



## The Driving Lesson

*Ben Rehder*

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## **The Driving Lesson** Ben Rehder

From Edgar Award-nominated author Ben Rehder:

Charlie Dunbar had big plans for the summer break, but becoming a fugitive was nowhere on the list. Even more unexpected, his partner in crime is his own ailing grandfather. Now they're on the run, trying to make it across the country to see a special kind of doctor, while the world becomes mesmerized by their journey. They are the subject of heated debates on cable news channels. Thousands of people voice their support on Facebook fan pages. And Charlie's own parents appear on live TV to plead for him to come home safely. But Charlie isn't ready yet. He's determined to get his grandfather to Seattle. The only question is, will the police stop him first? \*\*Recommended for ages 13 to adult.\*\*

## **The Driving Lesson Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Driving Lesson for online ebook**

### **Joyce says**

I read this as a free Kindle book. Although it is considered young adult, I think it is very appropriate for adults as well because of a very serious issue it deals with---the right to choose to die when faced with a terminal illness.

This is a heartwarming story of a 15 year old boy Charlie and his grandfather, Henry, who drive from Abilene, TX to Seattle, WA. At the beginning of the novel, we find out that Charlie's grandfather has a form of bone cancer and that his condition is terminal. On the last day of school, Charlie's grandfather meets him outside the school and asks Charlie to drive him to a doctor. Since Charlie doesn't have a driver's license and had only recently begun driving lessons with his father, he is pretty nervous about this. However, since he loves his grandfather deeply, he agrees to do it. Hours later, Charlie finds out that his grandfather wants to go all the way to Seattle, and Charlie's parents still have no idea where he is. Eventually, Charlie's parents are informed but Charlie has decided he wants to do this in spite of his parents' displeasure with both him and his grandfather.

On their way to Seattle, Charlie and his grandfather make stops and detours to make sure Charlie seems some places his grandfather thinks he should see. There are a couple of times when it looks like they won't make it to Seattle.

The writing style is definitely geared toward young adults with the expressions and language used at times. However, I found it entertaining. There was no profanity which I appreciated. Charlie and his grandfather are both memorable characters.

I felt like this was a very worthwhile read in spite of its brevity and young adult writing style.

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### **Jerry-Mac says**

yes i began this book on the evening of the 22nd and finished it in one sitting. hard to pass by a book with the cadillac ranch on the cover and the promise of a road trip. it was a quick and fun read. of course i have traveled all the roads taken in the book, so it brought back my own memories as i followed charlie and his opa as they travel from austin to....ah no spoilers. just a fun read. i hope you read and enjoy. i'm now looking for another book by ben to see what he does in another genre.

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### **Norma Huss says**

I enjoyed this book tremendously. Rather surprised me--- It's in 14-year-old Charlie's viewpoint (and I'm a great-grandma). Grandma's really should say something like this is scandalous---a child driving a car half-way across the country, aided and abetted by his grandfather who is seriously ill, dodging the police and evading his parents. But that's not what I want to say. I say, "Go for it!" (Just don't let MY grandson try this ;-)) It's thoughtful, surprising, and sounds just right.

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### **Judy says**

I did not know what to expect after the first paragraph. But it turned out to be a wonderful coming of age story about a grandparent and his 14 year old grandson.

Charlie Dunbar is the only son of Glen and Sarah Dunbar. Charlie is what I would call a typical 14 year old. He knows right from wrong, but he can be "bullied" into making a wrong choice by someone calling him names. So starts the journey of Charlie and his Opa.

As they travel across country from Abilene TX to Seattle WA and stops in between, Charlie "Bud" and his grandfather learn to trust each other, learn to be honest with each other and generally have a great time.

This story touched me. I am a grandparent. I wonder if I would have made the choice Charlie's grandfather made if my diagnosis had been terminal? Would I have been brave enough to share with a young, almost adult grandchild. I doubt it. This is a great story. I cried, I laughed and shook my head in amazement. I recommend it for all.

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### **Robbie says**

#### **Wonderful**

I knew from the first page of this book that this one would be special. I wasn't wrong. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a story that is touching, funny, heartwarming and thought-provoking. And it will be appreciated by readers of either gender.

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### **Rachel Phillips says**

#### **It's real good**

As we'd say in Texas - real good. Thanks, Mr. Rehder. I grew up in Texas, out west around Odessa, then Austin for some good years. Your books take me home to larger-than-life Texas.

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### **Jerry-Mac says**

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!  
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/14336160>

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### **Linda says**

## **Great Read**

This book was great. At first, the story line seems unbelievable; but soon you are hooked. Then, your heart is involved and the story feels real.

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## **Emily says**

### **Sweet and Real**

Some relationships are so special and I loved being part of Henry's and Chuck's. A predictable ending still didn't prepare me and it hit me in the feels, hard. Great story.

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## **Kathleen says**

Written for a YA audience, the story is appropriately told through the eyes of 14 YO Charlie's view point. And it is a good story with a fabulous premise. Boy and his grandfather on a road trip together at the end of the grandfather's life. It raises complex issues and neither pontificates nor really argues for a particular POV, which is good. I found the writing, however, uninspired. I nearly gave up on it several times. However, by the end, because it did not serve up a trite easy answer to the complex issue raised, I was pleasantly glad I did not give up.

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## **Joyce (Chloe) says**

Cute.

Charlie Dunbar had big plans for the summer break, but becoming a fugitive was nowhere on the list. Even more unexpected, his partner in crime is his own ailing grandfather. Now they're on the run, trying to make it across the country to see a special kind of doctor, while the world becomes mesmerized by their journey. They are the subject of heated debates on cable news channels. Thousands of people voice their support on Facebook fan pages. And Charlie's own parents appear on live TV to plead for him to come home safely. But Charlie isn't ready yet. He's determined to get his grandfather to Seattle. The only question is, will the police stop him first? \*\*Recommended for ages 13 to adult.\*\*

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## **A says**

I did enjoy this book. I found it to be an easy read. It made me really think about my beliefs and feelings toward the choices that we make in life.

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### **Angel \*\*Book Junkie\*\* says**

I truly liked this book as told in first person it is the story of a young boy who goes on a trip with his opa and causes an all out police search with him. I do not believe in writing spoilers because I know how nosy I am and I always read them even when they are hidden. This story made me feel as though I knew the people or I was watching it first hand on the news. The author did a wonderful job of making me feel as though I could see the story and feel the excitement within the book. If I could give it a 4.5 I would but, definitely a heart breaking story which will show you that sometimes the hardest choices may be for the best. I guess the only reason I could not give it a five is because of my personal beliefs about the subject at hand but, still a very good story.

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### **Kara Prem says**

This book is a pretty easy read, but it deals with physician assisted suicide, and certainly makes you think about it. Charlie is looking forward to summer break, never expecting that he'll become a headline story on CNN, but that's what happens. His grandfather has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and only has a short time left to live. "Opa" has decided to seek out help in Washington (they live in Texas), one of the only states where assisted suicide is legal. He picks Charlie up from school and they take off on a drive to a doctor's appointment. Charlie doesn't realize at first that this appointment is several states away. Of course, Charlie is

reported as missing, and national news agencies pick up on the whole story launching a debate on the merits of what his grandpa is trying to do.

It's a sweet look at his relationship with his family, and does not have a miracle at the end, but that's ok, because that's how life is.

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