



Tribes

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Percy's father, a famous anthropologist, died in Africa four years ago; and Percy has taken on his father's eyes to see the world as a brilliant Observer. He and his friend Elissa are fascinated by the ritualistic world called Grade Twelve: the Jock tribe; the Teacher tribe; the Born Again tribe; the Cool and Detached tribe; the Lipstick/Hairspray tribe, not to mention Mr. Verplaz, the Shaman. For Percy it's crucial to withdraw, analyze, and remain above it all. But wait—he's studying real people, who complicate things. Like Elissa, the only person who can come close to him, maybe too close. The only person who knows how painful it was last year when their best friend Willard died. As graduation approaches, the looming ritual ratchets up Percy's deepest, hidden feelings and reveals the truth about his father's disappearance.

From the Hardcover edition.

Tribes Details

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Author : Arthur Slade

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From Reader Review Tribes for online ebook

Melmcbride says

This is a good young adult novel about identity, family, friendship and the confusing social codes of high school. Slade transcends jock/preppy/punk social categories and tackles social confusion via an anthropology theme. The first person narration provides a bit of literary complexity and would serve as a great introduction to the unreliable narrator voice. I recommend this for grade 9 English (or reluctant readers in 10 or 11).

Lizzy says

Reading Rants Underappreciated Teen Books

Regine Haensel says

This was my second time reading the book. Percy, the main character is a troubled youth just about to graduate from grad 12. He has one friend, a girl named Elissa. His other friend, Will, committed suicide a while ago. Percy is an observer who classifies his fellow students according to which 'tribe' they belong to -- Jock, Busybody, Lipstick/Hairspray, and so on. Percy's mother is into meditation, yoga, sweat lodges, and listening to her shaman. Percy's father is dead ... or is he? The book is funny and sad at the same time.

Rowan MacBean says

3.5 STARS

The ending was obvious to me and felt rushed once I got there, but I still really enjoyed reading it, and was vaguely creeped out through most of it, because of rather than in spite of the fact that I could see what was coming.

Jessalyn King says

Arthur Slade is awesome. This book was charming and clever and heartbreaking... A very honest look at divorce and suicide and how one teen decided to cope. All the anthropological speak was entertaining.

J. says

The novel is good: good concept, occasional realistic dialogue...a good story. Still, the ending felt very rushed to me, and it seemed like after all the work Slade did early on, the payoff should have been bigger,

somehow. I'm all for the idea of understated writing, and letting your audience deal with twists on their own rather than on the page, but I think that this twist in particular maybe needed a bit more text-space to work.

Holly says

The book had some very good points on how children deal with multiple family issues. My only concern is this book may be difficult to follow for the less sarcastic....it was nice to read a not-so-simple book.

Suible says

I'm a little more than half done - no idea what page number (Kindle doesn't do page numbers). The principal character's arms' length (or longer) look at life is really dominant and it is annoying, on purpose, I'm sure. Perk is dealing with a lot - the death of his father and his best friend who committed suicide. And then the alienation, bullying, wandering of high school - he's got his hands full.

Do I know how the book ends? Probably. Will it be worth it? I'm not sure. The book is a quick read - I've read the half of the book in spare moments - in one day, a busy day.

I finished the book - there was a twist toward the end of the book that maybe I should have seen coming, but I didn't.

I'm glad I finished the book, and I would give it a weak recommendation. It takes the whole teen angst to a whole new level - that is both way overly intellectual and immature. Yeah, high school is a turbulent, disturbing time for everyone, including those who have to deal with the teens. Still, this teen seemed to take the whole attitude to a way over the top level.

I think this could have been a much better book, still . . . sort of haunting.

Kimberley says

Read as prep for English 8 - possible novel study.

Interesting premise, twist ending. I can see how it might be both intriguing and polarizing to read this as a group, in a classroom comprised of "members" of many "tribes" (as named in the book: Logo, Grunge, Digerati, Lipstick/Hairspray, Hockey, etc.).

Dorottya says

I am going to start out with a minor problem that bugged me, but that may be due to the translation, not the actual original writing. The swear words given into Elissa's mouth were really childish and girly, as opposed to her description as a free spirit...

But otherwise, a stellar book, especially in its own genre. Well, I have been debating with myself, whether I can actually find some books, where I don't necessarily like the main character / I don't see them as perfect, yet I like the book. Tribes is a prime example for that kind of book. Perk isn't a character I hated, but I did find him annoying and flawed. But: 1) he was not put on a pedestal, 2) there was a complete world built up behind his erratic behaviour, psychological motives and such. These two things save these types of books and characters, at least for me.

It was amazing how Slade could write a book in a first person singular point of view, but could actually make us feel that not all of the people whom he looks down on or whom he finds silly are mean or stupid.

I love its psychological aspects. It was written down beautifully, in an understandable way for youngsters, how a maniac could be born, and how a maniac works and sees the world. Someone who puts his wicked ideas before anything else, even his companions, someone who makes a huge thing out of something little, something extraordinary. I mean, all he did, was just labeling kids at school. But in his eyes, it's more, it's almost sacred. Especially since he started doing this as something to take his mind off of something he did not want to think about.

I didn't find the ending too abrupt, either. Or at least not in the bad sense of the word. I believe that, if a maniac gives up their obsession, it CAN happen like this, so fast...

Amy Gourley says

The main character in this book, Percy, reminds me of Sheldon from The Big Bang Theory, if Sheldon was an anthropologist. And still in high school. The book is about Percy's last week of high school and figuring out who he is. It was an ok read.

~*mandy*~ says

i almost put this book down because of the overwhelming weight of the anthropology/science jargon...but i'm glad i didn't! the surprise twist at the end made bogging through all the superflous words completely worth it!

C. Purtill says

4.5 stars...a great book. I loved the anthropology notes (as a former anthro student!), loved Percy. Actually brought tears to my eyes a couple times.

elissa says

A very quick read. Percy is a likeable, unreliable narrator. I love his friend's name (Elissa)!

Robert Runte says

Reading and writing a review of this novel is one optional assignment in my Social Context of Schooling course for Education students, because it is a brilliant depiction of high school life, and why teens sometimes act out. Story follows high school protagonist as he undertakes a anthropological study of his own high school, carefully documenting the interactions of the different, sometimes warring factions/subcultures (i.e, tribes). If you read it, I won't make you write a paper on it though.
