Book Review

Mathieu, J. (2017). *Moxie*. New York: Roaring Book Press. ISBN: 9781250104267.

Vivian Carter has had enough. She is sick of watching the football jocks get away with harassing the girls at school while the administration turns a blind eye. Vivian decides that it is time to take action. Inspired by her mother's Riot Grrrl phase, Vivian anonymously creates *Moxie*, a feminist zine that calls for action against the jocks and school administration. Small protests and events slowly begin to grow, and what starts as an outlet for Vivian's frustrations becomes a large social movement as Vivian's peers take a stand with *Moxie* and fight for what is right.

Moxie is categorized as a realistic fiction book for young adults, although it can also be enjoyed by older readers. This book is centered around issues of feminism, equality, and justice. The storyline relates to current world issues, especially in the United States where the fight to remind politicians that women are equal is ongoing. Likewise, the book's characters, especially the protagonist, are very relatable. As the story progresses, readers watch Vivian grow as a person, from being too afraid to speak out to printing *Moxie* and taking a stand alongside the other "Moxie Girls."

Mathieu uses an engaging style of writing that is unique in comparison with other young adult novels. This style is exemplified through the discussions that occur between Vivian and her friends as well as in the close relationships between Vivian and her mother and grandparents. Vivian is a witty character whose internal thoughts and banter are enjoyable to read. Mathieu also takes a more creative approach in her writing by

actually creating the pages of each edition of *Moxie* as Vivian prints them. The publication of each zine is marked by a change in the font, accompanied by pictures and other small details that give readers insight into Vivian's creativity and provide a more visual representation of the story.

Mathieu's realistic work of fiction is an inspiring example of young people finding a voice and battling for equality and justice for women. Vivian's realization of the troubling extent of sexism is relatable for readers who have similarly struggled to come to terms with this problem. The power of *Moxie* and the events it inspires throughout the novel are a testament to women taking back the word feminism, countering the fears and judgments associated with the term. Particularly given its relevance to current women's issues around the world, Mathieu's feminist-driven novel is perfect for teens who enjoy engaging coming of age stories. This novel shines as an example and resource for teens looking to take a stand for their rights, no matter the subject. Needless to say, *Moxie* will leave its mark on young adult literature.

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