizing with Peter's emotional turmoil and ultimate victimization. Walker remains notably objective in her depiction of homosexuality, stressing that each person's attitudes and needs are different. At the end of this

sensitively wrought book, Peter is still struggling with his identity; he has, however, learned to accept and respect himself as a growing individual. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7 Up-- When readers first meet Peter Dawson, 15, his ambitions are simple: finish school, get a road license for his dirt bike, and find a job with cameras. But then he meets his older brother's friend David, and suddenly nothing is simple any longer. For David is gay and Peter gradually realizes that his strong attraction to the college student means that he, himself, might be gay. Set in Australia, Peter is a powerful and memorably universal novel of an adolescent's struggle to discover his sexual identity. In the land Down Under, as everywhere, it's an agonizing process. The society he inhabits defines sexuality only in terms of ignorant and mean-spirited stereotypes. If being gay is to be a "poof" (as his friends contemptuously put it) and a social outcast, being straight and socially acceptable means repeatedly engaging in dangerous feats of derring-do on your dirt bike and in urgent, impersonal sex with girls you hardly know. Fortunately for Peter, he finds, in David, not a stereotype, but a warm, caring individual. He also discovers that sexual identity is one of the most complexly ambiguous aspects of being human. Indeed, at the book's end Peter is still uncertain about his own sexuality, and at David's suggestion, he is prepared to give himself more time to make his own discoveries. In this first novel, Walker has created a wonderfully rich work of fiction filled with incidents that illuminate the difficult choices of her sympathetic and multidimensional characters. Not every troubled adolescent will have the good fortune of meeting a friend like David, but, with luck, many of them will find self-understanding and self-respect through reading wise and compassionate novels like this one. --Michael Cart, formerly at Beverly Hills Public Library Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The writer did a good job with the main characters- I adored the protagonist Peter, his crush, David and his older brother Vince. Vince is too cool in all the right ways, but as the older brother of Peter, he is also a jerk, that just makes him real. Mom and Dad were two dimensional as were Peter's frenemies. The muddles and events that drove Peter in the book were well described, along with his angst and internal dialogs. The book is extremely well written. There is not a lot of extraneous material, which means that as the reader you can focus on the story and zoom through the book. I wouldn't call it a page turner in the sense of a whodoneit, but it certainly commands your attention and moves you

right along. It's broken into small chapters, many of which are around five pages so it's easy to find a stopping point if you are reading it while doing other things (like traveling). My criticism of the book is that it's appropriate, 100% appropriate all the time. The ending was appropriate and suitable, but it wasn't romantic or exciting. Appropriate is good, it's safe and it's too vanilla, in my opinion. Your mileage may vary. Triggers: basically none, the book is appropriate for most. Lots of colorful language, for those that care about such things. Several questions by adults to Peter inquiring if he were suicidal but as readers we can see from his point of view that he never was. He is just confused about certain things. Is unrequited love a trigger? Zero sex, some muted innuendo. The book is safe and appropriate. I recommend it because it is fun.

I actually quite enjoyed this book, though I did personally feel it was too short and would have loved more of the book. I was able to finish this in one day but, I also finished it quickly since I really wanted to know what would happen next and how the story finished. I think the author touched the LGBT extremely well, I like how they stood away from the typical stereotypes and explored Peter's sexuality. Though, what is great - is that the book itself isn't completely focused on that, I personally enjoyed that. It didn't end sad, either, which was a nice touch (it only ends with the desire of wanting to know more, what happens when Peter gets older, etc). Overall, I would recommend this, worth the read.

This is a coming of age story, but with something more. Peter is just discovering that he may indeed be gay, something that his friends and family wouldn't accept should they find out. When Peter's brother's friend comes into the picture, Peter must face who he really is. I loved the writing style of this book. Easy to read. The only problem was it was too darned short! I wanted much more. It would be wonderful if there were a sequel to this book sometime in the future. I'd like to know how Peter turns out! I highly recommend this book to anyone, especially good in school libraries.

Peter is a simple read about a typical Australian teenager. Peter Dawson is like any other normal teenager. His divorced mother is working full-time as some health care specialist. His father comes and goes from time to time. He has a love/hate relationship with his older brother. Peter enjoys his roaring bike. He has a group of peers that also enjoy bikes and motorcycles. These guys tease each other incessantly. Often, they'll be put on the spot to prove their masculinity or else they're

"poofs". However, these guys are riding near an area that has been fenced off. Peter has been told by his folks to get these guys away from the fence. Of course, the guys could care less. Peter is pressured to get the guys to comply with the rules. If he tells them to comply, then he'll be thought of as a poof. If he shrugs over it, he'll be cool. Ah, peer pressure... Meanwhile, Peter also enjoys photography. He has his own dark room. Peter's older brother's friend from university, David has found out about Peter's hobby. David wants Peter to take pictures of him and his vehicle. However, Peter finds out that David is gay. When Peter finds out that his older brother, Vince, doesn't give a care about what people do behind closed doors, Peter adopts the same nonchalant attitude. However, he's curious about David. A situation arises that Peter finds comfort in David's arms. When they're busted in their innocent embrace, Peter is forced to re-evaluate himself and his approaches to people. In a search for identity, Peter explores homosexuality and finds that he is not disgusted with it but rather nervous. Of course, this puts additional pressure on Peter as he knows that he'll be hassled by his friends as a poof. I thought that *Peter* was a wonderful book that didn't dwell on the usual issues in other gay literature. *Peter* simply focused on a young man's awareness that he is indeed gay and the pressure that envelops such an awakening. The best part of it all was the last part where Peter develops his first crush with David. Of course, like some of our first crushes, Peter is crushed when he discovers that David doesn't reciprocate the feelings. For some of us, *Peter* will make us take a stroll down memory lane. Simply an easy read.

This book is a wonderful surprise! A very well written story. Impossible we don't get involved with the characters. Peter is priceless, and the relationship with his brother, Vince, his mother, and David, give us a breathe of happiness and, why not, hope in believing that are people with free minds. The great surprise to me, and a good one, is the relationship with his brother. And what I desire for Peter: in three years from the "end" of the history, he meets David in the way he wants. This book must be read, indeed. It's a beautiful story.

This is a story about a high school boy who is a bit of a loner and who slowly comes to grips with his sexuality. The relationships of this boy to his peers and his parents, especially to his detached father is explored as is the boy's ultimate emotional attachment to a young gay man who is a friend of his older brother. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the well being of adolescent boys who are struggling with their sexuality and accepting of themselves for whom they are.

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