



Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School

By Nancy Rubin

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Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School By Nancy Rubin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1286615 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Ten Speed Press
- Published on: 1994-09-01
- Released on: 1994-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.23" h x 7.41" w x 9.06" l, 1.83 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Want to know what your sullen teenager is really thinking? Nancy Rubin has been teaching Social Living classes at a large, urban public high school for over 17 years. This book is based on her students' in-class journals. Sex, drugs, AIDS, racial identity, self-image--the students pull no punches, and neither does Rubin. Many of the journal entries are in letter form--to a parent, a body part, drugs, a romantic interest, a dead friend. This is an uncensored and consistently moving look at life in contemporary America from the teen perspective. And the news is not all bad.

From Publishers Weekly

For the past 17 years, Rubin has taught a course called Social Living at Berkeley High School (BHS) in downtown Berkeley, Calif. Catering to students from a wide variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, BHS is not your typical high school, and nowhere is that clearer than in Rubin's nine-week course aimed at opening minds and clearing away misapprehensions about sex, race, STDs, parents, addictive substances, violence and more. Rubin's goal is to get kids to react in writing to videos, speakers and leading questions. Angry, poignant, wise, funny and mean, the students' journals provide a wealth of understanding into teen reactions to tough issues and, as in the particularly amusing section "Etcetera Letters," into typically teenage concerns ("Dear Pimple On My Face...I HATE YOU. You just happen to be as big as a volcano, and you are erupting"). Most painful are the letters to parents, often absent, either emotionally or physically. If at times Rubin interjects too much about herself, the book as a whole is a worthwhile resource for parents and teachers, both to remind them of the old pains of being a teenager and to inform them of some new ones.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up? Rubin has compiled journal entries on topics such as drugs, alcoholism, violence, prejudice, etc., written by students in her Social Living class at an urban high school. Her intention in publishing them is twofold: to make the information available to teens who do not have the opportunity to discuss contemporary concerns, and to make adults more aware of adolescent concerns. Statistics and facts are presented in occasional sidebars; readers can only assume that they relate to American teens, as sources are rarely cited. Without an index to lead researchers to specific information, the book will not be especially useful for many reports, but it will help teachers develop similar courses or spark discussion among groups of YAs. Readers of all ages will find it difficult to set the book down without reading "just one more" short entry. Sample worksheets and lists of the journal assignments are appended. ?Dona Weisman, Northeast Texas Library System, Garland

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andrea Winburn:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the

book this improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want truly feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Typically the Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Joseph Mattos:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both day to day life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School.

Gloria Castaldo:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day through watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School can be the response, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Pamela Dodge:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This book Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School was colorful and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book Ask Me If I Care: Voices from an American High School has many kinds or variety. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and loosen up. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading that.

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