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God of Beer

By Garret Keizer

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Garret Keizer's gripping novel about young men and women desperate for change bears witness to the dangerous force of ideas and the searing power of friendship. Here is a novel that looks truth squarely in the eye, and dares to keep on looking.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Beer, class and protest intersect in Keizer's (No Place but Here) creative but not completely successful first novel, about teens in rural Vermont. Led by Quaker Oats, the intellectual pal of "towny" narrator Kyle, a group of friends forms SUDS, or Students Undermining a Drunk Society; the group strives to "lower the drinking age, raise the drinker's awareness [and] destroy the non-drinker's stigma" through nonviolent protest. They hold a party at which guests choose mystery drinks that may be alcoholic or not, and recycle trashed bottles. Momentum builds, but when the local golden girl, Diana, is killed driving a drunk guy home, the group and their rebellion falls apart. Tensions only escalate when "redneck" David is arrested for smashing beer bottles at a convenience store because they contained what killed his friend. Keizer handles high school society expertly (at Diana's funeral, the students play "Candle in the Wind" and one reads a bad poem), and he brings the right details to his characterizations of the teens' families, all of whom occupy different places within the town's social strata. The flaws are those of excess: the author juggles more conflicts than he can quite handle and introduces more characters than he can gracefully track. Even so, his story has the ring of authenticity; it's a promising debut. Ages 13-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-From the sobering dedication, "For those I taught, the living and the dead," to the predictable but necessary car-crash plot, an interesting cast of teen and adult characters populates this story set in rural Vermont. High school senior Kyle feels average, but has friends who excel. "Quaker" Oats is smart and a committed pacifist. Beautiful Diana is their longtime best friend, Kyle's unrequited love, and a good person. David is a redneck, backwoods hunter given to rages that Kyle and his friends often try to assuage. Newcomer Condor is inexplicably nasty to David. For a class project, Quake and the gang create an unofficial nonviolent social protest they call the Beer Rebellion, or SUDS: Students Undermining a Drunk Society. They cite three goals: "Lower the drinking age, raise the drinker's awareness, and destroy the non-drinker's stigma." During a party, Condor gets drunk and sober Diana is killed while driving him home. David rages, emptying the coolers of beer at the mini-mart, smashing bottles in the parking lot until arrested. At his trial, Quake follows suit in the courtroom. Kyle watches them work through their subsequent community service, gains a better understanding of Condor, and wrestles with his own choices. The plot wanders around, leaving readers a little unsettled about what the kids are really trying to accomplish. However, the book does mirror their attempts to reconcile our society's conflicting and often hypocritical attitudes. This message in a bottle is a brave, if uneven, attempt to provoke thought about this difficult, oft-ignored matter.

Joel Shoemaker, Southeast Junior High School, Iowa City, IA

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About the Author

GARRET KEIZER is the author of eight critically acclaimed books, including No Place But Here, Getting Schooled, and The Unwanted Sound of Everything We Want. A former teacher and current contributing editor of Harper's Magazine, he lives with his wife, Kathy Keizer, in northeastern Vermont.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Tillery:

This God of Beer tend to be reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The reason why of this God of Beer can be one of the great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed an individual with information that might be will shock your earlier knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this God of Beer forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

James Drake:

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book can filled the space in your house, you can have it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. This kind of God of Beer can give you a lot of good friends because by you looking at this one book you have issue that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This particular book can be one of one step for you to get success. This publication offer you information that maybe your friend doesn't understand, by knowing more than other make you to be great people. So , why hesitate? Let me have God of Beer.

Kent Walker:

As a scholar exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or make summary for some publication, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's soul or real their passion. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading seriously. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring and can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this God of Beer can make you feel more interested to read.

Eliza Gold:

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose typically the book God of Beer to make your own reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading talent is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to open up a book and go through it. Beside that the publication God of Beer can to be a newly purchased friend when you're sense alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of their time.

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