

Chances are, you've probably never arrived at home from school one day to find a psychiatrist, the police, the FBI, and your ever-elusive dad at home, all trying to find your missing mom. Your dad probably doesn't work at Microsoft designing a robot Band-Aid for veterans, and your mom probably wasn't one of the most promising architects of her age. If you can't relate to any of these statements, then you're not Bee.

With things like Galer Street Gnats and a trip to Antarctica, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* has it all. Not only do you get a 15 year old middle-schooler named Balakrishna (otherwise known as Bee) who was born looking like a blue elf, but also an obsessive divorced 40 year old who becomes scandalously pregnant. The book is written in a collection of letters, emails, and a few eyewitness accounts from Bee herself. You'll feel a warming sentiment (or resentment) at the perfectly tailored characters, as well as a sympathy for Bernadette's hectic life. Clinging to every last word, this book will leave you wanting more.

Bernadette herself is a tense creature. Conflicted by her past as an architect and the painful Seattle life she trapped herself in, life is hard for her. From five way intersections to the seemingly permanent grey blanket over the sky, she can (and will!) complain about everything that Seattle has to "offer".

Then, you have Bee. A young 8th grader who was born with heart problems, she's nothing short of a prodige. Not only is she brilliant, she wants to go to Antarctica. Not Polynesia, or France, or Italy, no, *Antarctica*. At the beginning of 8th grade, her parents, Bernadette and Elgin, told her if she got all A's, she could choose any place to go to. So, she chose Antarctica.

Ah yes, Elgin. He got married to Bernadette when they lived in LA, then picked up a job at Microsoft. They moved into an abandoned private school for girls in Seattle (Bernadette planned

to remodel it) and had not one, not two, but *three* miscarriages before Bee was released into the world. Elgin works practically day and night in his office, constructing and fine-tuning “Samantha 2”, a Band-Aid looking machine that straps onto the heads of veterans to do things they normally can’t. For example, if they wanted to change the channel on the TV, they would just think about it and the channel would change. Elgin is secretly a perfectly adorable nerd, when you get down to it.

The plot of *Where’d You Go Bernadette?* is always twisting and changing in a captivating manner. One moment it’s about a boarding school, the next it’s talking about Bernadette falling asleep in a pharmacy. I would recommend this book to anyone over the age of 11. It has some bad words and advanced concepts, but is overall an entertaining, and at times educational book.