



What We Buried

Kate A. Boorman

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Siblings Liv and Jory Brewer have grown up resenting one another. Liv—former pageant queen and reality-TV star—was groomed for a life in the spotlight, while her older brother Jory, born with a partial facial paralysis, was left in the shadows. The only thing they have in common is contempt for their parents.

Now Liv is suing her mom and dad for emancipation, and Jory views the whole thing as yet another attention-getting spectacle. But on the day of the hearing, their parents mysteriously vanish, and the siblings are forced to work together. Liv feels certain she knows where they are and suspects that Jory knows more than he's telling . . . which is true.

What starts as a simple overnight road trip soon takes a turn for the dangerous and surreal. And as the duo speeds through the deserts of Nevada, brother and sister will unearth deep family secrets that force them to relive their pasts as they try to retain a grip on the present.

What We Buried Details

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Author : Kate A. Boorman

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From Reader Review What We Buried for online ebook

Sam says

You can find this review and others on my blog SleepySamReads!

Special thanks to Netgalley and the publishers for providing an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

...I don't know what I just read. I try to keep this blog as PG as possible, but I'm going to have to make a small excuse for this review. This book was a total mindfuck. For the most part, I think I enjoyed it.

I love books/movies that make you think hard. Inception is one of my favorite movies, simply because it makes you think. What We Buried does this, but not in such a satisfying way as the Leo DiCaprio movie.

I started with not liking Liv very much. She seemed pretty materialistic and I'm not usually sympathetic to teens who feel like they are the center of the world. Reading her story and how her childhood changed my perspective on her. I came out of the story feeling sorry for her, though I'm not sure as sorry as the author was aiming for. I'll come back to that in a minute.

I liked Jory a lot. He was the perfect mix of sarcastic and asshole. Especially for someone who is disabled. I really like reading characters who's disabilities seem realistic. Not so much the disability itself, but how the character handles said disabilities. As someone who has been disabled their whole life, a lot of times disabled characters seem too much like inspiration porn (especially those who are written by able-bodied people). I appreciate it when they're written realistically.

I extremely enjoyed being able to see their joined memories of their childhood from each of the siblings perspectives. It helped me understand just how much their parents messed them each up.

The story doesn't have a ton of plot. It's definitely a character driven story, which isn't always a bad thing. I think it worked okay for this.

As you can tell, I enjoyed this book. I enjoyed the feeling of "wtf?!" I kept experiencing throughout the story. What I didn't like was the ending. I'm still not entirely sure what happened and with stories like this that confusion really takes my enjoyment of the novel as a whole down a notch.

If what I think happened actually happened (excuse me while I'm vague to avoid spoilers) then I would take at least another star off my overall rating. It would also lower my opinion on Liv and Jory a lot and make me not feel so bad for them in the end. But since I feel really confused still I feel like it's not entirely fair for me to base my rating off what I think may have happened.

So, yeah, I have no clue what I thought about the novel as a whole. It was both good and bad.

Amber says

A twisted ride involving siblings and duel timelines. The ending, however, is unclear enough to bring this down a star.

I received an ecopy of this through netgalley; however, all opinions are my own.

Elle's Book Blog says

Release Date: February 26, 2019

Genre: Young Adult Mystery

Actual Rating: 2 stars

I have to be honest, this book did not work for me. I don't know why I even continued to read it knowing I wasn't into it at all. I guess I needed to see what REALLY happened. Unfortunately, I felt more confused about the book AFTER reading the ending than I did when I started it. This book will work for some readers as evidenced by other reviews it just wasn't my cup of tea. I will tell you why below but it will probably contain some spoilers so don't continue reading my review if you plan to read the book yourself...

Spoiler Territory

So this book follows Jory and Liv- two teens who are searching for their missing parents who disappeared when they were supposed to be attending a court date (Liv is suing her parents for putting her through beauty pageants as a child -think toddlers and tiaras). However, on the day of the verdict the parents go missing... Thus the two kids go on a roadtrip to find them.

The entire book is told through this road trip and alternates between their POV's. This COULD have worked for the book, but for me it didn't reveal anything when it comes to their personal thoughts or memories until the very end (which was confusing as hell). In each chapter it appears that the two are putting together the puzzle pieces of what happened to their parents all the while feeling a sense of Déjà vu (has this all happened before?). Readers are lead to believe that the two could possibly be dead and are in some sort of purgatory- reliving the events until they accept their fate. That WOULD have been a cool concept... However, the ending doesn't live up to what the story shows the readers.

Towards the end, the two make it to the cabin where they believe their parents are hiding out. But then memories begin to surface and they find remains of some sort in the cabin. One would think the author would SAY whose remains those are but we are left without truly knowing... This bothered me a lot. I didn't spend hours reading this book to NOT know who they belonged to, did I? Guess what I DID. The kids seem to think it's the remains of their parents because they "remember" all of the sudden (view spoiler). But it isn't TOLD. There is always the possibility that (view spoiler) After all, there is a weird time loop going on through the whole story.

This all being said, not being clear on the ending really frustrated me as a reader. I feel like I wasted so much time trying to figure out and understand what was happening only to be left hanging. This in itself doesn't work for me.

Kate says

I wish this book was already out because I need to discuss it! It reminded me a bit of Christopher Pike's Road to Nowhere. Loved how complex Liv and Jory were, and their tangled, twisted memories. Child beauty queens, Mask movie references (Cher and Eric Stoltz), disappearances, sibling feuds, blackout rages, road trips and a nightmarish landscapes.

Roxanne says

Thanks to Henry Holt & Co and Netgalley for a copy of the eARC in exchange for a fair review.

Liv and Jory are on the verge of life changing news. Liv has sued their parents for emancipation and everyone knows they are going to win. But just as Jory is heading up the stairs with their parents everything changes in the blink of an eye. They just disappear.

Soon Liv and Jory are heading to a remote cabin to figure out what their parents are up and what is going on.

One weird tripping ride later here I am. So like I am super vague now, but for two reasons one I am still wondering what I read and what really was happening in the book so that makes it hard to write a review when you are unsure of what was actually going on and two spoilers. Like you might be smarter than me so I don't want to ruin the book for you. That being said this was super compelling because I was trying really hard to figure out what was going on and what had happened. Sadly I did not figure that out so I am not sure I love this or like it a lot.

So it may be that the author ended things a certain way so that we the readers could read into however we like, I will just be upfront and say that I am not a reader that enjoys making up my own ending. I want to know, like I really want to know what happened. So for me this was amazing writing and I have a few things to google because I admit that I don't know what Moeibus is and I now need to know this. The characters were okay and the plot was compelling. It could be a thriller, but it is not what I consider a thriller.

Carrie says

What We Buried by Kate A. Boorman is a young adult mystery that made me want to have some Twilight Zone music playing in the background while reading. Told from the siblings, Liv and Jory Brewer, dual point of view we follow them as they try to find their missing parents.

Liv and Jory couldn't be more different from one another if they tried. Liv is the beautiful child, raised to compete in competitions and be in the spotlight always pushed to be and do more. Jory is a bit of a recluse, the total opposite of Liv. For quite a while getting Jory to even speak was an accomplishment as he wants to hide in the shadows suffering from a partial facial paralysis.

Liv had finally had enough of the spotlight and found others out there that shared in her experience who encouraged her to take her own parents to court. Jory thought Liv's antics and courtroom drama was simply another way for her to be in the spotlight. However, on the morning the whole family was to appear in court Live and Jory's parents disappeared from the courthouse.

To be honest I didn't find either of the main characters, Liv or Jory, that appealing or likable however, that seemed to work for this book. The pair together began to become extremely fascinating as the story kept building and we began to look at their past and what formed them. As events unfold the story just becomes even more creepily compelling and addictive waiting for answers.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Christy says

A wild ride, taking the unreliable narrator to the next level. What We Buried has an ending you won't see coming or easily forget. What makes this story special is the constant uncertainty. Unreliable narrators. Timelines that are quickly converging. Completely surreal and will keep you turning pages.

No doubt, Liv and Jory only share one common trait - a disdain for their parents. I, too, share this trait. But no one wants their parents to just disappear without question (right? right...)...So when they do, the pair unite on a road trip to figure out what the heck happened. This book is soooo angsty, which comes across very emotional and real. These two are obviously so uncomfortable with everything - themselves, each other, their worlds. You could cut the tension in the air with a knife. It's the delving in this that brings the story alive. This book is about Liv and Jory - it's completely character driven (perfect for me).

Told in alternating POV - an important concept in the story - What We Buried is a look at two siblings who grew up in the same household yet experience things completely differently thanks to nature and nurture. Pay attention to the details and read this book twice. You won't be able to turn the pages fast enough on this one.

(the comp to OOUL originally lead me to not wanting to read this but honestly, I don't see any resemblance to that book. Fans of Dive Smack will love this one)

Chelsea Humphrey says

I'm somewhere between a 3-3.5 star rating on this one.

If you're interested in reading this one, please do yourself a favor and don't read the synopsis close to when you're picking this up. **Go in as blind as possible.** The comparisons that the publisher has made to other books in the description here tip the reader off to what the big twist will be (if you've read said books), and while it didn't take away all the enjoyment in reading this one, I still wished I had been more out of the loop going in.

What We Buried is definitely one of those books that you immediately want to talk about upon finishing, but have trouble finding the words because for the first hour upon finishing, you just keep thinking "WTF did I just read??" It was a compulsive page turner for sure (I finished the entire thing in less than 12 hours; thank you Humphrey Stomach Bug of 2018), but it's completely character driven with very little plot propelling it forward. I adore and highly respect when an author can do this; it's no easy feat to create a story that is so suspenseful the pages practically turn themselves yet little action is happening.

I'm not going to touch on any specifics here, but I think the reason that this, overall, was still positive for me, despite the tip off to the big twist, was that even though I had guessed the "what" going in, it still took 50-75% in to figure out the "how" and "why". My hesitation in giving this a higher rating came not necessarily from the twist being guessed, but in my slight disconnect from the main characters. The POV is told through alternating dual POV, as our main characters are brother and sister on a road trip to find their parents. Neither character is likable for a majority of the book, and some of the stereotypes surrounding each of their personalities felt a bit stale and cookie cutter. In the end, there are various forms of reconciliation, but for a book that is wholly character driven, it did feel that the development of each personality was minor and repetitive (although once you finish the book you'll see why).

Overall, this was a really fun, fast paced read that was just what I needed at the moment. I'm still not entirely sure what the ending means, but I'm guessing the author is leaving a few pieces up to the reader to determine for themselves. A spooky, creative cover really brought the story to life here, and that cover art is one I'll be remembering long term.

**I received a review copy from the publisher via NetGalley.*

Bethany says

Creepy psychological thriller meets twisted family drama, *What We Buried* plays with notions of time-linearity while deconstructing the lives of an estranged brother and sister with abusive parents. Liv spent her childhood in the spotlight competing in beauty pageants and appearing on reality TV, but she was also under the thumb of her controlling mother who would do anything to win. Her big brother Jory was born with Moebius syndrome, causing partial paralysis of his face. While Liv was lauded for her beauty, he was kept in the shadows with his alcoholic father.

Once friends, the siblings now resent each other and Liv is suing her parents for emotional damages due to the pageant circuit. As the plot develops, so does the sense of unease and an impromptu sibling road trip becomes a twisted and strange ride into the past. But uncovering dark and hidden memories and being honest might be the only path toward redemption.

The story is told in alternating perspectives and periodic flashbacks. It's interesting to see the disparity in how Liv and Jory remember the same events and how they view each other. In many ways this is a gripping portrayal of the bond between a brother and sister, even in the midst of such fraught circumstances and a deeply unhealthy family environment. Both characters are beautifully nuanced and Jory's experiences with people reacting to his facial paralysis are heart-wrenching and thought-provoking.

Also thread through the novel is this issue of rage and how to appropriately handle anger. I loved seeing the normalization of therapy and a balanced view of Liv as a very angry young woman, often with plenty of cause. The author unpacks how the pageant lifestyle (and just normal life in many cases) teaches girls to

smile, be nice, and ignore their instincts. SUCH an important thing to see talked about right now.

While I had some guesses, I was never entirely sure how everything would unfold and I thought that the ending was an interesting choice. Overall, I think this is a solid YA thriller with important themes we don't often see. Go check it out! Thank you to Fierce Reads for providing an early copy for review.

Stacee says

Unreliable narrator is one of my favorite things to read, so as I was reading this and realizing that's sort of what it was turning into, I was even more excited. And I can honestly say that I have no idea what I just read.

I liked the dynamic between Liv and Rory. I didn't really like either one of them, but their relationship plus their toxic parents really intrigued me. This is quite a character driven story, all about the two of them.

Plot wise...I'm not sure what to say. It was a thrilling and thoroughly confusing mindfuck that had me second guessing everything. The back and forth of past and present {even with the same event from each POV} kept me turning the pages. The ending is unclear and I think that even if I read it a second time, I still wouldn't have a clue.

Overall, it kept me reading, even with my confusion. I'm eager to see what other people think happened at the end and look forward to talking about this story.

Huge thanks to Henry Holt for providing the arc free of charge

Jennifer says

Wow that was one heck of a mindscrew.

Jay G says

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my youtube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review

VIDEO REVIEW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNdN5...>

4.5/5 Stars

Siblings Liv and Jory are complete opposites, the only thing they have in common is their resentment for their parents. Liv was a child beauty pageant queen, paraded around the circuit by their mother. Jory has a partial facial paralysis and has always felt that he is in Princess Liv's shadow. When Liv announces that she is suing her parents, Jory feels this is another one of her stunts for attention. So when the day of the trial arrives and their parents go missing, they must work together to try to find them.

I won't lie... for most of this book I was extremely confused about what was going on and how the story was going to play out BUT I couldn't stop reading. It was extremely addictive and I found myself NEEDING to know what was going to happen next to these two characters. This story is told in alternating perspectives between Jory and Liv. It consists of both the present timeline and flashbacks to their childhood. I really liked how each character had such a different view point of certain events that happened in their childhood. It was a huge eyeopener to see how each sibling was affected in different ways by their abusive parents. This book is definitely an extremely character driven story with very little plot. You really sympathize with both Liv and Jory for very different reasons as their story unfolds. I personally love unreliable narrators so both of these characters and perspectives were great for me. I loved watching both of the siblings grow and come to understand each other better as the story progressed and they started communicating their feelings towards each other.

I definitely think this book should be gone into blind or knowing as little as possible about the premise. It wasn't what I expected of this story, but I'm glad I picked it up. I'm confused on the ending as it is never explicitly said what happened, but I have my theories. Overall, it was both compelling and thought-provoking and I recommend it to those who are interested in psychological thrillers.

megs_bookrack says

Jory and Liv Brewer are as opposite as siblings can get.
The one thing they seem to have in common: horrible parents.

Liv: Paraded through the kiddie pageant circuit by their domineering mother, Liv is known to be spoiled and full of rage. Once followed everywhere by cameras, as part of a reality television show, now Liv's star seems to be dimming.

Jory: Older brother, Jory, has been pushed into the background of the 'Princess Liv' show his whole life. Jory suffers from Moebius Syndrome, which displays itself outwardly through partial facial paralysis. This makes speech difficult for him and he struggles to be understood. Constantly in the shadow of his sister, Jory has come to resent her and her seeminly vapid lifestyle.

The book begins as the family heads to court. Liv is suing her parents for emancipation and her earnings from beauty contestant days. Estranged from the family, she has been living outside of the home for months.

You quickly come to understand, through their dialogue and recollections, that both Liv and Jory have been traumatized by their unconventional upbringing. Their mother is manipulative and superficial and their father is an emotionally abusive and unavailable drunk.

Over the course of this narrative there is not one fleeting moment of humanity to be found in either parent. Is

it any wonder the kids are full of resentment and rage? But what happens when the parents disappear?

Forced to work together to try to figure out where their parents have gone, Jory and Liv undertake a late night road trip into the desert because, honestly, what could go wrong?

I will admit, the first couple of chapters, building up to the road trip, I did not think I was going to like this. The story is told in alternating perspectives between Jory and Liv. They both seemed so negative and angry, I didn't like them at all but once the road trip started, I couldn't put it down. Literally, could not stop thinking about it.

Reading like an episode of *The Twilight Zone* this book played on my anxieties. A dark road, late at night, nothing around, getting lost, not having enough water, etc. It built some serious tension. There were definitely scenes that chilled me to the bone.

I do feel that this book will not necessarily be for everyone. There isn't a lot of action. We have two characters in a car for most of the book, hashing out their differences and then we have both of them recollecting their childhood. As I got farther and farther in, I really began to connect to the characters. I understood more of where they were coming from and why it drove them to hold such resentments against one another.

I felt real growth with both characters and towards the end I was rooting for them. I had theories on where this was going, it's an odd little story, but it didn't end the way I thought it was going to. It played nicely with temporality in a way I found unique.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book. I would recommend it for people who don't need to instantly fall in love with every character and who like their stories a bit on the eerie side.

Thank you so much to the publisher, Henry Holt and Co., for providing me with a copy of this book to read and review. I always appreciate an opportunity to read a book early. I look forward to hearing what others readers think of this one!

Kendall says

What We Buried is such a spooky and fun YA mystery!!!

Let me tell you... YA has really started to become one of my favorite genres! AND WOW absolute cover adoration for this one!!

This story is told from the perspectives of siblings Liv and Jory Brewer who we follow as they try to find their missing parents.

The pair together on this journey become truly fascinating finding out what enfolds their past. The story becomes addictive and wondering what truly happened to their parents.

Although, either character in my opinion was not likable at all! But this truly worked for this certain book.

I'm still not quite sure what the ending meant and I think the author leaves it up to the readers imagination to form answers. Overall, it was quite the ride!

3.5 buried stars!

I received a review copy from the publisher via netgalley. Thank you!!

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Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at [It Starts at Midnight](#)

I also have a giveaway happening for this right now!

I have seen some other reviewers caution against reading the synopsis and yes, please listen to them and go in blind! **If you like eerie adventure and character exploration, this is going to be one to check out!** If you want my attempt at the vaguest thoughts possible... here we go!

This started out... strangely. And I wasn't sure how I felt. I hated everyone at the beginning of the book, but it didn't take long before I was completely hooked. And I mean *can't-put-it-down-just-one-more-chapter* hooked. At first, it seems like a regular old contemporary sibling-squabbling sort of thing. But there's *so* much more beneath the surface, and it doesn't take long for it all to start spilling out.

Liv and Jory are siblings. Liv and Jory basically do not speak, nor do they have any particular respect for each other. So this should be a fun trip! Sibling stories are so fascinating, and this one is no different. In fact, I think it felt *more* honest because they were so completely open with their vitriolic feelings. And that is all I am going to say about these two, because their journeys are half the allure of the book.

The other half is this: The adventure portion is very, very captivating. It feels unique, unlike anything I have read before. I hadn't a clue where the author was headed with *anything* and I loved that! It's a compulsive page-turner, because you'll feel desperate to know what happens next. It's fast paced, but not excessively so. And again, here I am being vague because it's necessary.

I really only have one issue with the book overall. And it's spoilery, so that's hard. But. (view spoiler)

Bottom Line: Come for the dysfunctional siblings, stay for the bananas adventure.
