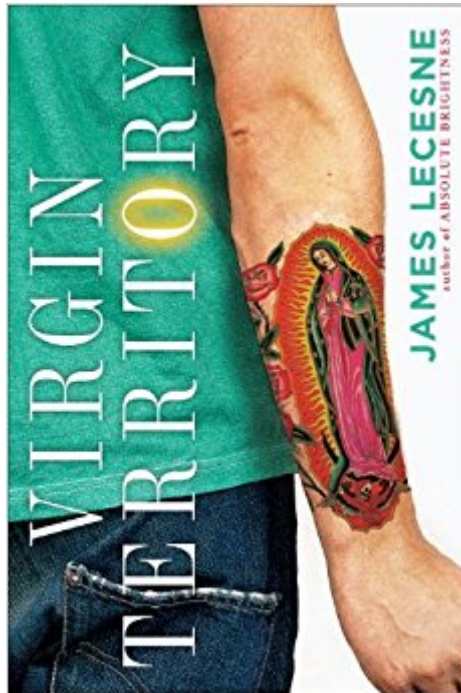




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Virgin Territory



Synopsis

Virgin Territory explores the power of faith and our need to believe in miracles. Sixteen-year-old Dylan Flack is uprooted from his cozy life in New York City by the death of his mother of cancer the night before 9/11. He finds himself transplanted to Jupiter, Florida, and in the chaos of the move discovers that his father has lost their treasured collection of family photos. Dylan feels that he has begun to lose the memory of his mother's face, and without access to those pictures of their past together, each day stretches darkly into a future without hope. Enter: the Virgin Club, a nomadic group of trailer kids whose mostly single parents drag them all over the country in search of sightings of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although not looking for membership in any club, Dylan falls in love with their leader, Angela, who believes that change occurs in direct proportion to desire and the willingness to take risks. In a series of misadventures and brushes with the law in what Dylan comes to think of as "virgin territory," she teaches Dylan to risk a future without his favorite parent. Miraculously his newfound courage leads to a long overdue confession from his father that brings them closer together and catapults Dylan into a future that holds more promise.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

We've all heard of the people who find Jesus or The Virgin Mary in a grilled cheese or a slice of

toast. We've heard of these things becoming internet phenomena, being sold on eBay, attracting millions. VIRGIN TERRITORY, the latest from James Lecesne, is the story of a guy who gets wrapped up in the latest Blessed Virgin Mary hullabaloo when her face supposedly appears on a tree at the half-rate golf course where he works as a caddy. Of course, Dylan -- named for Bob Dylan, his mom's favorite poet and singer -- is confused that so many people from around the country would travel to Jupiter, Florida to see the BVM (as her followers sometimes call her) and ask for a miracle. To Dylan, it's just a tree with a funny scar on it. But then he meets Angela, a girl unlike any girl he has ever met. And she inducts him into the Virgin Club, a club with two rules: You must "a) want something and b) take a risk." Together, Dylan, Angela, Desiree, and Crispy begin a summer of mischief. Which is fine with Dylan -- he's had nothing to do since his father, Doug, took away his computer and with it his internet access, due to certain indiscretions with a much older and sexily screennamed e-pal. And aside from Doug and his grandmother who lives in the place due to her quickly progressing Alzheimer's, it's not like Dylan has anyone else to hang out with. He hasn't heard from his supposed best friend in weeks. So The Virgin Club it is. Soon, though, Dylan realizes that he's falling in love with Angela, and Crispy is telling him she can't be trusted. Dylan's grandfather, Marie, is escaping the place more often than usual, resulting in city-wide searches for the elderly woman.

You've seen the reports on the news -- the figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary appears on a grain elevator or on a grilled cheese sandwich. Well, it has happened on a Florida golf course where Dylan Flack works as a caddy, and the whole thing is about to throw his life into a tailspin. Dylan and his dad left New York City after his mother's death. It wasn't his idea, but his dad thought it would be good to start over somewhere new. Mr. Flack left his videographer job and now works as a landscaper, perhaps in an effort to bury his problems instead of facing them. Dylan is along for the ride and trying to make the best of it. Named after Bob Dylan by his poet mother, Dylan has never been very close to his dad. Now, enough time has passed since his mother's death that he is disturbed to realize he is unable to remember her face. The fact that his father left all the family photos behind in New York City hasn't helped their father/son relationship. Dylan's job caddying at the golf course is about the only thing getting him through the summer. When the figure of the Virgin Mary is discovered in the bark of one of the golf course's trees, everyone begins to descend on the sleepy little town of Jupiter, Florida. That's when Dylan meets Angela. She is one of several teens who arrive in town because their mothers are Virgin Mary groupies. They follow what they call the BVM sightings like roadies following a rock band. The teens welcome Dylan into their group and use

his knowledge of the local area to create interesting entertainment to while away the time until their parents move them to the next location. Dylan is struck by Angela's beauty and drawn by her risk-taking behavior.

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