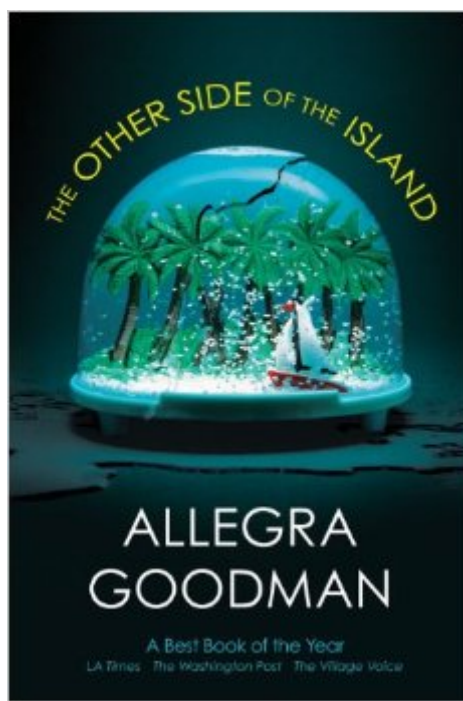


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# The Other Side Of The Island



## Synopsis

Earth Mother is always watching... And one brave girl is about to find out why.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650 (What's this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Razorbill (May 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595141960

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #202,122 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure](#) #80 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure](#) #200 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Ever since Honor moved to Island 365 with her parents from the wild Northern Islands, she's been noticing that her parents don't quite fit in. Island life is peaceful and orderly since Earth Mother enclosed what land was still inhabitable after catastrophic weather terrorized the Earth. But her parents don't worship Earth Mother like everyone else does, and they don't follow the rules. And that scares Honor, because she learns that those who are unpredictable disappear - and they don't come back. I really liked the premise of this dystopia because the societal ills stem not from your usual far right nightmares, but from a militant form of tree hugging. Not that I'm not all for preserving our environment, but this novel asks at what cost? And the answers are chilling. Author Allegra Goodman spends a large part of the narrative on world creation and does it fantastically well. I loved how she took well known speeches from our world such as The Lord's Prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance and twisted them into Earth Mother propaganda. Even classic literature like the Wizard of Oz has been edited to fit Earth Mother's agenda of predictability. The resulting society is scary and powerful enough that its' agents are pretty much everyone - individual villains are quite beside the

point. Against this background Honor is realistically conflicted - she wants badly to fit in and for her parents to fit in, but she doesn't want them to be taken or harmed. When the inevitable happens though, Honor wakes from her Earth Mother induced coma and comes out kicking for an edge of your seat climax and resolution not to be missed.

\*sigh\* I SOOO wanted to like or love this book but I just do not, I felt more let down. Fundamentally it has the right structure and bones to make it strong. But the whole written package just does not deliver any strength or even much of a punch at all. I would label this Dystopian lite. My first impression is that this is not a teen level book at all, I found everything about this story to be simple and easy. Too simple and easy to recommend it for my YA adult dystopian friends or the true Teen fantasy fans I know. I am the mother of a 8 1/2 year old and a reluctant almost 11 year old reader, this falls right into both of their reading range. In fact I would say this is the perfect introduction to dystopian reads for my 8 1/2 year old. There is no meat in this story, the emotion does not come across in the writing at all. Even when Honor is scared for her parents I do not feel it. You can not just write Honor was scared for her parents, and expect that to be enough to build an emotional connection. I found this entire book to be truly devoid of any emotional pull, making it come across more like reading a history textbook. Some characters are only mildly developed and do not lend themselves to feeling invested in their lives or drawn to their story, the rest are robotic. And not robotic in a good way for a dystopian coldness and ambivalence. Robotic in how they were written and developed, or lack of being developed as real humans.\*I also have mentioned that the whole Octopus story just does not work for me, it only comes across as a Gimmick and does not flow. First it gets lost during the first storm, then all of a sudden Honor is feeding it in the classroom aquarium (And it attaches itself to her?!?) with not mention of it being back. I am also the mother to an almost 4 year old little boy, I found Quintillian to be so unrealistically written in the 3 and 4 year old time frame that it was distracting. Even trying to pull myself back and say dystopian, different time and place, he did not feel like Will and Pamela's 3 and 4 year old. If he had been 5 or 6 it would have fit better IMO. But that is just my opinion. With so many great dystopian reads out there today this one just does not measure up in the YA genre IMO. Fundamentally it has the right bones to build a great dystopian world, but we need so much more from it. We need more history, and not just the stucco cold classroom lessons. The characters need to be stronger, more fleshed out, more developed, more relatable. I just feel that so much is vague about this book.

I was completely impressed with Allegra Goodman's newest book, *The Other Side of the Island*.

Great writing, great characters, excellent plot...what more could a teen (or adult like me) ask for?! Honor lives in a dystopian world, years in the future. Her parents move the family to Island 365, one of only a few habitable lands left after The Flood. An ethereal figure by the name of Earth Mother and her new Corporation, lead the governmental system on Island 365 and control the New Weather system, meaning they create their own sun, moon, sky patterns, etc. There are very specific rules families must follow and for the most part, everyone on the island follows them perfectly, making for a pretty happy society. Unfortunately, once Honor's family gets settled in, she learns her parents are Unpredictable. They do not like to follow the rules and violate laws constantly. They won't pray to the Earth Mother and do not believe in her principals. Due to their indiscretions, Honor does not fit in with all the other children at school and feels she will do anything to change her outcast status. She begins to be the model Island 365 citizen and contemplates reporting her parents for not following rules. After an unspeakable tragedy falls on Honor, her only friend, Helix, lets her in on a secret he discovered and Honor begins a quest to make things right in her new world. Most of us bloggers have a small place in our hearts for books on dystopian societies and believe me, with this one, you will not be disappointed in the least. It's fast paced, the characters are realistic and likable, and by the end you will be cheering Honor on wholeheartedly! A very impressive work!

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