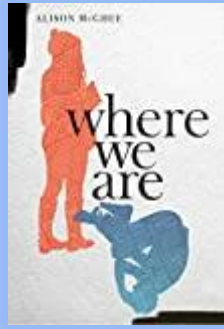


Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction

Where We Are

Alison McGhee



Sept. 2020. 272p.

Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy, \$18.99
(9781534446120). Grades 9-12.

[REVIEW](#). First published
October 1, 2020 (*Booklist*).

Sesame and Micah love planning their future South Minneapolis café together, and only they know their deepest secrets: Sesame lives under the foster care radar in an abandoned

structure following her grandmother's death; Micah is concerned about changes in his parents since becoming disciples to the "Prophet." Late one night before winter break, Micah and his parents are whisked underground by the cult leaders, forced to leave their phones behind. When Sesame realizes that Micah has disappeared, she enlists the help of her best friends and a gay couple for whom Sesame works. While following clues, Sesame begins questioning her grandmother's insistence on absolute self-reliance, consequently learning to ask for help and embrace the knowledge that she's not a solitary being. This is not just a novel about loyalty and friendship but also family and survival. Sesame and Micah tell their stories in alternating chapters, and McGhee effectively captures the teens' isolation, Micah's desperation, and Sesame's determination. Perfect for readers searching for a realistic story about goodness in the face of evil. — *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *Where We Are*

- *The Liar's Daughter*
- *Seed*