



Restart By Gordon Korman Reviewed by Marlena Titus

Name: Marlene Titus

Grade: 11

Book Title: Restart

Author: Gordon Korman

Number of Pages: 243

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 5/5

Character List:

- **Chase Ambrose** - Chase is the main character of this story. He was a star athlete at school and was known for bullying others with his friends. At the beginning of the story, a fall causes him to have amnesia, not being able to remember who he is prior to his accident.
- **Shoshanna Weber** - Shoshanna is Joel Weber's sister and twin. She is a member of the school's video club. She does not like Chase, and even is happy when she finds out that Chase had fallen off the roof.
- **Joel Weber** - Joel is Shoshanna Weber's brother and twin. He is very skilled with the piano, but he was a constant victim of Chase, Aaron and Bear's bullying and teasing. After falling for a prank from the three boys, Joel switches to another school. Joel is also happy when Chase falls off the roof as well.
- **Brandon Espinoza** - Brandon is an honor student at Chase's school and is president of the school's video club. He is working on a video project but cannot find anyone to help him with it. Brandon believes he will be the next victim of Chase and his friends, causing him to be terrified of Chase.
- **Aaron Haikiman** - Aaron is one of Chase's best friends and partakes in Chase and Bear's fooling around and bullying. Throughout the story, he tries to drag Chase back into his old ways of bullying. Aaron is a believer that he and his friends can do whatever they want, and that adults can rarely do much to stop them.

Review:

Chase had a strong reputation at Hiawasse Middle School as the star player of many sports, local terror and school bully with his buddies. But one fall from his roof changes all of that as Chase develops acute retrograde amnesia. With no memory of his former self and his life before the fall, Chase has the opportunity to rebuild himself and create a new Chase, while still trying to remember what he had been like previously. As time goes on and he re-meets his friends and classmates, Chase learns that he was both respected and feared at school. Because of this, it only further brings up the question to him: who was Chase before he lost his memories? And now that he's no longer the old Chase, who will he be now? Will he choose to be the Chase his fellow students had feared? Or will he choose to become a nicer Chase and transform into a new version of himself?

A modern day humorous story with the interesting concept of amnesia, *Restart* by Gordon Korman tells an amazing story about second chances and recognizing that people have the ability to change. Readers are taken through *Restart*

with a vivid description of how amnesia feels to Chase, almost as if you too are forgetting some of your memory. Korman employs a neat way of telling the story, as he has the chapters cycle through different characters perspectives (a method that is similar to that of Rick Riordan's books) that allows you to see how some of the other characters feel about certain events in the story and not just Chase. Due to the age of the characters in Restart, this book would be enjoyed by those in junior high school to high school. Overall, this book is amazing and will be a great read if you are interested in concepts of amnesia and Korman's style of writing.