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Last Seen Leaving



Synopsis

Flynn's girlfriend, January, is missing. The cops are asking question he can't answer, and her friends are telling stories that don't add up. All eyes are on Flynn as January's boyfriend, he must know something. But Flynn has a secret of his own. And as he struggles to uncover the truth about January's disappearance, he must also face the truth about himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • This thriller follows Flynn as he tries to solve the mystery of his missing girlfriend, January. The more he discovers, the more confused he is as he uncovers the secrets she has been keeping from him. January had been distant ever since her mother remarried and moved her into her politician stepdad's fancy house and switched her to private school. Though the couple tried to stay together through the changes, Flynn's own secret was a source of strife, and January broke up with him after a fight right before her disappearance. That she's no longer his girlfriend doesn't stop Flynn from caring about her, and he doesn't give up looking for answers. His search for January leads to his own revelation as he is forced by circumstances to come out to his parents and friends. Learning the truth about January leads Flynn and his new friend Kaz into danger and intrigue as they find themselves falling for each other and solving the mystery. The characters are believable, the mystery is interesting, and the action is often fast-paced. Flynn's internal struggle to open up about his sexuality carries weight, and readers will be drawn into his emotional journey and his adventures in amateur sleuthing. VERDICT A fun mystery with a credible emotional pull; a general purchase for most YA collections. • Genevieve Feldman, San Francisco Public Library

A Buzzfeed Best YA Novel of 2016 Best YA Novel of 2016 - Paste Magazine A Kirkus Best of 2016 Book - Teen "Flynn Doherty's competing desires to uncover the secrets behind his ex-girlfriend's disappearance and keep his own secrets hidden propel debut author Roehrig's powerful thriller. ...A compelling mystery and characters with fully developed strengths and flaws make Roehrig's novel an important addition in the world of queer young adult fiction." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review "Debut novelist Roehrig peoples his sensationalistic, twisty mystery with credible characters, especially narrator Flynn, whose struggles with coming out will resonate with young gay teens in more mundane circumstances. Witty, realistically foulmouthed dialogue and the suspenseful, well-laid mystery will keep pages turning... Readers won't be able to put it down." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review "This truly hair-raising, stand-out mystery thriller from debut author Roehrig will keep readers guessing, even until the end." -- Booklist, starred review "The characters are believable, the mystery is interesting, and the action is often fast-paced. Flynn's internal struggle to open up about his sexuality carries weight, and readers will be drawn into his emotional journey and his adventures in amateur sleuthing... A fun mystery with a credible emotional pull." -- School Library Journal

Last Seen Leaving had me riveted from the very first line to the very last. It was gripping and full of twists that not only had me gasping out loud at times but had me second guessing everything I was thinking at every possible turn. I was on the edge of my seat! I kept trying to come up with theories about who did what, what would happen, and what had happened. I was wrong every single time (and I enjoyed that aspect). As far as my first experience with the mystery/thriller genre (when it comes to books) is concerned I would say that this was a raving success. I thoroughly enjoyed it, it was unforgettable, and probably one of the best books I've read this year! This book, as stated in the synopsis, is about Flynn's girlfriend January having vanished and the mystery surrounding her disappearance. It's a mystery that Flynn is desperate to solve and the reader is whisked away on this dark and twisted journey with him. As he begins to uncover secrets that January kept hidden he is forced to face his own secret alongside those revelations. Last Seen Leaving is Flynn's own personal journey as well as his journey of acknowledging who he really is and learning to accept and embrace it. In a nutshell, while the reader is gripped in the claws of this haunting tale they also get to see the transformation Flynn goes through in terms of his sexuality (which is made pretty obvious straight away). That journey of self-discovery brings with it an

unexpected romance that I won't go into detail about but it was incredible and I loved it. Caleb Roehrig wove so many different layers and stories into this book and it was enchanting and incredibly well done. Combine that with his writing that was practically spellbinding and you have a book that is impossible to put down. I feel like this was equal parts character driven and plot driven. There is a cast of very colorful characters in this book and some are horrible and you'll hate them and some you'll adore or end up adoring. I won't go into detail about the characters because to do so would spoil everything. I will say that I, obviously, adored Flynn and his journey. He was a funny, sarcastic, and charming character who, despite everything, is probably the person who cared for January the most and would do anything if it meant she was found and safe. January was so complex and at times I wasn't sure how I felt about her but ultimately I ended up respecting her more than any of the other characters. And don't even get me started on Kaz! I won't give away anything but he was my favorite and I loved him. This is one of those times where I will be as vague as possible in a review because I went into this book blind and I believe it's better if you do that. I wouldn't have had such a strong reaction nor would I have been as riveted if I would have known any specifics that were not already common knowledge beforehand. However, I do want to point out that this book is a dark book. It does have light moments but at its core, *Last Seen Leaving* has a very realistic and scary vibe to it. The topic of rape is broached, there is violence, gruesome scenes, and a lot of bad things happen. The reason I'm pointing that out is because I know there are people that might not want to be blindsided by certain things in a book. That aside, *Last Seen Leaving* will sink its claws into you and not let go until you turn the final page. There are so many twists that leave you guessing and a shocker of an ending that will have you picking your jaw up off the floor. Another auto-buy author for me as I definitely can't wait to see what Caleb Roehrig has in store for us with his future books.

I don't want to say too much about this book because mysteries are meant to be read unspoiled. I'll say this, though: *Last Seen Leaving* is a tense and atmospheric thriller with a particularly well done setting that provided a really great sense of unease.

I'm a huge mystery lover, so I did guess the ending, but that didn't ruin the book for me in the least. Everything in between the opening and the twist was fast-paced and gripping. Equally as captivating was Flynn's emotional journey throughout the novel. He was such an easy character to like and root for and all

of the characters were well done. I worried a bit about January, that she'd be portrayed as pretty horrible just so we'd feel for Flynn, but she comes across as a hurting girl whose motivations are entirely sympathetic. Definitely worth a read—especially on a dark and stormy night. •Tracey N.

3.5 stars This book got better and better with each page. It is billed as a mystery or thriller, and that's definitely the seed of the story, but it's mostly about identity. Flynn is a dedicated boyfriend to January, a girl who has gone missing. She's had some unhappy changes in her life and he wants to find out what happened. This journey introduces him to Kaz (who becomes a character that I really enjoyed). The trail and suspicion are clumsy sometimes, it wasn't until page 150 or so that I got that addicted, curious mystery feeling. There are some artful twists and some satisfying aspects to the resolution and some lovely revelations. In the end, it was a more than okay and less than good mystery, yet a pretty great coming of age tale.

A masterful debut from an excellent author, I look forward to more stories to come! After buying and reading my own copy, I bought a second one to give as a gift to a friend. Roehrig keeps the plot dancing as you move through the story, and just when you start to think you've got it sorted out and are on track, he throws in another twist. The writing is on point, the voice of the character is enchanting and realistic, drawing the reader into his numerous struggles. This book deals with finding your own place and identity in the world and shows that love can exist in many different ways. I highly recommend this book, you will not be disappointed.

This is the best contemporary book I've read in years. I'd call it the best book of 2016 as well. This book was written exquisitely by Caleb Roehrig and had a plot that kept me wanting to go back every time I left it. The book was in pristine condition and the delivery was so swift that I was actually shocked. I am very happy with my purchase.

Very well written. It held my interest and brought out some interesting subjects. It touched on teenage sexuality, perversion, and murder.

Excellent book. It was a great read, well paced and challenging to try and follow the characters as the story unfolded. Look forward to future works by Caleb Roehrig.

Last Seen Leaving is a top notch YA thriller that will leave you gasping for breath. The characters are alive and relatable. This is a debut not to miss!

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