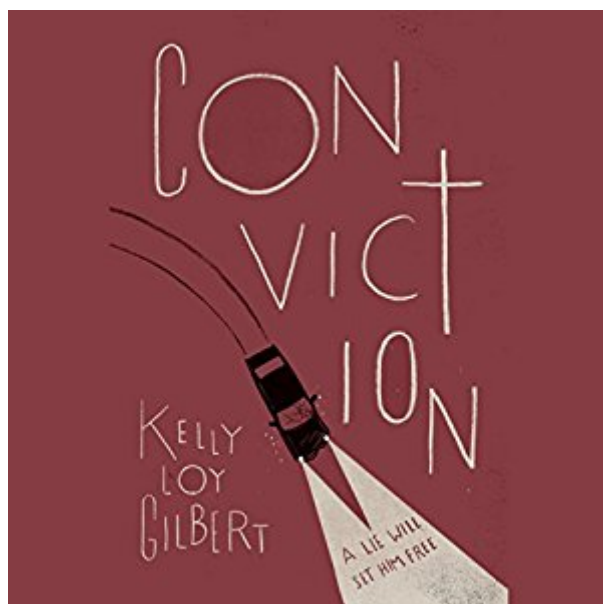


The book was found

Conviction



Synopsis

Ten years ago, God gave Braden a sign, a promise that his family wouldn't fall apart the way he feared. But Braden got it wrong: His older brother, Trey, has been estranged from the family for almost as long, and his father, the only parent Braden has ever known, has been accused of murder. The arrest of Braden's father, a well-known Christian radio host, has sparked national media attention. His fate lies in his son's hands; Braden is the key witness in his father's upcoming trial. Braden has always measured himself through baseball. He is the star pitcher in his small town of Ornette, and his 94-mile-per-hour pitch already has minor league scouts buzzing in his junior year. Now the rules of the sport that has always been Braden's saving grace are blurred in ways he never realized, and the prospect of playing against Alex Reyes, the nephew of the police officer his father is accused of killing, is haunting his every pitch. Braden faces an impossible choice, one that will define him for the rest of his life, in this brutally honest debut novel about family, faith, and the ultimate test of conviction.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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#319 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues #525

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents

Customer Reviews

This is a really marvelous, subtle book. Ostensibly the book is powered by a murder mystery suspense plot: did the father do it? Will he get off? But that's not the heart of the book at all. Really, the core of the book is the question: Is the father a good man? He's not a perfect man. You know that from the beginning. But he contains many aspects of a good father. He's raised a good kid: nice, respectful, reasonably happy, and a star pitcher with serious pro ball prospects. And he's oftentimes loving and encouraging. But he's also a haunted man. There's a streak of violence and

nastiness inside him, and throughout the book you're left wondering how deep that streak goes and whether his nastiness wipes out all the good things you've seen. The moral questions in a lot of books tend to be pretty simple. They contain great humanitarians who turn out to be pedophiles. Or effective leaders who are forced to sacrifice innocent people in order to save the nation as a whole. Here, nothing is simple. At every moment, you're never really sure what lies underneath the father's words. Is it all ego and cruelty? Or is he just doing the best that he knows how? And watching the son try to come to terms with the way he's been raised is just heartbreaking. Because it makes you realize how alone kids are. If your parent is unambiguously awful, then maybe you can someday sever yourself from them and escape. But if your parent gives you both love and trauma, then how do you escape? How do you draw the line? How can you deal with the fact that someone who's given you so much and done so much for you is also able to do things that seem so selfish?

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