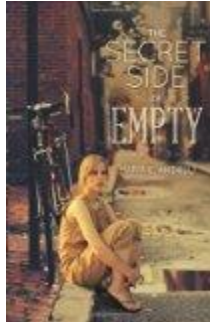


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction



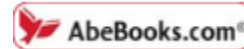
The Secret Side of Empty.

Andreu, Maria E. (author).

Mar. 2014. 336p. Running Press, hardcover, \$16.95 ([9780762451920](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780762451920)). Grades 9-12.

[REVIEW](#). First published April 30, 2014 (Booklist Online).

With her blonde hair and pale skin, Monserrat Thalia (M.T. for short) is as American as apple pie. Her grades are impressive; she would be the perfect candidate for an Ivy League school, and she dreams of a perfect life and a perfect boyfriend in a perfect world. But that's all it is—a dream—and not one she feels she can act upon. Like her parents, she is in the country illegally, and no one, not even her best friend, has a clue. Being undocumented isn't her only challenge: her father, frustrated with their situation, is abusive toward her. When events force M.T. to feel as though she has nothing more to lose, she admits to her status and is surprised to learn she can get help moving forward with her life. With immigration reform a hot button issue across the country, this book couldn't be timelier. Written with the compassion and raw emotions of one who has lived in the shadows herself, Andreu's debut offering is a winner.—*Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *The Secret Side of Empty*

- *Dream Things True*
- *A Step from Heaven*