

Surrender  
By: Sonya Hartnett

Rating: 🦅🦅🦅 3 out of 5 Eagles

As twenty year old Gabriel lies dying, he reflects upon the relatively short life he has experienced. He remembers how he was once called Anwell, before he met a dark and unkempt boy named Finnigan, and how he changed his name to Gabriel, after the angel. He remembers the terrible mistake he made when he was seven years old, the mistake no one in his small home town ever allowed him to forget. He remembers how a pact between himself and Finnigan was formed, and how a friendship developed, between two boys who are as opposite as anyone can be. And with this friendship, he remembers the trouble the two of them got into, the arson fires springing up around town, and the girl he likes. He remembers the dog, Surrender, that he and Finnigan adopted, the dog that adopted them. He remembers what he did, what Finnigan did. But as the story progresses, and each character's true nature comes to life, you find yourself wondering how much is true, and how much of this "remembering" is only Gabriel's imagination.

Surrender is short, fast-paced, and exciting. Told alternatively from Gabriel and Finnigan's points of view, it gets inside your head and makes you question what you know. It can be confusing at parts, and some passages take a while to understand, but it comes together nicely in the end. The novel is slightly creepy, and does an excellent job of making you question both your sanity, and the sanity of the characters. You have to figure out for yourself what is truth, what are lies, and what is pure imagination. I recommend this book for anyone looking for some quick thrills and dark excitement.