



Detour for Emmy (Hamilton High series)

By Marilyn Reynolds

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A selection of ALA Best Books for Young Adults, this novel tells the story of a 15-year-old girl who must face the consequences of becoming pregnant.

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Detour for Emmy (Hamilton High series) By Marilyn Reynolds Bibliography

- Rank: #1629976 in Books
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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

At the end of eighth grade, Emmy is at the top of the world. She's popular, does well in school, has two best friends and sings in the chorus. Ninth grade is more of a challenge, yet Emmy continues to thrive and even falls in love. Then she gets pregnant. Thoughtful and thorough, this novel vividly portrays teenage love and its consequences. Emmy faces her choices with a believable mix of bravery and weakness, earning the reader's sympathy. The author, who teaches English at an alternative school in California, demonstrates a true understanding of her audience along with a solid interest in providing important information. With its timely news about social programs serving pregnant teens, its candor and its message about summoning one's inner strength, this instructive tale is both cautionary and inspirational. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8-12-- Emmy's carefree days are enlivened by friends, time at the beach, anticipation of the new school year, and dreams of college. Longing for the affection and understanding that she doesn't get at home, Emmy is propelled into the arms of overachiever, chorus star, and school hero Arturo. Art promises that he will never hurt her, and their sexual relationship proceeds idyllically and explicitly, complete with birth control. One night, they make love without protection; as a result, Emmy finds herself on a detour from carefully laid academic plans to the road of teen pregnancy and single motherhood. The hardship, tedium, and responsibility of parenting and the pain of deferred dreams provide a strong, if sometimes didactic, message to sexually active YAs. The story is predictable, but compelling. Unfortunately, one-dimensional characters, tiresome language, loose plotting, and a weak ending detract from the book. Berlie Doherty's *Dear Nobody* (Orchard, 1992) confronts many of the same issues with more subtlety, finer writing, and fully fleshed-out, thoughtful characters. But most teenagers know or will meet an Emmy and will fervently hope not to be diverted by similar obstacles on the road to growing up. --Alice Casey Smith, Lakewood Public Library, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 8-12. Emmy's mother is an alcoholic; her beloved brother is in trouble with the law; and her father is long gone. But in high school, Emmy is a straight A student, a soccer star, and lead soprano in the choir, and she attracts an absolute hunk, upperclassman boyfriend, who's also "going places." Although they have sex on a regular basis, they always use protection--except for one night. When Art finds out Emmy is pregnant, he denies he's the father and breaks up with her. Emmy, who sees having the baby as the only way she'll ever have someone who will love her back, resists the pressure to have an abortion. She faces her mother's anger, prejudice at school, the fear and pain of pregnancy, and the burdens of caring for the child--and manages to get her life back on track. The story might be a cliché, but, unfortunately, it is a relevant cliché for the many teen mothers who live it every year. Writing in an appealing conversational style, Reynolds adds plenty of interesting plot elements to keep the pages turning. The characters, especially Emmy as first-person narrator, are well-drawn, complex, and believable. Stereotypes are confronted and disposed of through thoughtful introspection. Emmy's road is rocky enough to be a deterrent for girls who are not in her position, yet inspirational enough to provide hope for those who are. *Jeanne Triner*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Barnes:

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question because just their can do that will. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this Detour for Emmy (Hamilton High series) to read.

Alfredo Dunn:

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Lynn Groff:

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Tanya Caggiano:

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