

A Good Place for Maggie (Pinata Books)



Twisted Creek? Are you sure? a gas station attendant asks the bewildered Maggie Cruz, when she stops in a remote station alongside a desolate road. The old mans questions stay with Maggie as she drives up into the mountains toward Twisted Creek, but Maggie is on a mission. She is hoping to escape the lonely house her mother keeps in Los Angeles, and she hopes to reconnect with the memories of her late father through her beloved grandfather, a resident of Twisted Creek. But from the minute Maggie arrives, Twisted Creek is a major adjustment. After navigating the neglected road into the town, Maggie discovers a place where there are very few cars, no cell phone reception, no TV, and none of the other modern comforts of home. When Maggie enrolls at the local school, she discovers that there, too, things are different from home. With a class of six people, no soft drinks, and the only weekend activities involving ice cream and watching The Wizard of Oz multiple times, Maggie begins to wonder what has happened to the town. But quiet is what she wants, isnt it? Maggie is inadvertently drawn into a battle over the progress that she detests back home and the pitfalls of life in an isolated town. Soon, Maggie begins to question her own need to escape and the problems she has left in Los Angeles. Ofelia Dumas Lachtman masterfully delves into the struggles one teen faces when she runs away from problems at home while learning to stand up for what she believes in.

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