

★★★★☆ **Not bad**, April 26, 2011

By [G. Blankenship](#) (West Virginia United States) - [See all my reviews](#)

REAL NAME

This review is from: In Front of God and Everybody (The Confessions of April Grace) (Paperback)

First, this is definitely written for a preteen girl. I had to often remind myself to read it from that perspective, otherwise the writing would aggravate me with it's simplistic characters. To be honest, some of the characters just didn't seem to fit and I truly have no idea why they were included in the book.

The book begins with an event that happened when the main character, April Grace, was 8 or 9. I assume it was the author's intent to use a bad experience in April's past to explain her feelings in the present, but to be honest I felt like it was not necessary. April was born and raised in the Ozarks and had been teased about being a "hillbilly" by some rich folks. As a result she seems to instantly dislike the St. James' who were moving in to the farm down the road because they appeared to be wealthy.

The St. James' aren't rich, however, and in a peculiar twist they end up living with April's family until they can get their place fixed up. Through this April learns a valuable lesson best explained in April's granny's own words:

"honey, you just got to quit finding fault with everyone...There ain't never been but one perfect person in the world, and they killed Him. If you keep looking at the things you don't like about folks, you won't every have any friends. Or any fun, neither. Folks don't act they way they do just to annoy you. They act the way they do 'cause they're people."

If you are looking at this as a book for your preteen, be aware that while there is a really good message in this book, there is an implication of drug use by the crazy hippie neighbors, and April's sister ends up becoming anorexic (although this is discussed very little, it just sort of happens in the background). This book can open doors for discussion with your preteen about how we view others, how our actions can influence the way others view us, anorexia (obviously), and many other topics.

All in all, not a bad book from a parent's perspective. I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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