

[PDF] The Creek

Jennifer L. Holm - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: The Creek
Author: Jennifer L. Holm
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Description:

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up-This Stephen King-esque thriller has potential, but is torpedoed by sloppy writing. Penny, 12, spends her time hanging out with a gang of boys down at the local creek. Enter Caleb Devlin, a legendary teenage terror whose criminal behavior had him sent away years ago. When pets begin vanishing in the neighborhood, it seems obvious to most residents that Caleb is behind the disappearances. Penny's dreams are haunted by visions of this young man who both fascinates and repels her. As she and her friends investigate, they have numerous close scrapes with menacing characters, yet their parents and the police are inexplicably unhelpful. In the final chapters, Penny works through a ludicrous, shifting roster of suspects, until the highly improbable culprit is found. The story misses the mark on several levels. The writing is

weak, relying on contrived phrases, absurdly inapt similes, and jarring lapses in logic. Upon completing this novel, readers will be as clueless about some of the characters' motivations as when they began.

Douglas P. Davey, Guelph Public Library, Ontario, Canada

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From Gr. 6-8. Holm, author of several historical novels about girls grappling with puberty, gives the theme a contemporary twist, adding trappings of a creepy thriller that pushes the story well beyond the wan child-plays-detective stuff so prevalent in youth mysteries. Penny, almost 13, is content to spend her summer hanging out with the boys on her block. But this year, their games are charged by rumors about exciting, sexy, Caleb Devlin, who gives Penny strange, shivery thrills. When increasingly disturbing things happen in the neighborhood, culminating in the vicious murder of a young child, Caleb is the prime suspect. Taut, well plotted, and with a smooth arc of suspense, this does more than deliver a good story; it also addresses some of puberty's difficult emotional changes and raises challenging questions about moral issues. To Holm's credit, everything isn't necessarily resolved, Caleb is a "bad boy," (though not in the expected way), and despite the dead child, there's no over-the-top violence. What stands out most, perhaps, is Holm's chipping away at the literary taboo Robert Cormier cracked open in his *Rag and Bone Shop* (2001); child murder and young children as murderers are not the province of children's books. Kids often see worse on the evening news, but this skillful, surprising novel may raise some adult eyebrows. *Stephanie Zvirin*
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