



Sounds of Silence

Phillip Tomasso III

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Twelve-year-old Marco Lippa is the star pitcher for his Little League baseball team and does his best to lead his team to victory against their cross-town rivals, reveling in the cheering and applause.

After one particular game, he becomes sick and is rushed to the hospital. Treated for meningococcal disease, Marco wakes up to discover that he is deaf—and all of his dreams seem to crumble.

Now Marco must come to terms with living in a silent world—and the grief, anger, and loss that seem to go with it. He is enrolled at the state boarding school for the deaf, leaving behind his comfortable home and his family and friends while he re-learns how to communicate and function without his hearing.

As if that wasn't hard enough, he quickly discovers that being deaf does not exempt him from the “normal” anxieties he faced at home—bullies, girls, and fitting in. Will he ever find his way back to his dreams?

Sounds of Silence Details

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From Reader Review Sounds of Silence for online ebook

Phil says

A wonderful and engaging story of a 12 year old who becomes deaf due to meningitis. The frustration, struggles and adjustments he must make. This is categorized as a YA novel. I recommend it for all ages. A quick read. I thoroughly enjoyed it during my travels of the last few days.

Shana Festa says

According to Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, there are five stages of grief. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. While a far stretch from death, Marco feels as if his world has ended. Tomasso has given us a story so rich with character development that readers can follow each different character as they go through these stages.

The attention to detail written into the pages of Sounds of Silence is marveling. All the way through the book, I kept thinking that Tomasso must have first hand experience with the content. He did a fantastic job conveying sign language into something that I could picture in my mind. So description was his writing, it was almost as if I felt the vibrations of the music along with Marco.

Inspiring...is the only word to describe this piece of fiction from Phillip Tomasso. Clearly outside my purview, I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing this new genre. The only thing I didn't enjoy was the pacing of the story. Personally, I like hard hitting non-stop action. Pretty hard to find that in a book like this. So that's more a matter of personal taste as opposed to an issue with the writing.

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Angie says

This was such a good book that once I picked it up I couldn't put it down. It was about a young boy named Marco who became deaf after getting meningitis. It tells of how life can change in an instance, and how with a lot of help, things change, yes definatly, but can be overcome.

Marco loves baseball, wants to be a pitcher, but with the loss of his hearing his balance was affected as well. Seeing him trying to adjust to his new life was an emotional read for me. His family, his best friend all worked to make his life work, flashing lights for the bell etc., but learning sign language started him back on track. His little sister Marie was another good well written character.

It was when Marco started at a school for deaf kids things changed. He felt a sense of brotherhood with his younger roommate Kyle. I loved the descriptions of the school, how all the teachers and councillors work hard to help the kids, even small children learn to sign and adjust to life.

I think this is a book for readers of all ages, and when it ended I wanted to carry on and read more about Marco's life and just see how it turns out.

Linda Dawley says

This is a beautifully written, touching story of a twelve-year-old who becomes deaf after a sudden illness. Marco is pitching at a baseball game, and he's doing what he loves. But, he feels a little sick and why does the sunlight seem too bright today? After being rushed to the hospital, he finds himself deaf. This changes everything for him. It's hard for him to adjust to a world without sound and to learn to communicate all over again (this time with sign language). This book is an inspiring story about overcoming obstacles. The author's description makes everything come alive. (I'm not into baseball, but I found a new appreciation for the sport reading the description of Marco's baseball game.) I could even visualize the sign language mentioned in the book. I can tell that Tomasso did his homework, so much so, that this book almost reads like a non-fiction book (even though it isn't). I really enjoyed this book and I expect I'll re-read it at some point.
