



## Chasing Prophecy

*James A. Moser*

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Tormented by bullies and crushing hard for a girl named Kazzy, Mo Kirkland is a teen with everything to prove. Kazzy lives on a once-peaceful commune in Boulder Creek, a mysterious mountain town known as the "Bigfoot Sighting Capital of the World." When her communal family starts down a dark path, Mo discovers that real monsters don't always hide in the woods. Scariest are the ones found much closer to home. "Chasing Prophecy" is a heartwarming coming of age story about a boy who risks everything for one chance to save the girl of his dreams. Read the gripping new book that Kirkus Reviews calls "A stellar read for teens and adults, full of hilarious growing pains, tenderness, and a few surprises."

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0692209387/>

## **Chasing Prophecy Details**

Date : Published April 9th 2014 (first published January 3rd 2014)

ISBN :

Author : James A. Moser

Format : Kindle Edition 229 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Mystery, Fantasy, Supernatural

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## From Reader Review Chasing Prophecy for online ebook

### Margaret Chatwin says

I enjoyed this book. It was a quick, easy read with very likable characters. Mo was super sweet and the type of person I'd like to have as a friend. He was true to his friends, as were they true to him. They really had each other's backs. I also loved how supporting all the parents in this story were. Mo's momz were great. They believed and trusted him and never got angry about the trouble he'd found himself in, they just stepped up and did all they could to help him make it right again. It was nice to see a good, respectful relationship between a teen and his parents.

This story had so much going on (commune/cult, school, drugs, romance, courtroom, bigfoot, bullying, etc.) that I found myself wondering if it would all come together in the end. It did – and in a wonderful way. When I read the last page I found myself smiling with satisfaction and contentment.

Chasing Prophecy had a wonderful mix of adventure, humor, drama, and suspense. It even had some old school charm which reminded me of a good ol' summer day. I think young and old alike could enjoy this book.

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### Lorraine Sears says

In the interest of openness I was approached by the author and offered a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

From the moment I read the blurb on this book, I was hooked by the adventure that promised to be Chasing Prophecy.

When a group of teenage friends are tricked into breaking the law by people they love and trust their world starts to fall apart. But the betrayal is just the tip of the iceberg, and as they're pulled deeper into trouble they learn some very difficult lessons.

What I loved about this book was that it focused on the strengths of love and support within a family, but didn't preach about how that family should be made up. The moral stake wasn't set in stone, but still clung hard to the core of what is fundamentally good and bad.

With a solid plot, and believable, engaging characters, who often make the wrong choices for the right reasons, it was hard to put this book down.

At its root this is a tale of coming of age, of finding the your inner strengths and daring to stand up for what you believe in, even if you the only one on your feet. It contains milder swear words, scenes of mild peril and references to drugs. It also contains a very well placed fantasy element. This book would suit any reader from around thirteen and up.

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### Gina's Library says

The summary of this book just does not do this book justice at all. This book is so much more than that.

For me this book started out a little too slow. It did pick up in the middle, then I couldn't put it down. I had to see how it ended.

Growing up is hard enough on its own. Imagine if you were in love with your best friend? Then imagine that you had to deal with some very grown up issues and you weren't even out of high school yet. That is exactly what was going on with the Mo and his friends.

It was a nice twist to also have Bigfoot as part of the story. It was done in such a way that it didn't make you think it wasn't reality. I really enjoyed this book. I give it a 4 out of 5.

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### **Linda says**

Mo Kirkland tried to stay off the radar of bully Richard Handel at his school, but he was a short wimp and prayed for someone to help him evade the toilet that Richard planned to dump his head as the crowd cheered "SURF'S UP!" His best friend finally appeared to save him as well as the girl he had a crush on but dared not let her know, Cazzy or her cult name of Prophecy Bethlehem. How embarrassing when your best friend and crush had to save you!

James Moser spins an incredible story that most readers will enjoy about two teenagers getting caught up into being mules to carry meth into the United States by the cult's leaders son, Clean! Abel and Clean are determined to fight the government and prevent them from taking their land, but money has run out and they need a way to pay their high priced lawyers and keep the family together and Cazzy's mom is the unofficial bookkeeper that had to launder the money!

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### **Laura says**

Great young adult story with fast pace and some suspense. A bit of romance, too, seen from male perspective. Definitely recommend it!

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### **Melanie Donovan says**

Full Disclosure: I was given a free e-copy of the book in return for an honest review.

An enjoyable read, a POV character with a distinct voice.

I thought the description of this book sounded interesting and original enough that I wanted to check it out. I initially read just the sample available on Amazon and found that I liked Mo so much that I really wanted to hear more of his story. He has a distinct, believable voice. While the story took an unexpected turn from how it started out, I rolled with it and it was an enjoyable story. The ending was a little weaker than the rest of the story, with peril that you see coming from a mile off and a Deus-ex-Machina that strains believability a tad. A few typos and errors as typical in all ebooks, but nothing egregious (and I'm a real stickler!) Overall, a good read, well worth checking out

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### **S.G. Tillery says**

At first, I wasn't sure what to think about Chasing Prophecy. There are so many things going on, so many issues addressed, that I couldn't see how the author could possibly squeeze them all into one average sized book. But he did, and it worked out very well! The trick was that he didn't get too in depth on any one topic. Drugs, cults, angst teen love, big foot, and even some courtroom drama, were all a part of the story. Each piece was important, but none of them overwhelmed me as a reader or overshadowed the big picture.

Normally, this isn't the type of book I read. However, I was drawn in at first by the setting. I'm fascinated by the Pacific Northwest, and I have to say, I wasn't disappointed! That was probably my favorite part of the whole book.

If you're looking for a fast read that is serious without feeling heavy, give Chasing Prophecy a shot.

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### **Kristen Cansler says**

What an enjoyable book! Chasing Prophecy is one of the few books that I've read lately from a male's PoV, and it was a refreshing change of pace for me. This story surpasses the usual offerings of YA fiction. It easily carves out its own place in the genre as a standout coming of age read.

What I enjoyed most about Chasing Prophecy was the characters. I felt like I connected to all of them so well. The way that Jim wrote them made them feel like real people that I actually cared about. As the events started to unfold in the book, I couldn't stop myself from devouring it because I wanted to make sure that Mo and Kazzy were okay. That's a rarity for me as most of you know that I read multiple books at a time. With Chasing Prophecy, I put my other reads on hold because I was so invested in the characters. Kazzy was my favorite character because of the connection I felt to her. It was very insightful to view her from Mo's point of view.

Jim definitely has a talent for writing, especially with the YA genre. His story flowed so well. Never did it feel clunky or tedious. There are several underlying themes that thread through the story in such an effortless way, and I enjoyed them immensely. The sprinkling of paranormal also adds a different edge to this book.

I feel like I cannot stop gushing about this book. Whenever I agreed to review this book, I never imagined that it would captivate my attention in the way that it has. Without hesitation, I recommend this book to all fans of the YA genre, teen or not.

\*\*I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. My thanks to James Moser.

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### **Ianmez says**

I loved this book! Full disclosure, Jim Moser is a friend of mine, but he also happens to be a terrific author. Chasing Prophecy is fantastic, and you should read it.

Its strength lies in three places. First and foremost, the characters. Mo, Kazzy, and Max are authentic, funny, and easy to like and care about. Their dialogue zings with one-liners and legitimately funny wisecracks. It never seems forced, which is an accomplishment. Second, the story sucks you in and keeps you turning pages. You care about the characters from the jump, and Jim keeps raising the stakes. The two main storylines--will Mo and Kazzy wind up together? Can Kazzy be saved from the cult?--keep you fully engaged. Finally, there's just enough of an allegorical and mystical quality to the novel that when the unexpected happens--and it happens--it feels natural. I attribute that to the overall strength of the story.

I could pick a few nits with how things unfold in some of the book's courtroom scenes, but it would be exactly that--picking nits. The book wasn't written for lawyers (although lawyers should read it! Because it's great!) and the story doesn't suffer a bit for it, even if I try to imagine a federal courthouse in the Cascade foothills.

In any case, this is a wonderful story with memorable, credible, and funny characters. Read it.

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### **Alice says**

Prophecy and Mo are caught up in a big pile of shite, which just keeps on building, and building. But when Prophecy disappears without a trace, Mo is left alone and is determined to wade his way through it to find her.

I was really excited for this book, expecting a great read, but was sadly disappointed, I didn't feel connected to the characters, where they act childish and reckless (I know it's YA but still). The events were not realistic for me, as I have never experienced them or know anyone *ever* who has experienced them, and don't seem remotely plausible.

After about 20% the book gets better, so hang on until then!

The book was written well, but for me it wasn't an engaging plot, but I'm sure it is for others, considering it has a 4.29 rating (including mine). But just because I got it free doesn't mean I'm going to automatically give it 5 stars, what would be the point in that? It wouldn't be an honest review, would it?

The plot wasn't at all what I was expecting, if I'd of known it would be about drugs and murder, I wouldn't have bothered asking for it.

*I received a copy of Chasing Prophecy in exchange for a honest review (Thanks James!)*

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### **Maggie says**

This is going to be a tricky one for school librarians because it is only in eBook format. That being said, I know it will appeal to teen readers, especially those who have enjoyed stories about survivalists, cults, etc. The teen characters in this story are strong and have traits that draw in the teen readers. The plot twists enough to keep readers wondering how will it work out? As I read, I couldn't help thinking about BREAKING BAD and the drug tie in to this novel. I know teen readers will enjoy this book, I'm just not sure how school librarians are going to get it into their hands.

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## Lissette says

Ever since he laid eyes on her from an early age, Mo has been in love with Prophecy Bethlehem. She's come to mean a lot to him, and he'd do anything to show her how he feels about her. The girl has come to his rescue against the school bully on many an occasion. So much so, that people give her grief about it. For him, however, it's shown him just how much she cares.

Deep inside, Mo wishes he could tell Prophecy how he feels. It doesn't matter that she's different, or that she lives in a community that most people consider to be some sort of cult. His heart is set on Prophecy, and there's no changing the way he feels. If only revealing yourself to the girl you love were a tad easier. Only then, would he be able to unburden himself and truly show her what's in his heart.

When life takes an unexpected turn, Mo soon realizes that things will never be the same. He and Prophecy might be living two very different and separate lives, but their friendship is the one thing holding them together. No matter what card life seems to deal them, they're determined in holding close the one constant in their lives - each other. In their eyes, it's the only way they'll be able to deal with whatever else comes their way.

A truly stirring and very emotional story, Chasing Prophecy is a tale that will capture your heart in many ways. James has penned a story that's certainly relatable. Drugs, uncertainty, pain, heartache, loss - you experience this and more the further along you get in reading the story. The author brings forth characters who are tied together for years, striving to overcome the adversities coming their way. In addition to that, he's given them unique personalities that strengthen the story as it goes along. No matter what happens, these characters hold on to the friendships that bind them together. This is a book you're definitely going to enjoy.

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## ♥?¢σσ?ι?♥? (Krystle) says

*You can read this review and more on my blog:*

**received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.**

This was a coming of age story that had elements of romance, and although I have read plenty of books with similar themes, it was nothing like what I am used to reading.

The main character, Mo, (Love that name) was a wonderful leading character who wasn't a nerd, jock, misfit, or any other stereotype of a teenager. He was the kind of person who all kids can be, but far too many choose not to be, and that's what made him extraordinary. He got along with a lot of his classmates, but he was also a victim of bullying; he wasn't a genius or an underachiever, he tried hard but not always his hardest, he made mistakes but never set out to hurt or misuses anyone. Honestly, he was just an all around likeable and great character who was very selfless and brave in an "everyday hero" sort of way, and I love the way he managed to stand up to bullies without sinking to their violent level.

But Mo is not the only great kid in this book. He has two best friends, Kazzy and Max who he has been close to since Junior High. The chemistry between the three of them translated very well. Based on the way they interacted, it was very easy to believe that these three people had grown up together and truly loved one

another. They know each other so well, and always seem to be able to comfort and entertain each other when necessary. The friendship is slightly complicated by the fact that Mo is head over heels in love with Kazzy and she has no idea how strongly he feels about her, but the tension that usually arises from that sort of situation was pleasantly missing.

If you've ever watched "The Friendzone" on MTV, you know it's that type of cringe worthy television that's hard not to watch. Most of the time, I hope that the person who is putting themselves out there is rewarded for their bravery and the person they love, loves them back. But I also usually get ticked with that person for bringing their best friend on TV and dropping a bomb like that because you just shouldn't ever do that to your friend! That is unfair because they have had plenty of time to sort through their feelings, but they expect their friend to change immediately and enter into a committed relationship. Mo is definitely in the friendzone, but he handled it just right. He waited too long to make a move in my opinion, but once he did, he did it in a way that was respectful to their friendship. He gave her time and space, let her know that his feelings were not going to change, and most importantly insured her that no matter whether she wanted to be in a relationship with him or not, he wasn't going anywhere. When you truly love someone, that's what you do.

It's a good thing that Mo was willing to be there for her no matter what because Kazzy needed all of the love and support she could get. Kazzy and her mother belong to a commune called the Bethlehem Ranch that has a reputation for being a cult. However, Mo, Max, and their families know that this is not true because although they do not live on the ranch, they are sort of honorary members of the Bethlehem family and allowed to come and go as they please. No brain washing or abusive tactics are used by the leader of this commune to manipulate those who live there, and it really is just a bunch of "hippies" living and working together in harmony and peace. It's a strange way to live, but not harmful in the least.

Unfortunately that all changes once the truly loving leader dies, and the Bethlehem Ranch is taken over by Abel and his son Clean. (You read that name right. They all have strange cult like names.) The Bethlehem Ranch owes a lot of money in back taxes, and Able decides that the only way for them to keep their home is through criminal activities.

The way that everyone reacted when they realized just how corrupt Abel and Clean were was very well done. The commune was not just some fad for Kazzy and her mom, it was their family. In fact, every member is so devoted to becoming a part of one family that although they are not all related by blood they all share the same last name, Bethlehem. It was very difficult for Kazzy and her mom not to make excuses for the actions of the new leaders because to do that would be betraying their entire family. I myself never felt conflicted about what actions they should have taken. I wanted them to high tail it outta there as soon as they discovered the truth, but it took some time for things to sink in, and when they did finally realize the danger in their current circumstances, it was almost too late.

I was surprised by how much freedom the teenagers in this book were given by the adults. I mean to allow your 17-year-old to go off into the woods for three days unchaperoned with their friends and go base jumping for the first time is strange enough, but the fact that they were doing it for a class assignment was even weirder. I know it was creative license and it didn't keep me from being able to enjoy the story, in fact the adult's hands off approach enabled the story to progress. However, the parents and teacher had so many moments where they expressed concern, love, and discipline towards the kids that I expected them to do that all the time. My point is that the kids seemed more competent than the adults sometimes. Lol

There was also a supernatural element in this novel that I was not expecting but was it was entertaining and fit the story. I'm not going to tell you about it though because it would ruin your fun. :p

Overall, I would have to say that this was a very imaginative and well thought out coming of age story, and the ending was particularly beautiful. These three kids went through some extreme literal and figurative growing pains, but they handled it with humor, bravery, class, and above all else, love. I am very happy to have gone on their journey with them.

*Although adults might enjoy this story, I would recommend it for ages 15-18. There was also some language that parents of younger children should be aware of, but other than that, it was clean.*

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### **John Dizon says**

*Chasing Prophecy* by James Moser is a first-person narrative featuring Mo, the leader of a trio of creepers trying to survive in a hostile environment of cliques and factions in Boulder Creek, Washington. They find their own niche among a survivalist cult called the Bethlehem Family, where the teens are turned onto drugs and coached into going on a vision quest. This coincides with the Government demanding payment on back taxes, which results in the tandem setting out on a crusade to resolve the debt. It takes them to the Canadian border where *Breaking Bad* meets *South Park* in Moser's intriguing YA adventure.

For literary buffs, Mo's first-person dialogue is reminiscent of *Catcher in the Rye* as Maurice Kirkland becomes a rural Holden Caulfield, groping his way along a paranoiac landscape fraught with dangers from bad guys to Bigfoot. Though there are a number of adult themes, Moser's novel will undoubtedly strike a chord with adolescents due to its insights into teenage angst and alienation. The teens end up smuggling meth into Boulder Creek and find themselves as targets of the U.S. Marshal's Office as a result of their escapades. Yet Mo never loses heart, and Moser's tale is upbeat and sassy all the way to the final chapter.

The author provides us with pictures that enhance and inspire our imagination throughout, especially Bigfoot prints that leaves us with a friendly reminder that you never know who's watching. Just keep an eye on this author, as *Chasing Prophecy* by James Moser suggests there's more pleasant surprises ahead.

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### **David Burke says**

Chasing Prophecy by James Moser.

This book was anything and everything except what I expected. I hadn't paid much attention to the blurb for the book and had based my opinion largely on the cover photo. Shame on me. Then again, in hindsight, had I read the blurb I might have decided that Chasing Prophecy wasn't my kind of book and then I would have missed out on this great story.

This is something more than a classic 'Coming of Age' story.

The best part of Chasing Prophecy is the prose. The writing is descriptive without being intrusive. I felt myself transported to the location of the story without any preachy, descriptive passages. The writer clearly has a grasp on how young people talk, think and even send text messages. The pace of the story was great - it kept moving me along, wanting to find out what was going to happen on the next page.

It was an easy book to read, completely entertaining, thought provoking and I'd say Mr. Moser's goal of writing a book that any and all teens and young adults can read and enjoy has been completely met. James Moser captures the essence of what it is to be a teenager. Chasing Prophecy mixes the pain, humor and romance of High School and adolescence with an unusual plot about an 'off-the-grid' commune that slowly transforms into a cult.

The ending was a 'head-shaker' to say the least and reminded me of one of my favorite books 'A Boy's Life' by Robert R. McCammon.

I look forward to reading more from James Moser.

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