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The Island at the End of Everything

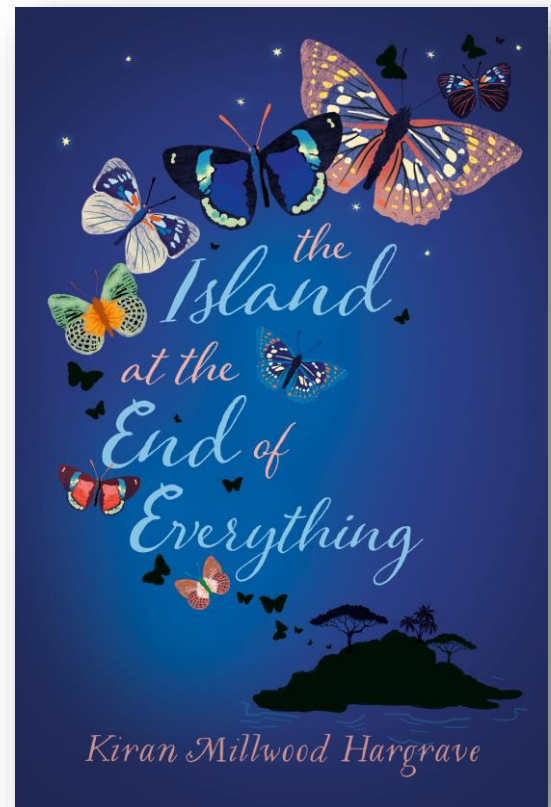
The Island at the End of Everything

Author

Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Reviewed by

Cadence C



The Island at the End of Everything is the kind of book that will tear you into smithereens and refuse to put you back together – instead it will leave you stranded but wanting more. The prologue lures you in with its description of paradise but you can sense something darker lurking. You read along thinking ‘this sounds like a dream home what’s so bad about this place?’ and BAM! You are hooked and reeled in to read the first chapter then the second until you are lost in this amazing spontaneous heart-wrenching adventure novel. 12 year old Amihan along with her Nanay (Filipino for mother) is sent to Culion a place you can search up right now on the internet. Yes it exists.

If you decided to read the Wikipedia article you would learn that Culion Island is located in the Philippines in an archipelago of 41 accompanying islands. In 1902-1907 the US bought the island from the Spanish military as a home for lepers to stop the sickness spreading.

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The events are shown through the thoughts and feelings of Amihan – from heart-twisting sadness to intense suspense of ‘what’s gonna happen next is this character gonna DIE?’ That’s the sort of emotion you want when you read a book. You don’t want to sit there emotionlessly. You want them to be crying laughing frustrated or intensely focused. Amihan’s life seems fine until the government sends the malicious representative Mr Zamora to take away the clean children of the Touched families (this part is incredibly sad) to the new orphanage in Coron. You would not believe what happens next.

The use of metaphors were astonishing. I could picture exactly what Amihan was saying what she felt what she heard and saw. Kiran Hargrave makes you feel as if you are there as a side character watching the events unfold right in front of your eyes. Not as if you were just reading someone else’s story. After reading *The Island at the End of Everything* I sat there staring into space as I pondered the awesomeness of this book. How it could have just ended like that leaving me wanting more? It was as if you were given the best brownie ever but you were only able to have one bit before the waiter took it away again. Even though I desperately wanted a sequel the epilogue (thirty years after the book) tied it all up with a pleasant red bow.

I would give this 11/10 if possible. I rate it 5 stars for its splendid use of metaphors great relatable characters the fact I was moved emotionally and a fantastic plotline.

5 stars

