



Making the Run

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All her life Lulu McClellan has heard the names. Growing up in a small Kentucky town, Lu has forever felt like she's on the outside looking in. Maybe that's why she takes pictures – to make sense of what she sees and feels but doesn't always understand.

Now that graduation is almost here, Lu and her friend Ginny are moving in a quick blur of drugs and drink. Lu thinks she's just marking time, waiting for the moment when life will begin for real.

But the road is full of unmarked twists and turns. Without warning, Lu free-falls into first love, while Ginny begins a deadly spiral into oblivion.

In stark, poetic prose, Heather Henson writes about what it means to come to a crucial crossroads and find the courage to make a run for the unknown.

Ages 12+

Making the Run Details

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From Reader Review Making the Run for online ebook

Ariel says

I loved this book ! I just picked it up thinking oh I *might* read this if I run out of other books ,then I read it .. and it was like "wow that was great , I'm amazed" . I like being pleasantly surprised and I def was with this book , I really enjoyed it . It was sad through some parts though , it made me cry once or twice . I recommend it though , really good book . (:

Sarah says

This one flies off the shelf with my junior and senior girls.[return][return]Eighteen-year-old Lu is set on leaving her Kentucky home town after high school graduation, but her plans are complicated by friends and family, old grief, and new love.

Katrina says

I couldn't get into this book. I felt like the narrator was just another generic teen who used drugs and alcohol as a way to make it through high school living in a small town. Maybe someday I will pick this one up again because others seemed to enjoy it, but for now, I consider it a dud.

Paloma says

ihsafipafissg.

There's this girl and she smokes a lot of pot and she has this best friend and she drinks too much. Then she dies.

Rebecca McNutt says

This book was incredible, similar to Go Ask Alice but more realistic and profound, featuring two best friends who find themselves hooked on drugs.

Jessy says

This book was absolutely amazing. It touched me in a way a book hadn't in years. The characters are so real that you feel as if you know them. I'm surprised that more people haven't heard of this book and it's hard to find on many sites. It's great for anyone in their teens or up. I'd love to find a copy to reread from time to time.

Riley says

For some reason this juvenile tale of a young girl's mundane life has stuck with me since I first read it years ago. Tells the story of a 17 year old who drinks and has a distant father. Typical? Yes. Unforgettable? Yes.

Alex Black says

This book was fine. It was a generic mid 2000s contemporary YA. I didn't feel much when I was reading it, but I did marginally enjoy it. I wanted it to be something more, something memorable, but honestly it was just a forgettable book that entertained me for the better part of two hours. It didn't really make me feel any emotions, I thought the 28 year old sleeping with the 18 year old on her literal birthday was gross, and it was all just a little deadpan for me.

It was just fine. Nothing more, nothing less.

Beth says

In fast paced nearly poetic prose, first time novelist Henson presents shutterbug Lulu, a constant observer who sees the events of her life as series of captioned photographs. A camera hangs around her neck even when it is too dark to take pictures, as she uses the lens to craft a frame of reference for her troubled life: a mother dead at a young age, a distant and critical father, bouts of bad grades, and shoplifting, and more recently, joyriding, drinking and drug experimentation. When Jay, her half brother's friend and bandmate pulls back into town, Lu's first crush becomes her first lover as she develops an intimate relationship with a man ten years her senior that her dad disapproves of. As Lu's eighteenth birthday and high school graduation approach, Lu begins to think that Jay may be her ticket out of small town life. But the two are at odds, in spite of their attraction; just as she is preparing to flee Kentucky, he has returned to make a home; just as she is ready to settle into a relationship, he is not committed.

Henson cleverly uses the metaphor of the road to show Lu's twists, turns and detours, and the tragedy it takes to put her - and her relationship with her father - back on the right path.

This was an unputdownable novel. We see Lu and her best friend Ginny make bad choices and know something has to give, but we are unable to look away. Naïve readers may be surprised at the turn of events, but Henson manages to make the ending satisfying and believable in spite of the "no other options" feel.

Recommended for mature readers; pair with Keizer's God of Beer (HarperCollins 2002).

Kornelija Baranskaite says

"Vieniš? Lulu", "pamiš?l? Lulu", – tokiaiis vardais vis? gyvenim? buvo vadinama Lulu Makelan, pagrindin? šios knygos heroj?. Augdama mažame Kentukio miestelyje, Lulu jaut?si taip, tarsi iš šalies ži?r?t? ? visk?,

kas jame vyksta. Galb?t tod?l jos gyvenimas susideda iš fotografių kadr?. Kad viskas, k? ji mato ir jau?ia, bet ne visada supranta, ?gaut? prasm??. Dabar, kai mokyklos baigimas jau ?ia pat, Lu ir jos draug? Džin? slysta per gyvenim? tarsi sk?sdamos kvaišal? ir alkoholio li?ne. Lu mano, kad ji tiesiog žymi laik? ir laukia, kol pagaliau prasid?s tikrasis gyvenimas. Ta?iau kelyje daug nepažym?t? pos?ki?. Be išankstinio ?sp?jimo Lu pirm? kart? aplanko meil?, o Džin? pradeda dramatiškai kristi ? nežini?.

Amalthea says

Decent enough read. Written from a different worldview than my own, which I normally find fascinating, but I felt it tended to be nihilistic at times and left the reader with a bad taste in the mouth. There was a small bit of redemption in the end, but it wasn't satisfying enough for me. Nor did it seem particularly coherent with the character to suddenly have a change of heart.

Eb says

i want the book so i can re-read it and fall in very deep likes with it again. i can rem. some of the things int the work but i cannot remember all of it like i would like to [i read it roughly 4-5 yrs ago].

Taylor says

I surprisingly read the whole book. I say surprisingly because half way through the book I was about ready to give up on it. Lulu McClellan was a fairly relatable character, but I didn't really have a connection with her. When she wasn't busy getting drunk and high, she was falling head over heals with her brother's older friend. This just left a bad taste in my mouth, not because it wasn't necessarily realistic, but because that was basically the whole story. I didn't find there to be many "unmarked twists and turns" at all. There wasn't much of a plot once you took away the partying, the fact that Lulu hated the town she lived in, and that she loved her brother's friend whom she knew when she was a child. I did enjoy the writing style the author used, but other than that this book wasn't a favorite of mine.

Kelly says

Lu is angry. Very angry. She's mourning the too-soon loss of her mother and she wants nothing more than to get the hell out of small town Rainey, Kentucky. She bides her time with partying, numbing herself with drugs and booze, and taking photographs. But it's the night she meets Jay -- a boy left Rainey himself and who'd been her brother's best friend -- that suddenly she begins questioning what it is she wants in the future. She won't leave, but maybe now she'll have someone to take along with her, especially as her best friend Ginny's plans have gone off course (view spoiler).

Will Lu ever get out of Rainey or is she forever isolated to this small place?

Henson's novel is enjoyable, and it tackles grief, loss, the overwhelming desire to get out of a place that's too suffocating. She does a good job of writing an angry and hurting character who isn't on the path to "out" in

the same way others may be. There's no golden scholarship and college in the future for her. Instead, she has to chart her own course and figure out the whats and hows in a different way. Life has a funny way of trying to keep her in Rainey, and as everyone changes around her, Lu begins wondering if she is even strong enough to do it anymore. There's a nice first romance here, and it's authentic in depiction, even if it's not necessarily an ideal relationship. The passion Lu has for photography is nicely woven into the story and showcases the fact she has interests and hobbies that can and may help her find her own way.

I appreciated the depiction of a small town and of desperation, sadness, anger. There's a great line from Jay that sums it up for me: "you have to decide if you're going to use your anger or if your anger is going to use you."

I'd have loved this book as a teen.

Eriel says

This was an Ok book. I'm not going to lie and say it was the best book I have ever read but it was Ok. The narrator was a teenage girl that used drugs and got high all the time. It was kind of disturbing actually. She starts to date her brothers friend who is like 28 years old, and she is only 18. And she mostly talks about just getting out of her hometown as soon as she graduates. She wants to travel around the world and be a photographer. I would recommend this to people who like books about troubled teens I guess.
