

Everybody's Son

Thrity Umrigar

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Everybody's son is a book that gives us moral questions about race, class, and privilege. Ten-year-old Anton was found after a week locked in his apartment during a terrible heatwave and his mother, Juanita nearly unconscious in a crackhouse a few blocks away. While the bond between the two remains strong, Anton was placed in child services which lands him in the care of a Harvard-Educated son of a senator Judge David Coleman. David, still grieving from the death of his teenage son and attached to his new ward uses his power and connections to give Juanita a harsh prison sentence and later convince her to sign over her guardianship of Anton. Growing up in a privileged household had given Anton opportunities he could not have had otherwise, but when he finally learns the truth, Anton has to deal with the moral complexities of crimes from his past.

I picked up this book randomly from the library and I found myself pleasantly surprised. The moral questions and complexity gives a lot of food for thought. The characters are very complex. David is not painted as good or evil, just a mixture of both. He acts partly out of self interest and partly out of good intentions. His actions gave Anton a good life, but he did bad things to get there. The ending was heartwarming, but slightly abrupt. I felt like there could have been a little more.

I would recommend this book to readers above twelve years old at least. There is mention of rape and drug use and it deals with some pretty dark and heavy issues. I would recommend borrowing this book from the library. It is a pretty good book and it has stuck in my mind for a while, but I don't think I would reread it.

Recommended Titles:

- The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas
- A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley
- The Weight of Heaven by Thrity Umrigar