

Book review

Young Queen

The story of a girl who conquered the world

Category: Book Reviews / Personal stories

Author: Parris Goebel

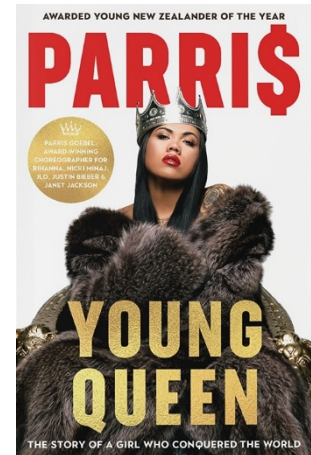
Year: 2018

Publisher: Mary Egan Publishing, NZ

ISBN: 9780473401283

Audience: For Youth

Summary: A different kind of autobiography that both inspires and activates the reader to be unapologetically you



When I picked up this book, I was expecting a stock standard autobiography. The story of someone's life told using flowery language and a singular story arc, summarised with the lessons they had learned in life. But within the first couple of pages, I knew that this was an entirely different kind of autobiography. I was transported into the world of Parris Goebel and I was completely hooked!

Parris has told her story in a way that both inspires and activates the reader to be unapologetically you. She tells her story, but does it in a way that is both conversational (like a catch up with an old mate) and illuminating (like a big sister giving you a pep talk). It is rare to find literature that truly reflects a person's identity, but I felt that the way Parris writes gives a real voice to the young NZ-born Poly identity – and I'm 100% here for it!

Her story is inspirational, but more importantly, Parris is clearly trying to use her platform to lift up the world around her. As a dancer, I couldn't help but find myself exclaiming "YAASS" while reading through all her advice for surviving in the dance world. As a brother and an uncle, I found myself thinking about the powerful women in my own life. As a NZ-born Samoan, I was filled with pride to see that one of our own has reached so much success but is still challenging herself to a life in the service of others.

Young Queen is a great read and comes with a powerful message from a powerful woman. Even better, it is coupled with a beautiful [teaching resource](#) to encourage young people to explore their own identity and pathways to the future. This book is a must read for every young person that doesn't quite fit in.

Reviewed by Jono Selu, Community Engagement & Health Promotion Officer, Mental Health Foundation

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