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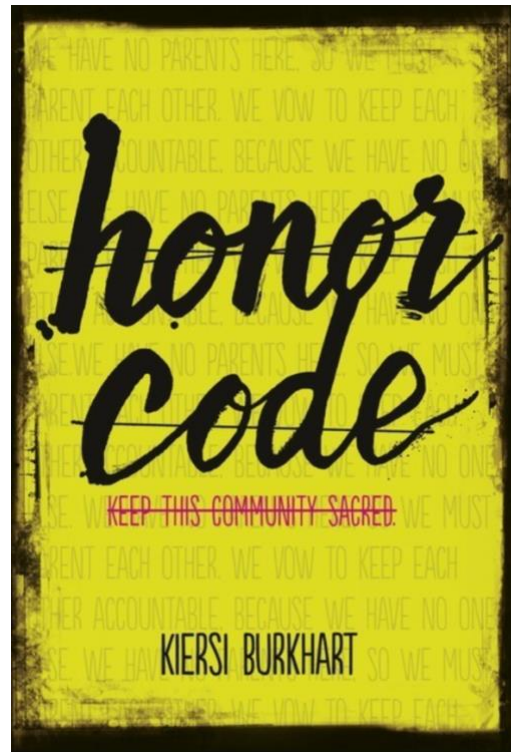
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Review of *Honor Code* Written by Kiersi Burkhart

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Reza Taufik Maulana

English Language Training International (ELTI) Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia

Student Reviewer: Akmal Faisal Zulkarnaen, 11th Grade



Burkhart, K. (2018). *Honor Code*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group.

ISBN: 9781512429961

Adult Review: Reza Taufik Maulana

Samantha Barker is a freshman at Edward Academy, a prestigious private school in Pennsylvania. She has a crush on a senior, Scully Chapman, who is also a water polo captain and son of prominent donor to the school. Sam's roommate, Gracie, also has the same feelings toward Scully. The situation turns bitter when they start to have argument about Scully and worsens when Scully tries to rape Gracie. Gracie then leaves Edward Academy. To get justice for her friend, Sam asks Harper Brooks, a journalist, to publish the story, which she claims is about her. It turns out that Sam uses Gracie's stories as one of the sources of Harper's article. Scully is found guilty after series of trials and testimonies from other sexual assault survivors including Gracie. Unfortunately, the verdict is far from what Sam, Gracie, and the other sexual assault survivors expect. He is only sentenced to a month of prison in a minimum-security detention and an addition of his name to the Sexual Offender Registry for his sex violence.

The book covers a relevant issue that is happening not just in the U.S. but also all over the world, i.e. sexual assault, that might have been kept hidden, especially in the school context. It portrays the character's endeavors to bring justice despite all the odds that she encounters during the process. It is a good book for teachers and also students to raise awareness of the issue and its psychological and social consequences to the survivors. Most importantly, this book encourages the students and survivors to seek help and justice if they experience the assault or know anyone who needs help. This book can be a great start for teachers to socialize the students with the social justice movements around the world, such as the [Me Too Movement](#), and invite the students to participate in out-of-school organizations or movements that concern with the justice for the sexual assault survivors. Teachers can also help students organize a small school-wide campaign to spread awareness

through poster designs, writing contests, etc. However, teachers need to be advised that there may be survivors of the sexual assaults in their classrooms or the schools. Therefore, it is important that teachers approach this topic with care and take careful actions if they notice any students who might not feel comfortable in discussing this topic.

The topic might be controversial or difficult for students and teachers whose sociocultural backgrounds consider the discussion of teenage sex to be a taboo subject. In Indonesia, for example, to have sex before marriage is forbidden by religion and the society, and to talk about sex in public is considered inappropriate. Therefore, the discussion about sexual assault should be taken with careful considerations.

Student Review: Akmal Faisal Zulkarnaen

This book has a very interesting story. At first, I thought it would be a boring book. However, after I continued reading the book, there were more conflicts, and it became more intense and interesting. Therefore, I really recommend this book.

What I really like about this book is the story—it is really interesting. It was about a school, and I found it quite easy to understand. Although it is a serious book, there are a few funny bits of dialogues in the story. This book did not only entertain me but also educate me.

People who like mysteries or criminal cases will like this book. The middle or high school students will find this book interesting because this book tells us about how an ordinary person goes to a private middle school.