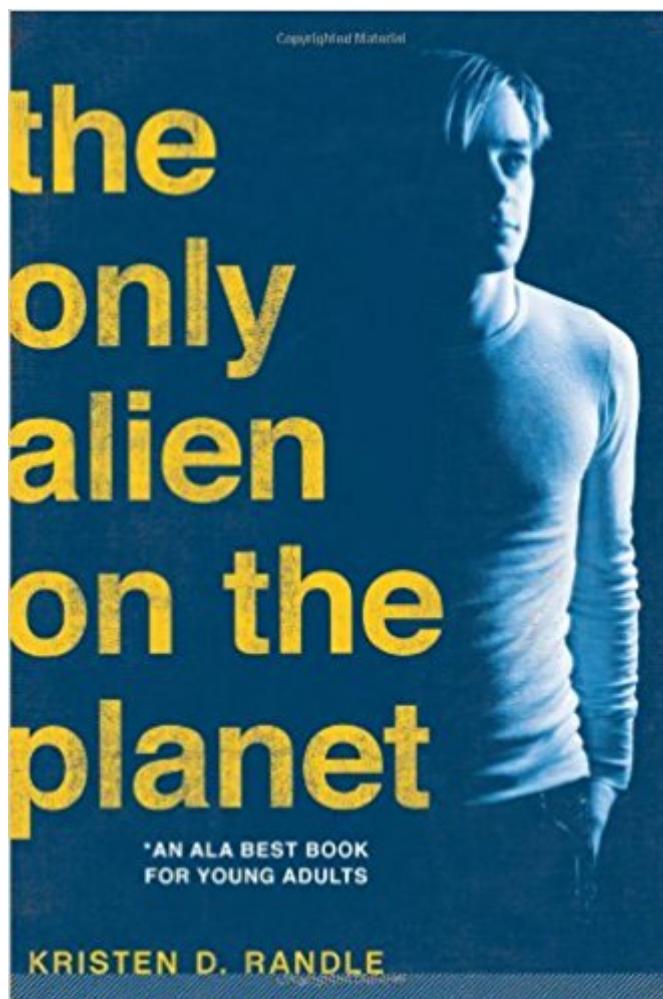


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# The Only Alien On The Planet



## **Synopsis**

They've all gotten used to him. The one who never speaks. The one who never smiles. They all say he's retarded. So, though his name is Smitty, they call him "The Alien." And from the moment Ginny sees him she knows she has to meet him. Because she's been feeling weird since she and her family moved from the West Coast. She knows what it's like to feel alone. Ginny decides to become his friend. But Smitty is very different from anyone Ginny has ever known. And she soon realizes that reaching out to him might destroy him. Because in his world, there is no love. No pain. No room for anything--or anyone. Until Ginny comes along...

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 650L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks Fire (September 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402226691

ISBN-13: 978-1402226694

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 110 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #704,117 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #335 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Moving #651 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## **Customer Reviews**

New student Ginny is intrigued by the handsome alien in her homeroom?no, this is not a science fiction novel. Smitty?real name Michael?is known to his schoolmates as "The Alien" because of his affectless appearance and complete silence. Soon, Ginny and Smitty's longtime protector, Caulder, team up to try and crack his shell. They get much more than they bargain for when they drag him along on old-movie outings; as a none-too-subtle plot device, the first turns out to be *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, the second, *East of Eden*. Smitty walks out of both, for it turns out that he was almost fatally abused by his older brother, who also convinced him that he would die if he spoke to

anyone. With the help of Ginny, Caulder and a wise and sympathetic therapist, Smitty emerges from this psychological curse, and he and Ginny even begin a tentative romantic relationship. Randle (Why Did Grandma Have to Die?) unfortunately builds her otherwise well-crafted novel around an uncharacteristic response to abuse. Under his pain, Smitty is totally honest and caring?a very romantic figure, but not one likely to be found in the real world. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 8-12. Ginny Christianson had been a happy person: "happy, cheerful, easygoing, reasonably popular even." When her family suddenly relocates and a beloved older brother leaves for college at the same time--well, let's just say Ginny is a "displaced person." As life manages to go on, and fun, caring new friends begin to fill the gap, a strange boy at school captures Ginny's attention. Smitty Tibbs is a brilliant, handsome boy who never speaks. He is known as the Alien and lives in total isolation from emotion and communication--tolerated by the other students but pretty much left alone. Meanwhile, Ginny's new friend Caulder has long been fascinated with Smitty and is determined to break through to him. Together Caulder and Ginny take Smitty in and begin to probe at the barriers he has thrown up, the abuse he has suffered, and the resulting silence into which he's retreated. Ginny's deft and engaging narration reveals a delightful and totally believable teen. The otherwise strongly drawn characters sometimes delve into dialogue that sounds like social-work parlance, but we can forgive because the overall impact of this psychological novel is so powerful. Anne O'Malley --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What a strange and dreamy book this is. I really couldn't put it down, and haven't read anything quite like it before. Ginny comes to a new high school, in a new part of the country, and immediately notices a beautiful, silent guy in one of her classes. As she makes friends, she learns that this boy, known as Smitty, never speaks or interacts with anyone, and she also discovers that he lives next door to her. The book follows Ginny's odd, tentative friendship/romance with the silent boy, and the anguish, on both their parts, as she struggles to help him emerge from his insular world. The conclusion is very emotionally intense -- won't spoil it -- but the principal question hanging over everything --why is he silent? -- is answered in a way that makes sense and brings the story to a satisfying end

When I was in Junior High I hated reading! I had nothing to do with 'silent reading' during the day and often would bring magazines in, or work on homework, rather than pick up a book. When I was

in Grade 8 we had to do a book report on a book that the teacher assigned to us... The Only Alien on the Planet was the one given to me. I instantly fell in love with the story and, for the first time ever, couldn't put a book down. I re-read the book several times before the report was even due, and even now (though I've been out of school for a while) I still read this book from time to time. I am now an avid reader (it's one of my favourite ways to spend my free time), and I owe it all to the captivating plot and interesting characters that were developed inside this story. I would recommend this book to ANYONE and EVERYONE! It is an absolute must read for anyone who enjoys a good story. If you know someone who hasn't yet discovered the wonders of reading, find them this book and give it to them. I promise you will not be disappointed.

This is an excellent YA novel. I was delighted to find that it was available as an ebook! The last time I saw my hard copy, it was well-worn and desperately needed replacing; I've read this book more times than I can count, and even today, probably close to 10 years after I bought it when I was a young teenager, the characters still move me the same way. (It had me up until 2AM the other night, and I'm in my 20s now!) It was by far my favorite YA novel as a teen. You will not regret reading this. While it takes a couple pages, maybe a chapter or two, to suspend disbelief with the eloquent narration and dialogue, it all fits together in such a wonderful way and adds such a richness of perspective to it. The story is simple, but there is immense emotional depth present, and perspective on the human condition in a way that is accessible to young readers but not smothering. I remember this book being compared to "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden" but, after reading that novel years ago, I failed to see how the two were comparable through anything but the psychological subject matter. I found "Rose Garden" forgettable; but this book remains emotionally potent and memorable long after you put it down.

I got this book because it was required for one of my girls(plural) classes in school. I had two girls in the class so I got one for them to share. The book came in new shape, well packed and faster than expected which was good it gave both time to read it. My oldest read it within four hours from cover to cover and liked it so much she read it again a few times I think. My younger girl took a little longer and shrugged the story off a bit but said it was ok not stellar but alright. I am just thrilled that it cost under 10 dollars because I had to buy it for school. otherwise I would have complained to the school. So win win all around. I would recommend this book to younger readers.

I was in Junior High when I first came across this magnificent book. I was a librarians assistant and

was putting books away. I saw the cover art of Smitty floating and the title and instantly thought "Science Fiction section" I checked in the computer catalog to make sure I was assuming correctly. After I found out it wasn't a science fiction novel I was intrigued...why was this boy floating? So I checked it out and read it. I fell in love just like everyone else who has ever read this book. I read it every year or so. I have my own battered copy and have made several people read it. I even bought my niece a copy for this past Christmas. Sometimes we all need assured that we're not the only alien on the planet. Smitty and Ginny's relationship is not normal which makes it so special. She can be a bit over emotional and he's reserved, if not stunted, emotionally by the end they come to balance each other out really well.

It is not your normal YA book, it has a deeper, more engaging meaning to it. The book starts up slow, and with a very commonly used plot - the new girl in town, that has a pretty rough time making friends. When she does get to have some friends, Hally and Caulder, she gets interested in yet another, character. Here the plot thickens as Smitty Tibbs, is one of the weirdest people around. The narrator (Ginny) and Caulder, try to get inside his mind... to find certain disturbing answers. The book is told in an excellent way, and Kristen D. Randle is amazing at giving the 'feel' of real teenagers. Even though, yes, it's got some dictionary-perfect dialogues, it is well put as it is said the characters are in the SAD (Scholastic & Academic Development program) classes, meaning they are real smart. The book is truly amazing, with a plot that twists and is hard to predict. I really recommend it... for a one night stand.

This book confronts many topical issues...bullying, abuse and even salvation. The Alien in question is a teen who does not speak or interact, yet a new girl in school breaks through where all others have failed, however, her actions have far reaching consequences. It is a wonderful book whose characters jump from the page with vibrant reality. This book is a can't miss for the youth, who many times face these issues on a daily basis, and for adults who have made it through the storm of their teen years.

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