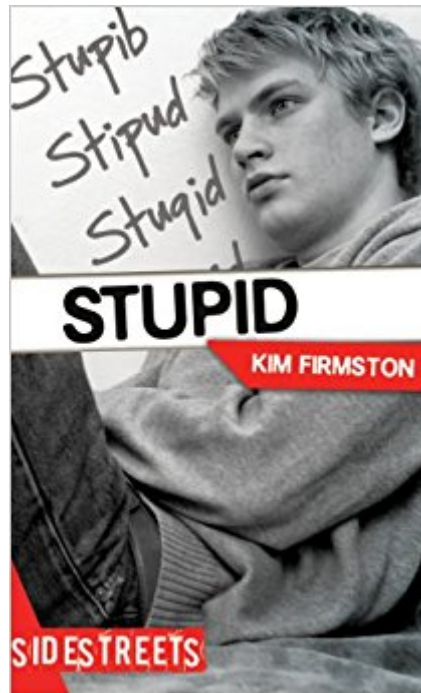




The book was found

Stupid (Lorimer SideStreets)



Synopsis

Martin's been diagnosed with ADHD, but he feels something about his diagnosis isn't right. The Ritalin he's prescribed doesn't seem to make a difference. When Martin's grades continue to sink no matter how hard he tries, his father writes him off as lazy and just plain stupid. His dad is convinced that Martin just needs to focus more on his studies and less on making movies. One night while out pursuing his passion on the city streets with his camera, Martin meets Stick and is introduced to the energetic and exciting pastime of parkour -- free-running. While filming Stick's flips and tricks, Martin begins to see a connection between how his brain interprets the world, all jumbled and fast-moving and out of order, and what the free-runners see. Camera in hand, Martin sets out to make a video that will show his dad what he sees, and hopefully get him to understand that Martin's real learning disability, dyslexia, has never been properly diagnosed. [Fry reading level - 3.0]

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up - Two high-interest titles about teens dealing with real-life issues. In *Stupid*, high-schooler Martin has struggled with what observant readers will recognize as dyslexia, although neither Martin nor his parents have been able to identify the problem. Martin has lived his life believing himself to be "stupid" and has immersed himself in his passion: filmmaking. When he meets Stick, who is equally passionate about parkour (or freerunning), Martin comes out of his shell and begins to learn how to stand up for himself and make better decisions. In *Blow*, Mary gets

mixed up with cocaine dealers and must figure out how to extricate herself from the situation. Her best friend, Julie, gets deeper into the drugs, and Mary helps her recognize that she needs to stop using. Julie is able to do this with improbable ease. Both books use Canadian spellings, which may be confusing for American teens struggling with reading disabilities. Purchase where hi-lo titles for teens are needed. — Kristin Anderson, Columbus Metropolitan Library System, OH

"Stupid will certainly appeal to male students, and anyone interested in urban stories featuring teens." (Jaime Tong, Educator at Vancouver School Board 2015-02-01)"Stupid is an accessible yet richly layered text. I recommend it for the targeted age group, but also hope that educators and parents will read it and consider that "lazy" and "stupid" are often misnomers and never helpful." (Karen Boyd, CM: Canadian Review of Materials 2014-06-20)"[A great book – the story itself is terrific and full of suspense while the underlying theme clearly illustrates the impact a learning disability can have on someone, and how it can be misunderstood by others. I’d make this required reading for all kids – and parents – who have or know someone who has a learning disability." (Ellen Cohn Educator at Florida International University 2014-11-12)"The portrayals of a kid's experiences with learning differences are spot-on, and a clear story line leads the reader through Martin's difficulties with nail-biting suspense, both at school and on the tops of abandoned buildings. A compelling high/low reader with wide teen appeal." (Erin Downey Howerton, Booklist 2014-09-10)"Stupid crackles with energy, dragging readers along on a violent, muscles flexed, white-knuckled ride through midnight landscapes and abandoned industrial sites, into the frustration and fragmentation of dyslexia." (Karen Doerksen, National Reading Campaign 2014-04-24)"Stupid was an enjoyable book that helped me understand a little more of the difficulties a student with a disability might face. This book show how stressful a learning disability can be but also how that same disability can spur creativity in people. This book might help some students see that everyone has the ability to learn it’s just that not everyone learns in the same way." (Kitty Keith, Librarian at Brooks Middle School 2014-10-27)

— "Stupid" is geared for young adults and focuses on Martin, a teen misdiagnosed with ADHD (instead of dyslexia). The mention of parkour caught my attention, as I find parkour and free running fascinating (and completely impossible for me to even consider attempting). Martin loves making movies and is good at it, although he does very poorly at school and his father believes that's due to his focus on filmmaking instead of studying. After meeting a free runner, Stick, Martin begins making a movie about Stick

tricks and eventually uses his movie to show his father how he sees the world and illustrate the frustration of living with dyslexia. It's a great book and the story itself is terrific and full of suspense while the underlying theme clearly illustrates the impact a learning disability can have on someone, and how it can be misunderstood by others. I'd make this required reading for all kids and parents who have or know someone who has a learning disability. I received a free copy of this book in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

Say you're a teen, and you try really hard in school, but you can't concentrate, you try to read and the words dance around, your writing looks like you just learned how to write - your dad calls you lazy and stupid, makes you take Ritalin for what he and the doc thinks is wrong, but that doesn't help. Not until you meet this kid, Stick, into parkour or free running, shoot a movie of Stick and his friends - an incredible flick - and listen to what he says parkour's all about and suggests you try it to overcome your problems after someone says your film is the best description of dyslexia she's ever seen - that you begin to change, do better in school, and at last convince your parents, especially your dad, that you are one talented guy with a problem you now can work at with a little help... This has the non stop read of a thriller - a book everyone should read - and great for all kids too - so all can better understand a problem many deal with in their lives.

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