



Image From Novel List

Title: That Was Then, This Is Now

Author: S. E. Hinton

Publisher: Speak

Year of Publication: 1971

Number of Pages: 159

Genre: crime and drama



A sixteen year old boy lost in the stages of puberty, confused in the name of love and devastated by the world his new eyes have showed him. Before Bryon never had to fret about the consequences his wild actions had, now the worries keep stacking up, getting worse every day. Drugs, girls, gangs and revenge; now the one he loves the most is slowly slipping from his grasp. Author of the famous "The Outsiders", S. E. Hinton writes another spectacular, heart wrenching story. The same town, the same school, even some of the same characters, but this time it's a few years later. As someone who has read and absolutely fell in love with "The Outsiders," I was itching to hold another piece of S. E. Hinton's marvelous work. My expectations were met as soon as I laid eyes on the captivating words, quickly exceeding above and beyond what I had hoped to come. Best friends since before they could remember, Bryon was quick to accept Mark as his brother when his parents had drunkenly murdered each other in an argument. Now as they are slowly leaving their childhood and entering adulthood, an unwanted distance starts to grow in between their long cherished friendship. To my great astonishment, S. E. Hinton had decided to keep some of the characters from "The Outsiders," Randy, Ponyboy Curtis, Curly, Tim and Angela Shepard. The town, school and the boys' age are the same too. It was almost like reading a sequel.

The writing style and word choice let out so much feeling; every thought a character had, every word they said, was dripping with a new powerful emotion. I was so shocked at how much I felt when I read this book, if the character was sad, I was too. The author automatically had me choosing favorites and wishful predictions of how the story would end. Even when I had finished it, I kept thinking about it. Even though I had not liked the ending for the characters one bit, I loved the book. Much to my liking, the author's message was strong, even though there were several conflicts it always evolved around the theme. There was almost always something going wrong in the book; someone gets beat up, someone goes missing, mom is in the hospital, anymore and I would give too much away. What I'm trying to say is there is always some action waiting for your attention. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoyed reading "The Outsiders." With so much in common I couldn't help but think if that book as I read. So if you read this book, liked it and have not read her other books, then I would be heading to the library as soon as possible. If you haven't read The Outsiders, than I would recommend this book to middle school students or teenagers. Overall I don't think I could say enough times how much I loved this book. I was practically drooling over the pages. A saying often brought up in this book and a hint as to what is hiding in these pages, I quote "That was then, this is now."

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