



Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey

By Margaret Peterson Haddix



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Things are so bad, I feel like I'm going to explode if I don't do something...Everyone has to keep a journal in Mrs. Dunphrey's English class, but the teacher has promised she won't read any entry marked Do not read this. It's the kind of assignment Tish Bonner, one of the girls with big hair who sit in the back row, usually wouldn't take very seriously. But right now, Tish desperately needs someone to talk to, even if it's only a notebook she doesn't dare let anyone read. As Tish's life spins out of control, the entries in her journal become more and more private...and dangerous. Is she risking everything that matters to her by putting the truth on paper? And is she risking more by keeping silent?

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Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey By Margaret Peterson Haddix Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

When her English teacher, Mrs. Dunphrey, announces that she will require everyone to keep a journal, Tish Bonner sighs and fidgets. She's one of those girls with big hair who sits in the back of the classroom, giggling and passing notes to friends instead of paying attention. Frankly, school is a waste of time for Tish. She would rather be working to help support herself and her younger brother. (Goodness knows her mother never lifts a finger to help them.) Mrs. Dunphrey says that she won't read any student's entry marked "DO NOT READ." Should Tish believe her? Much to Tish's surprise, journal writing becomes a welcome--yet frightening--outlet for the increasing stress she feels about life at home. Should she write about everything she's feeling? Will Mrs. Dunphrey really respect her privacy? This novel offers teens a realistic view of a young woman's life spinning out of control. Tish has real heart, and the way she faces her problems will inspire readers.

From Publishers Weekly

Haddix (*Running Out of Time*) offers a tough-edged if familiar story of a beleaguered high school girl who confides the difficulties of her life to a journal in an assignment for English class; the title refers to the label the heroine gives every entry so that her teacher, the true-to-her-word Mrs. Dunphrey, will only look at the completed writing and not actually read the sensitive contents. With an abusive and mostly absentee father, a depressed mother, and only a part-time job at Burger Boy to pay for her food and clothes—as well as for her little brother Matthew's—Tish Bonner seems headed for a crisis. At her lowest point, penniless and starving after her mother's abandonment and after she is fired by a manager whose sexual advances she has refused, Tish shoplifts from a grocery store to feed herself and Matthew—and then faces being evicted from her home. Because the journal is the sole outlet for Tish's inner turmoil, the tone here shifts only in terms of varying shades of anger. Meanwhile, Mrs. Dunphrey, a model of teacherly concern, writes brief comments to express her appreciation of Tish's lengthy entries and to ask Tish to let her read some of them. YA readers will be not in the least surprised that Tish finally turns over her entire journal for Mrs. Dunphrey's perusal as a way of getting help, and that Mrs. Dunphrey comes through in the best sensitive-English-teacher tradition. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up?Sixteen-year-old Tish Bonner is a nonachieving, back-row student in Mrs. Dunphrey's English class as well as in all of her other classes. Her personal life reveals the same bleakness. Her parents' relationship is combative and unstable. Her father splits every time things get difficult. Her mother can't get her act together and takes off to look for her husband, leaving her two children alone with no money. Tish describes her plight in a journal that Mrs. Dunphrey has all of the class do as a writing assignment, with the promise that she will not read the entries if the students ask her not to. Most of what Tish writes is off-limits to her teacher until her situation becomes so desperate that her journal entries become a cry for help. This contemporary story realistically depicts the sad home life of a dysfunctional family and the burden put on young people to cope with adult problems. Tish's journal entries have an authentic ring in phrasing and tone and will keep readers involved. Although the teacher's solution of having Tish and her younger brother to stay with her temporarily may be a stretch, the resolution provides this teen with a well-deserved break since she has struggled so hard to help herself and her brother. A brief, serious look at a young person who is isolated and faced with some seemingly overwhelming problems.?Carol Schene, Taunton Public Schools, MA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tyrone Smith:

This Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey without we comprehend teach the one who reading through it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey having excellent arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Edith Macklin:

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