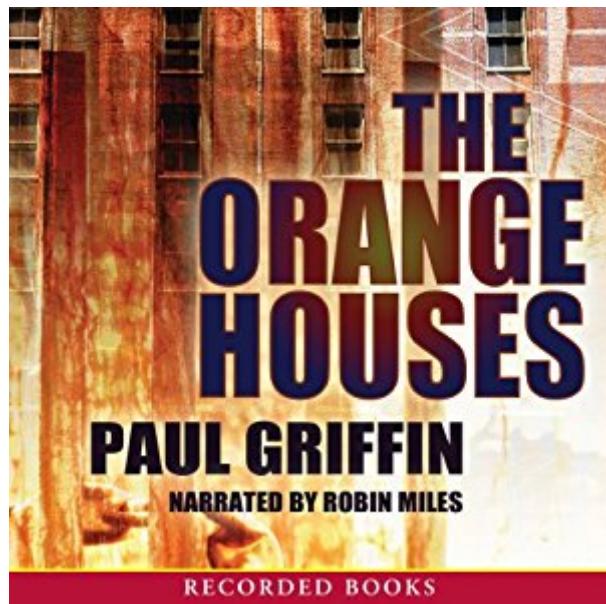


The book was found

# The Orange Houses



## **Synopsis**

Hearing impaired and way too smart for her West Bronx high school, Tamika Mik Sykes copes by reading lips and selling homework answers. She's a tough girl who never gets close to anyone, until she meets Fatima, a teenage refugee who sells newspapers on Mik's block.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours and 31 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: November 16, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0068NFOEU

Best Sellers Rank: #55 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #127 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #613 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Coming of Age

## **Customer Reviews**

Great book, characters draw you in immediately. Sheds light onto the strength of love and friendship in the midst of hardship and exposes us to our universal existential queries with honesty and poignancy.

This book might be a bit mature for some adolescents, but it deals with topics that are important to them in a sensitive way. Griffin knows and loves his characters, so he is able to deliver what any teen or adolescent requires: authenticity. Themes of friendship, loyalty, alienation, family, achievement, conflict, and love are wrapped in a page-turner of a plot. My 12-year-old and his friend loved this book. They want to know when the movie is coming out!

Tedious!

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I was very excited for The Orange Houses by Paul Griffin after reading his novel Stay With Me. Sadly, this one did not live up to the expectations I had for it. I was not crazy about The Orange Houses being told in third person. It made the story very hard to get into as it was so disjointed. The story was also told from 3 POVs, and that was too much for this book. I liked the idea of it, but considering the book was only 150 pages, it was too little for each character. Most of the characters were great. I had a bit of an issue with Tamika, as to me, it felt like she didn't have the strength and courage to keep going. There was nothing holding her back but her own attitude, and because of that I was not too keen of her. I really liked both Fatima and Jimmi. They were definitely my two favorite characters of the book. Fatima was such a good soul. There was definitely a plot, but there wasn't much to it in my mind. The characters all had a worthy story to be told, but there wasn't a lot of continuity between the plot points. The Orange Houses by Paul Griffin was a book that had a lot of good things about it, but was not executed the best. I had a hard time getting past the writing, as it was just so disjointed that I couldn't get into the story.

The emperor has no clothes. Don't bother. I couldn't even read ten pages of this: A person of one type wants to describe what goes on in the heads and lives of persons of other types, so he tries for the lowest common denominator. If art critics reviewed inner-city graffiti while sipping champagne, would you read the review?

YA realistic fiction, this book is told in alternating chapters from the point of view of three characters, Mik, Fatima and Jimmy. Mik is a teenage girl trying to deal with her deafness. Fatima is an illegal immigrant who befriends Mik. Jimmy is a young veteran dealing with post-traumatic stress. All three live in the same apartment project--the orange houses. Their lives interconnect in ways that will shock the reader. This book is gritty at times but is a good, quick read. I think both boy and girl readers would enjoy it. I borrowed this book from the public library. It was on the book list for a Young Adult Literature class I am taking. [...]

After an incredible debut novel, Ten Mile River, Paul Griffin shows his ambition with The Orange Houses, but, sadly, his reach exceeded his grasp. Some reviewers suggest the book is best viewed as a fable, but The Orange Houses didn't work for me on an allegorical level or a realistic level. There were some nice moments in the book (Mik's relationship with G, Mik's mom, some funny dialogue) but overall the book did not gel for me. I'm planning to read Griffin's other books to see if he gets back on track.

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