



## Send

*Patty Blount*

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# Send

*Patty Blount*

**Send** Patty Blount

*It's been five years since I clicked Send.*

*Four years since I got out of juvie.*

*Three months since I changed my name.*

*Two minutes since I met Julie.*

*A second to change my life.*

All Dan wants for his senior year is to be invisible. This is his last chance at a semi-normal life. Nobody here knows who he is. Or what he's done. But on his first day at school, instead of turning away like everyone else, Dan breaks up a fight. Because Dan knows what it's like to be terrorized by a bully—he used to be one.

Now the whole school thinks he's some kind of hero—except Julie. She looks at him like she knows he has a secret. Like she knows his name isn't really Daniel...

## Send Details

Date : Published August 1st 2012 by Sourcebooks Fire

ISBN : 9781402273377

Author : Patty Blount

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Realistic Fiction, Romance, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Send for online ebook

## Ksenia says

There are things that I liked in Send, and things that I didn't.

### I liked

1. Send by Patty Blount takes a different approach on bullying than books I've read previously. Rather than centers on a victim, it tells the readers about the bully himself. We see that bullying affects not only victim but also bully, as well as their families.
2. Dan. He is a great main character. When I begin to read this book I wasn't expecting to like Dan as him being the bully. But I couldn't help but sympathize with him. There so much guilt and pain inside him, that it difficult to watch. He can't forget his past, he thinks he should suffer. He makes a big journey trying to forgive and learning to love.
3. Kenny. Kenny is thirteen years old Dan. Nobody, but Dan can see and hear him. Kenny lives in a room inside Dan's head. It sounds bizarre but Patty Blount makes a great job here. Actually Kenny is my favorite character in this book. He helps understand Dan better. And I liked their banter, arguing and their tender moments.
4. Mystery element. We don't know what exactly happened with Dan in the past. The author gives us only snippets of information. Though the mystery aspect is not mind-blowing, I guessed early in the book, it makes this book more interesting.

### I didn't like

1. Send wasn't as emotional as I expected. I wanted it to be grittier, more heartbreaking.
2. Romance. It didn't work for me. In my opinion there wasn't any chemistry between Dan and Julie.
3. This disturbing violent scene. (view spoiler) I don't see the purpose of it. While Send deals with such a serious topic as bullying and its aftermath, this book is told in rather light tones. So such graphic description of beating was unexpected and unnecessary.
4. Secondary characters. Brandon is a guy at Dan's new school, whom he tries to befriend. Brandon is bullied by Jeff. I think both Brandon and Jeff were underdeveloped. I also find the ending of this subplot rushed and unfinished. Also I have some issues with how Dan's parents were portrayed. Dan is very close to his parents, he shares with them his problems, and they are understanding and loving. Actually they are unrealistically understanding. Is it possible that the guy with such a past as Dan has this kind of relationship with his parents?

Send by Patty Blount is not a perfect book, but it deals with this serious topic in a unique way. If you interested in reading a book about bullying and its consequences you should give it a try.

You can find my reviews:

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## Gia says

Great book and vividly written. I enjoyed it. It was so gloomy though :(

Tortured boy.  
Tortured girl.  
Lies.  
Guilt.  
Bullying.  
Support.  
Family.  
Revenge.  
Hate.  
Love.  
Pain.  
Moving on ....

Oh, the ending...???!! >\_< :'0

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## Noella says

Daniel Ellison wants to keep his past a secret. With a name change and a fresh start, Dan thinks he might finally get to live a normal life. But intervening with a bullying incident puts attention on Dan and he has to be careful if he doesn't want to risk his identity being revealed. Dan decides to help the bullied victim Brandon as he knows what bullies can do to the bullied. Dan himself was once the bully and his actions landed him time in juvie and gave him emotional as well as physical scars. Dan also has a chance at love when he catches the attention of Julie Murphy but she's a mystery to him. One day she's hot and the next she's cold and she's definitely hiding some secrets of her own.

The first paragraphs of this book had me instantly intrigued. Daniel was conversing with a voice inside his head. I liked how the author used this voice (aka Kenny - his 13 year old self) throughout the whole story, especially to show (view spoiler). The story was a heavy one as each character had baggage. It took time for their backstories to be revealed. One part of the story was quite predictable, bordering on obvious such that you could see a trainwreck about to happen. (view spoiler) I didn't like how the last fifth of the book was dramatic and a little unrealistic as it seemed all of the loose pieces came together and was dealt with in one hit. (view spoiler).

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## Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

Send is one of those gripping stories that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. Send is a

story that can happen to anyone anywhere. Kids now a days have no idea what their words can do to others. They have no idea what their actions will cause others to do. In *Send* we get to see first hand what bullying can do to someone. It not only affects the bullied person and family but the bully and their family.

In *Send* we get to meet Kenny who is a 13 year old boy. He loves sports and school and he loves to pick on people. Kenny targets one of his classmates by posting something on the internet and his classmate kills himself. Kenny is punished by the law for what he did and when he reaches Juvenile Detention Kenny gets to meet some real bullies worse then him. Kenny does the time and comes home to his family. Which he is reminded of everyday that his classmate will never come home.

Upon being released Kenny and his family are harassed and his father decides it is best to move and change their name and start a new life. At First Kenny has nightmares and flash backs about what he did and he regrets it. But let's face it what is regret when you cause another person to kill themselves because of an action you took. Guilt is a mother \$%^@! So Kenny moves to another place where no one knows him and changes his name to Daniel. Only the past never really leaves you and on the first day of class at the new school Daniel is faced with a bully bullying another kid and he defends the kid.

So not what Daniel had in mind. The funny thing is is that Daniel has Kenny in his mind and he wars with him about everything. See Kenny has never really left Daniel. He may have changed his name and his address but he will never be able to rid himself of the guilt he has over the death of his classmate that he caused. As the story goes along it shows Kenny that Daniel does want to change and he will do whatever it takes to move on from the past.

Then enters Julie she is there when Daniel saves the bullied kid and she acts weird to me. She is hot one minute and cold the next. Everyone has secrets but will Daniels secret keep Julie away? Julie is Daniels emotional roller coaster because he starts to like her and want to be with her but the guilt he has is eating him inside. What will Julie chose? Will she give him a chance? What is redemption worth? Can he have a relationship with someone at this point in time?

I won't give away the twist at the end but dang it it was EPIC! I am so glad I was able to be a part of this EPIC story by reading it and being a part of the blog tour called It Only Takes One Click. Thank you Patty for writing such a compelling story.

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**Bee {Quite the Novel Idea} says**

**Istyria book blog ~ B's world of enchanted books**

So after reading *Some Boys* yesterday, I knew I had to read another book by this woman. She totally surprised me, came out of nowhere. So I looked her up on Goodreads and found this book. It was in the blurb of *Some Boys* too, so I decided to get me a copy and read that one. Just to see if it was as fantastic as *Some Boys* was. Well... Patty Blount just fried my brain and got herself a spot on my auto-buy list.

*Send* is about Dan. When he was fourteen, he made one of the biggest mistakes in his life. He was sent to juvie for almost a year and since then he's paid a high price for that one stupid mistake. Now it's a bit better. He and his family moved and changed their names. Now he can start again in a place where nobody knows him or what he did. But his first day at his new school doesn't start out as he planned. He breaks up a fight

while everyone's else just doesn't do anything. And now he's in the spotlight again. While he's trying hard to keep his past a secret, there is one girl who looks at him like she knows all of his secrets. Like that he knows what it's like to be bullied because he used to be one...

Bullying is a very hard topic for me. Not for the same reason as it is for Dan, the main character in this book. No, I used to be on the receiving end of it. So it's hard for me to read a book that centers around that. I honestly thought I wouldn't be able to finish it and I thought I'd hate Dan. But I finished it and I loved Dan. Still do. He was such a deep character. There were so many layers to him and I couldn't help feeling bad for him. Yeah, what he did was stupid. But it wasn't worth the price he paid. I won't say anything about that because it would ruin the book a bit if you knew beforehand. Dan's past gets revealed little by little and when he finally told the whole story, it destroyed me. I was a sobbing, crying mess and I thanked the gods I wasn't reading this book in public.

Patty seems to be one of those authors that isn't afraid to write about these kind of topics. *Some Boys* deals with rape and *Send* deals with suicide and both of them deal with bullying in different ways. Yeah, they're hard to read about. Really hard. It messes you up. But to be honest, we need more books about this kind of stuff. Hard, honest books that don't shy away from the truth because the things Patty write about could just as easily be true stories. It's terrifying to think about, but it's the truth. And I admire her for that. Not only her, there are other authors that do that. Like Katie McGarry, Colleen Hoover, Jessica Verdi,... All authors I love and admire for that. They write stories that need to be read by everyone. And even though I'm a mess afterwards and it fries my brain, I'll read every single one of their books without hesitation.

For those of you who don't know this, here's the missing epilogue of *Send*, which made me cry again. I did like the open ending in the book, but I loved finding out what happened after that. I really needed that closure. Oh, before I forget! So Dan talks to himself and he calls the voice in his head Kenny. Kenny even has his own room in Dan's head. It seems weird, right? But it was so right for this story! And it was funny too sometimes, which made the book feel a bit less heavy. And as strange as it sounds, I did grow to love Kenny as a separate character.

*Send* is a hard, honest and emotional book that messed me up so much I didn't know what was what for a few minutes after finishing it. It's a book that confirmed my love for Patty Blount, who now has a place on my auto-buy list. I recommend it to everyone!

*{My review for Some Boys will be up on my blog on August 1st, if you can't wait until then to read it, you can read it on Goodreads already! Just go here.}*

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## Heidi says

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Four Stars: A look at how one thoughtless act can destroy so many lives.

Dan wants a clean start at his new school for his senior year. He is desperately trying to move beyond the horrors that have plagued him for the last five years. When he was thirteen, Dan was a young boy named Kenny who posted a picture of a fellow classmate in cartoon underwear on the internet. That one thoughtless act resulted in the boy's suicide. Kenny was sent to juvenile detention and has paid dearly for his mistake. Now at eighteen his family has moved numerous times, sacrificed tremendously and tried in vain to put their lives back together. Kenny changed his name to Dan and his family has moved to another home in hopes of a new beginning. The only problem, this one juvenile act not only cost the life of the victim, but it has

destroyed the lives of countless others. Dan hopes that he can fly below the radar and graduate. All his plans of remaining incognito go out the window when he arrives at his new school and finds a bully picking a fight with another student in the parking lot. When no one intervenes, Dan jumps in and breaks up the fight. Can he somehow help this fellow student? Can he ever make amends for his online mistake?

What I Liked:

\*I am a big fan of books that take on the troubling topic of bullying, whether it be physical, verbal, or online abuse. I think that the old school thinking that bullying is part of growing up is wrong. Things are far worse these days when kids can go online and post vicious attacks against a fellow student under the guise of anonymity. Abusing another human is unacceptable and it is time we all realize this and take a stand. I applaud Ms. Blount's efforts to call attention to this hot issue. Her book, *Send*, brings us the story of a young man who at thirteen made a huge mistake in posting a picture of a fellow student he was bullying. His seemingly stupid act destroyed so many lives. This book discusses the far reaching consequences of his juvenile mistake.

\*I appreciated that this book not only discusses the consequences for the victim but it takes a realistic and in depth look at what happens to the perpetrator and their family. Can you imagine ruining the life of not only your victim but their family and your family not to mention the destruction of your future and your dreams? This book will make you sit up and take notice of how one act whether it was meant to be a harmless prank or something worse can be like a pebble tossed into a clear, glassy lake. That one small pebble will create ripples and waves that reach far across the water. Just like one stupid moment can devastate so many lives. I shudder to think of all the stupid things that we all do as we grow up. I hope that this book will help kids to realize that posting harmful things on the internet is something that can haunt their lives forever.

\*I was surprised to find that I strongly sympathized with Dan. Yes, he was a bully who made a stupid mistake, but it cost him dearly. Seeing the guilt that he carries is heart breaking. Dan has the support of an amazing family that help pull him through. Without his family, things would have been far worse, and trust me they are bad enough. Watching Dan struggle to put his life back together was an eye opening experience. Of course, we all tend to sympathize with the victim, but this book brings to light the other side of the coin. Bullying is horrible for everyone involved. In the end, I was glad to see that Dan was trying to be a better person by his actions: stopping a bullying incident and helping a victim.

And The Not So Much:

\*I have a few small considerations for this book. I wished that the actual event was discussed a bit more. The reader pieces together the story from splices of flashbacks and such but a firm, clear picture of what happened does not materialize until the final chapters. I think a more thorough depiction of the event early on would have elicited a more profound emotional impact.

\*The big twist and reveal was not a surprise, it was fairly obvious from the beginning what was going on. I liked Dan's involvement with Julie, but at the end I almost felt that the whole situation was a bit unrealistic. Nevertheless, the development makes an impact in that it shows how bullying devastates so many lives.

\*The ending is open ended and I found myself a bit disappointed in that I didn't get to see a little further down the path to see how everything turns out for Dan. I was also a bit frustrated that the situation between Brandon and his bully wasn't completely laid out. It was inferred that everything worked out, but I would love to see how the two diffused the situation and how they made amends.

*Send* is a book that will stick with me. The story packs a big emotional punch and it opens your eyes to the dangerous, far reaching consequences of bullying online and in person. This is a book that everyone should read as it brings up so many important points. I urge you to pick this one up and share it with the teenage readers in your life. Let's see if we can help put an end to this rise in bullying! Try to make the world a better place!

Favorite Quotations:

"For most people, the little voice in their heads was the voice of reason, a conscience or something. But mine was more like a mirror that reflected the things about me I wished nobody could ever see."

"But eventually, everybody looks back on the stuff they used to do and winces."

"The fist that connected with my face clinched it for me. God was bullied as a kid."

"As she led me down the first corridor, she shot me a look so cold I was willing to bet it could freeze a nuclear explosion mid-mushroom cloud and still have enough power left over for the fires or Hell."

"The days piled up, one on top of the other, the way they do when you fall into a routine. September bled into October with warm days, but the air lost that heavy wetness that made you feel like you were trying to breathe underwater."

"So I sat by a rickety picnic table while summer hung on by its thumbs, slurping my cake flavored ice, imagining how I could fix all the crap in my life."

"My God, was there anything women did not carry in their bags?"

"Eighteen year old men did not cry or admit to having cried. Ever."

"When you're sure....when you feel it deep down in your gut...when you'd rather suffer in hell sitting through back-to-back chick flicks or enduring endless hours of shopping, holding her bags just so you wouldn't have to live a day without her, that's how you know it's real."

I received a copy of this book courtesy of the publisher in exchange for an honest review. I received no compensation and all opinions expressed are my own."

Originally posted @ <http://rainydayramblings.typepad.com/>

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## **nesha ~? says**

Qué hermoso. No recuerdo haber marcado frases de este libro porque todo el libro en sí es bueno.

Comencé a leerlo con expectativas promedio, pensando en que, probablemente, sería una decepción más, pero no fue así.

Te cuenta la historia de un chico atormentado por lo que hizo en el pasado. Me sentí identificada. Cuando crees que eres totalmente culpable y que no tienes perdón alguno, la vida te da una oportunidad. Aprendí mucho de él. No me arrepiento de haberlo leído. ¡Mi libro favorito de lo que va del año!

PD: aunque a veces haya un romance cursi que hum, es pasable.

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## **Angela Auten says**

### **Send Review**

Book Rating: 5 stars out of 5. Dan is hiding a secret. His real name isn't Dan. Dan had been in juvie before he moved to New York. He was a delinquent in New Jersey. He sent a picture to Facebook that ended with a suicide. He was labeled as a sex offender. Dan felt really horrible for this. He ended up creating Kenny in his mind. Dan didn't want to get noticed. On the first day of school he stops a fight. Julie was sitting in her car watching. That ticks Dan off. She could have stopped the fight at any time. He told her that to his face. That made Julie angry too. Dan decided that he would friend the boy that was getting bullied. He knew what it was like to be a bully. He didn't want to see that happen to Patrick. Julie and the boy that he fought with ended up being in his speech and debate classes. He knew that he couldn't get away from the girl with the ice blue eyes. He could tell that he was starting to like her. Over time Julie and Dan start to fall in love with each



other. Patrick starts to fall apart too as the book progresses. The ending was completely shocking. I really didn't expect it. This book literally tore at my heart strings! I was holding my breath at the end of the book. I was very worried for Dan. This one was breathtaking for me. I could not put it down for the life of me. This book made me sad. It made me laugh. It made me angry. I fell head over heels in love with it. This was one of my favorite reads of 2016.

Characters: 5 stars out of 5. Dan was an amazing character throughout the book. Yes, he was angry, but he also felt guilty. He didn't like what he did to his family. He truly cared for them. He felt bad they had to keep moving because of him. I loved that he took a stand against bullying. He used to be a bully himself. He knew what the consequences were. He really shaped himself into being a great person. When he told Patrick and his family about the story, I wanted to cry. My heart broke for him.

Julie...she was a moody person. Did not like her as much as Dan. She had anger issues, but I understand why. I just didn't like her attitude and wish she didn't exist. I felt bad for her a little bit. The only reason I could feel bad for her was because her little brother was the one that committed suicide. I can only sympathize with her for those reasons.

Patrick...he was a lonely soul. I felt bad for him. He was so tired of being bullied...I thought he was going to have a tragic end. I'm so glad that Dan was there to help him. Patrick was also angry at times, but he was at least better than Julie. He had me worried through out the book. I loved him though. I really did. Just as much as I loved Dan.

Favorite Quote: "I pulled up my shirt, showed him the scars, ignored the gasps. "You think I did this to myself? I know exactly what it's like to be threatened, Brandon. To feel so helpless you're sure you'll die. To do something so bad you can't make it right no matter how sorry you are, and you can't undo it or forget it no matter how hard you pray, no matter how much you'll drink. I know, Brandon."" This part of the book was really hard for me. It stuck with me.

Writing Style: 5 stars out of 5. Thank you, Patty Blount. This book was breath taking and I enjoyed every single second of it!

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### **Scott-robert Shenkman says**

\*\*\*This review is filled with spoilers of the very worst type, so if you've made it this far, this is your final warning. I even spoil another popular book. I just can't talk about this book without talking about everything that happened.\*\*\*

I went into this book with trepidation. I was Liam. I was bullied throughout my entire public school career, so badly that, one day, when I was 15, I took one of my father's pocket knives and attempted to carve a vein out of my left arm. It's a good thing I didn't know that a cross cut is far less effective than a cut straight up the arm, or I wouldn't be writing this. But that was 31 years ago, and now I have a scar that's actually my badge of bravery, because I got out of high school alive and actually made a life for myself. I am also SO thankful that I went to school prior to the invention of the net, because then it would probably have been even worse, and the fact that you can google "how to successfully commit suicide" would not have been lost to a kid that excelled in research.

Instead, this book made me angry. Very angry.

I was angry at Julie, for obvious reasons, for a good part of the book. Of course I knew exactly who she was from the moment I met her (If you've read *Ten Tiny Breaths* you'll know what I mean). I couldn't be sure if she was plotting revenge or something else. So even though I felt for her, I never actually felt comfortable with her. I was angry at Pops. I'm sorry, but the way he turned his back on Ken was just wrong. No matter how angry he was over Ken's "running", the kid needed someone to love him, not a wall of silence. I was angry at the parents, because they just couldn't accept the level of guilt Ken was experiencing. It was almost as if they wanted to say to him "snap out of it". And of course I was angry at Mr. Murphy, not for the fact that he wanted revenge – I'm a father and I could get what he was feeling – but the fact that he pushed everyone else out of his life in order to get it. And he destroyed himself.

I was expecting to hate Dan. The fact is, he was the character I actually liked the most. I actually empathized with him. I felt his pain (I hope that doesn't sound too Clintonian). I like that he "got" it, that he was mature enough and good enough of a person to feel the remorse he did. He was right to feel awful for what he did, but he wasn't a murderer. I felt from him even though we at one point would have been on opposite sides of the fence. That is an achievement that the author can be proud of.

See, what I wish had been brought up more in the book, besides the fact that it was Liam's choice not to talk to anyone about what was going on (the same choice I made), and the fact that it was Liam's choice to commit suicide (again, the same choice I made), Ken's posting of the picture was not actually the straw that broke the camel's back – no, it was every kid that clicked on that picture and left a hateful comment behind. They share the same amount of guilt that Ken has, maybe more, because a picture is one thing, but words are so much more harmful. And I can guarantee you that no one punished them.

In the end, while the prose and dialogue was excellent, I felt that most of the characters were "off" in a way. I just didn't "get" them. The only minor character that felt real to me was Jeff. He wasn't a one dimensional bully, and there was a very good reason for why he was so hostile to Brandon. Misplaced reason, but understandable. And I also felt that a false sense of hope was written into the story. Not only would Ken not be going to that particular college, but there would be a hell of a lot more than the legal profession that would be closed to him (see below). Finally, the fact that he says to himself "nothing matters" a few pages before the end didn't exactly end the book on the level of hope that I think the final email is supposed to inspire.

Kids can be rotten. A 13-year old doesn't have the same conscience that a 21-year old does – in fact, the brain has to grow and evolve until it's 21-22 years old. Kids can make terrible choices. They need to be taught. They need to be corrected. I felt that Ken's punishment was excessive. I forgave the people who tortured me. I had no choice. If you carry that kind of poison around and don't let it go, it is ultimately you who will be poisoned. A person needs to set themselves free the first chance they get. I hope Brandon and Jeff were able to work things out. I hope that Brandon was able to free himself. Hell, as the years went by, some of my tormenters became my friends. We grew up. They matured and found their consciences. I actually felt healed that some of these people were able to do a 180 and become my friends. It wasn't just forgiveness, it let me embrace the past and actually fix it in a way. So I totally believe that Julie could love Ken and maybe they would have a future together.

This is one thing from reality that bothers me: Not everyone on the sex offenders list is a rapist or a pedophile. There are quite a few young teenagers out there who get put on this list for playing with internet porn. This is also becoming a bigger and bigger problem. And I think the punishment far outweighs the crime here. Once a person goes on that list, their life is essentially over. They probably won't get accepted to college. Probably no one will hire them. Of course no one will marry them because of the fact that they're "perverts". And they should definitely not have children, because the state can snoop in at any time, for any

reason it feels like (no suspicious act need to have occurred or be reported) and take the children permanently away. In our society's zeal to keep sex offenders away from us – which is a very good thing – we have gone overboard in some cases and are ending lives before they ever begin. It reminds me of the lists that McCarthy kept. I worked as a paralegal for many years, and you can believe me when I tell you Ken would never have been accepted to a school like USC (or SUNY for NYS residents) and certainly will never be hired in a job that pays much more than minimum wage. A kid who posts naked pictures on the net should in no way be treated like a rapist or a pedophile. They've done wrong, but their lives should not be destroyed because of it. So, in the end, I felt that this story caused me to sympathize more with the bully than with the one who was bullied. And, again, I say this as one who was tortured through his school years and came very close to being Liam: Liam's life ended quickly. Ken will not be so lucky. And I would never wish that kind of fate on any of the kids who tormented me. There is justice, there is punishment, and then there is just revenge. Revenge gets people nowhere, as Liam's father demonstrated.

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## **A. Bookzilla. says**

Wow. This was... Had I known this was so heavy maybe I wouldn't have read it.

Why I even expected something lighter after reading the blurb, I don't know. Believe me, it will make you feel everything along with Dan and the feelings are not at all pleasant. Regret. Guilt. Horrible self-loathing.

Dan is a good person, I can say that without doubt. The guilt he lives with was killing me. He was a thirteen year old boy - I don't think he was even capable of knowing the consequences of what he was about to do before clicking "Send". When I look back at my thirteen year old self, I can definitely tell you that I wouldn't be able to separate right from wrong in a mature way.

He constantly tries to do something to redeem himself, all the while fighting with his inner demon that what he did is irredeemable. It's heartbreaking, every time things start to look up, he dreads that something will happen to bring him down, and even worse, he thinks he deserves it.

I think that we are always taught to sympathize with the victim. But clearly, nothing is black and white - the perpetrator does not always have to be a monster. I guess we all make mistakes. Dan never really justifies what he did, now a new adult, he knows what he did was wrong, but can you really blame a child for such a lapse in judgement? I don't think I can, at least not in the way I would a grown-up. Dan has a family that is so loving and supportive of him, and I can't imagine what this whole thing must have felt like for them. Did they fail him as parents? And that's the thing with this story, you are just left wondering. Is he really a bad person? Was the punishment too hard for what he did considering he was just a child? Am I a bad person for thinking they should have cut him some slack? I just don't know.

Julie... (view spoiler)

The ending is...realistic. You are left to your own imagination to see the story off. (view spoiler)

I think I may need a sequel for this, just to know he's okay. I feel oddly connected to this character.

Clearly, this book is thought-provoking. Sometimes it's worth hearing both sides of the story, even if your first instinct is to judge. I recommend this book, but be prepared because it's not a light, happy read.

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????? ♥Team Magnus Damora FOREVER♥ says

3.5

### Themes: Bullying and Suicide

I can't talk about this without mentioning a sentence that was the reason I *had* to finish this book...

*You think saving this one is gonna make up for the one you killed?*

Yes! It's a story of redemption (& I love those).

At 13, Kenneth made a choice a lot of kids his age choose for the sole reason of fun. Now fun can be dangerous and Kenneth Mele's life changed because of that. A simple act of pressing a button can have the horrible impact on someone else's life. And 5 years later, and after moving to a lot of cities, they decide to settle with a new identity. In this city, Kenneth, now as Daniel, meets Julie Murphy but it's an insta-hate relationship. But then, after having classes together, they started getting friendly (*maybe so friendly*) and we see how they overcome that hate.

Let me first talk about bullying. I've read about it so many times that it feels like opening my own scars again & again. I never did find that book that carries my own vision of how this should be faced. Fortunately, Send with this Kenneth did that. That leads me to talk about Kenneth/Daniel.

Unlike Perfect Chemistry's Alex, I felt the weight of Kenneth's suffering. He's someone who was looking for redemption and overcoming that emotional wall he's built around himself. I find myself appreciating this guy the minute I finished Chapter 1. No kidding! Even when he knows that facing those bullies were bad for him and his cover, he decides to do something & not just stand there and watch. He had that strength when facing them that I felt through the pages. He's buried himself (that shows in his other self Kenneth) so deep because of that mistake, that he doesn't recognize how actually good he is (Speaking of the other self, it was a bit annoying at first, 'coz I don't know what he's supposed to be but I got it :D). Just how he was determined to help Brandon was enough to make me admire that guy's persistence.

As for Julie, the other significant part of this story, I didn't really warm up to her until the second half of the book. She was another lost soul after her brother's suicide. She carries enough baggage to match Dan's. But anyways, I couldn't relate to her completely and I still don't feel her connection with Dan. Maybe she could have been written better, idk.

Kenneth's parents were the complete opposite of Julie's. He has such a great and caring family, that I felt jealous of him. Even his pop was awesome. They had this open line of communication with him about *everything* but he just whines *\*gimme ur parents, kid\**. They were amazing.

At the end, for me this book wasn't about the romance as it's about this sensitive issue kids find themselves in these days. I totally appreciate Patty Blount's style of writing & very unique take on this. I don't think I'll forget Kenneth Mele.

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## Danny says

That was a powerful and very emotional book!!!!

If it wouldn't be for the ending this would be a 5 star..... I truly dislike open endings. I want closure!

Anyways, SEND was a strong heartbreaking debut! One of my favorite aspects was Ken/Dans family. Every kid needs parents like this, who love you no matter what and who will do anything to protect you.

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## Purcheria says

I am torn. Completely, irrevocably torn right now. This book had all the componenets of a book that should take my heart, twist it up, squeeze the shit out of it and then spit it out. But, and there is always a "but" isn't there, that is not what happened.

Let me start by saying that I liked this book. It was a solid story with likable characters and a message that every high school student should listen to. The main issue that is dealt wiith here is one that any mother with a child in high school especially would fear. The subject of bullying is a tough topic to tackle and the author does a good job of doing just that. The story started off great. The emotion that Dan goes through, the guilt that's tearing him apart, its really tough to read about. Sometimes I just wanted to reach out and just hold him. To think of the amount of pain that such a young man deals with day after day, *every* day is trully mindblowing.

That being said, the other characters in the story did not do it for me. I did not really feel much depth in their emotions. And dare I say it, they felt a little fake and contrived. Especially after it seemed that EVERY single character was dealing with the same thing. I mean how much bad luck does this kid (Dan) have?!

Also, the romance, if you can call it that. I felt like I completely missed something. It seemed like out of nowhere they're epressing their love for each other. Maybe it's because of the time that elapsed from the time he started school to the time everything comes to a head (because it did pass quickly) , I don't know. But it did not seem *true* to me. It did not feel real.

And I dit NOT like the end of the book, at ALL. The whole thing with Liam's father. Ridiculous. Completely unbelievable and utterly ridiculous. It felt like the ending of a really bad made-for-tv movie. That brought the book down a few notches for me. And what was that with the actual end of the book? I changed the page expecting more and there was none. NONE! It just ended! Again with more questions than answers...

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## David Nowlin says

I thought there was a strong beginning and I had high hopes for this book, but it was ultimately disappointing. Most of the story has serious credibility problems. I felt like almost all of the characters, at almost every turning point, made decisions that didn't ring true. And on a more fundamental level the essential conflict itself didn't ring true.

I found myself waiting, page after page, chapter after chapter for the big reveal on what it was that Ken actually did to earn the title 'murderer' and when it came it wasn't even close to adequate. It wasn't even adequate to support the charges he was actually convicted of. New Jersey (like most states) prohibits the

possession or distribution of images of children engaged in sexual acts or in the simulation of sexual acts... not children dressing out in a locker room in cartoon underwear. I mean... No one said the writer was a lawyer but I think if I were writing a story that was absolutely anchored by a criminal conviction in the main character's past, I might look up the statute he was convicted under. But whatever.

Ultimately the story really picked up toward the end and I thought it had a strong finish (though there were a few eye-roll moments) but it wasn't enough to make up for the fundamental flaws.

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## **Giselle says**

A surprisingly heartfelt and touching novel on the subject of bullying. *Send* is a story about a bully who is trying to forgive himself for going too far.

Dan is starting a new school with a new identity; he and his family are trying to move on from a past long wanting to be forgotten. Dan instantly appears as someone unstable, though not necessarily in a bad way. He's dealing with a lot of grief and guilt over what he has done in his past, not to mention his 13 year old self - Kenny - that he still talks to on a daily basis. Yes, this does sound bizarre, and it is, I mean, his younger self is living in a room in his head, sometimes he sulks, sometimes he slams doors, it's all very... odd. But you know what? It fits. This imaginary alter ego used to be who he was... before. He hasn't forgiven him, he also doesn't want to forget him. I found this very enlightening; it's a great way to get to know Dan in a more personal manner. So, although it may be a bit... unorthodox, we get to experience his inner turmoil in a truly vivid and unique fashion. Kenny definitely plays an important role in this novel, proving himself a crucial character.

Alter ego aside, Dan is a broken individual who has been through extreme pain and fear throughout the years. Everyone makes mistakes, and sadly, Dan's has had grave consequences. I found myself drawn to his character very quickly. His emotions roll right off the pages. His character has a lot of depth; a lot of carving went into creating his layered personality, his damaged spirit, and his guilty conscience. I really enjoyed how largely character driven this novel was. Equally important were the side characters. We have a blooming friendship and a budding romance, both alternating from heartwarming to frustrating. Brandon, Julie, Jeff, Kenny - they all serve a purpose inside this new chapter in Dan's life.

The point of this story is about Dan figuring himself out; forgiving his 13 year old self for what he did. His past is given to us in increments, we don't learn right away exactly what happens. This way of telling grabs your attention, making you hypothesize, assume, or even deduce what happened before you learn the truth. It's not to create anticipation, but rather build our understanding of Daniel before we learn all about Kenny: his past. The plot itself tries, and fails, to hide what some may consider a twist. However, I think the predictability of it may not be completely unintentional. I'm sure that, like me, many readers will not be shocked by the developments that occur, and I'm also sure that just as many will not care. It's not about "aha" moments, but about Dan finally having the best reason to fight against his inner-self and learn to trust, to love, to hope, and to forgive.

A very emotional read that deals with a serious topic so often ignored, yet so affecting to those victimized - *Send* is a great novel that will be inspiring to both young and old, leaving a great message in its wake.

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*An advance copy was provided by the publisher for review.*

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