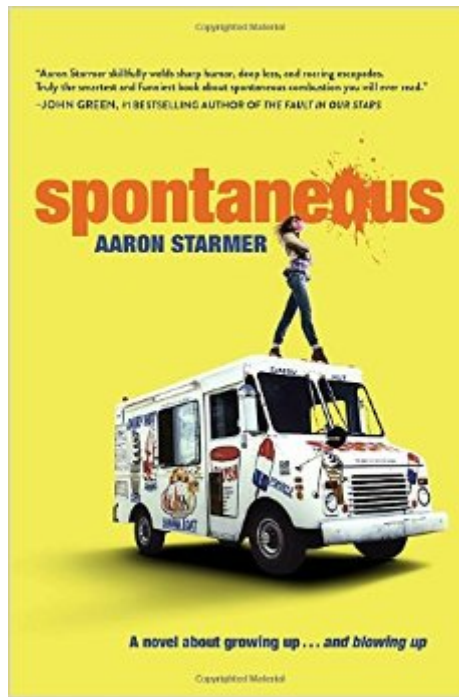


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# Spontaneous



## Synopsis

"Aaron Starmer skillfully welds sharp humor, deep loss, and roaring escapades. Truly the smartest and funniest book about spontaneous combustion you will ever read." —John Green, #1 bestselling author of *The Fault In Our Stars* A darkly funny and spectacularly original exploration of friendship, goodbyes—and spontaneous combustion. Mara Carlyle's senior year is going as normally as could be expected, until—*wa-bam!*—fellow senior Katelyn Ogden explodes during third period pre-calc. Katelyn is the first, but she won't be the last teenager to blow up without warning or explanation. As the seniors continue to pop like balloons and the national eye turns to Mara's suburban New Jersey hometown, the FBI rolls in and the search for a reason is on. Whip-smart and blunt, Mara narrates the end of their world as she knows it while trying to make it to graduation in one piece. It's an explosive year punctuated by romance, quarantine, a lifelong friendship, hallucinogenic mushrooms, bloggers, ice cream trucks, a "Snooze Button," Bon Jovi, and the filthiest language you've ever heard from the President of the United States. Aaron Starmer rewrites the rulebook with *Spontaneous*. But beneath the outrageous is a ridiculously funny, super honest, and truly moving exemplar of the absurd and raw truths of being a teenager in the 21st century . . . and the heartache of saying goodbye. "A blood-soaked, laugh-filled, tear-drenched, endlessly compelling read." —Kirkus, starred review "A wholly original YA tale of identity, friendship, love, lust, and gory, grisly death." —SLJ, starred review "Bursting with heartache and gore, Mara's narration appeals directly to readers' senses of horror and humor." —Horn Book

## Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525429743

ISBN-13: 978-0525429746

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,948 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #55 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying #94 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

## Customer Reviews

This review originally appeared on [herestohappyendings.com](http://herestohappyendings.com). Spontaneous is an oddly bizarre book that is definitely different from anything else you're going to read this year. In fact, Spontaneous is so different, once you start reading, not only will you not want to put this down, but you won't be able to. It's just that much fun. "In the past, kids didn't randomly explode. Not in pre-calc, not at prom, not even in Chem lab, where explosions aren't exactly unheard of. Not one kid. Not one explosion. Ah, the good old days." Explosions and spontaneous combustions among high school students was unheard of, until one day during class Katelyn Ogden kind of...blew up. Out of nowhere, she just exploded, leaving a bunch of questions (among...other things) behind. Since it was just one kid exploding, things weren't looking all that bleak...just a bit strange. However, when another kid explodes, the students at Covington High start to wonder what's going on, and why their classmates keep blowing up. After all, they live in a tiny little town in New Jersey - nothing special or out of the ordinary, and yet, students from their school are the only ones in the entire country who are affected by this. As more and more classmates start to explode, Mara and her friends try and work together with a detective to figure out what is going on. Is it drug related? Are kids exploding because they are gay? Some of the explanations proposed within the pages are downright absurd, but others are just amusing and you kind of have to keep reading to see how it all plays out. Mara, the main character in the book, narrates the novel with wit and sass, making her one hell of a heroine for such a strange and oddly terrifying story.

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