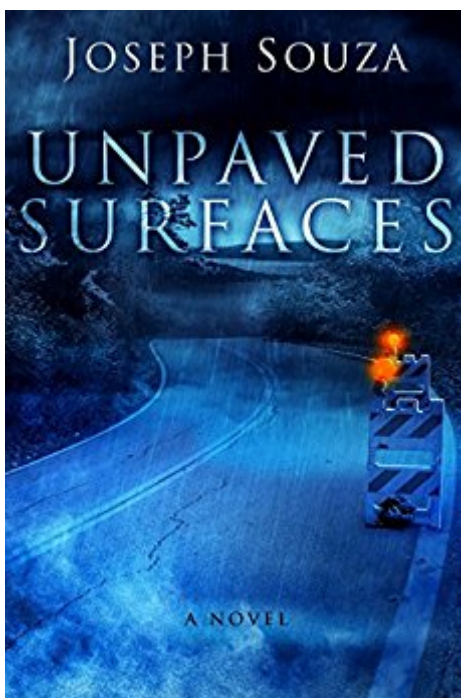


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Unpaved Surfaces



Synopsis

"One Of The Top 5 Novels of 2015!" AstraDaemon's Lair. "If you read nothing else this year, read the novel Unpaved Surfaces by author Joseph Souza." Ursula K. Raphael, Vine Reviewer. "Souza takes his considerable talents to the next level in Unpaved Surfaces, delivering an emotionally charged, exquisitely tuned suspense story."--Steve Konkoly, bestselling author of The Perseid Collapse Series. Enter into the life of an ideal family--Auggie is a happy nine-year-old boy whose father, Keith, loves him more than anything. Keith's life seems ideal--until one day Auggie vanishes. A year has passed since Keith's son disappeared, and he's haunted by glimpses of his son appearing in his small Maine town. With the investigation at a dead end and his family paralyzed with grief, Keith worries that he's losing his mind. In a thrilling twist, the case turns in a new direction--a direction that could either heal his family or tear them, and the rest of the town, apart.

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Customer Reviews

Auggie is missing. The autistic boy disappeared without a trace and now appears as an apparition to only one person—his father, Keith. Since the disappearance of his son, Keith has lost interest in everything in life, including his work as a chef. The only thing that keeps him going is the thought that each new day might be the day his son returns. A year has gone by and including the local authorities have given up on the possibility that the boy will ever be found, but when Keith's visions of Auggie begin to yield more than just glimpses of the missing boy, the grieving family is given new hope. In his masterful book UNPAVED SURFACES, Joseph Souza tells the gripping story of a mourning family at a crossroads. He also puts on a third person limited clinic, taking the reader from character to character in a way that manages to remain connected to each player, while still moving the story forward. Few writers do this well; Souza is one of them. We witness each member of the family dealing with life after tragedy in their own way, and each is equally compelling. In books that shift POV, I typically have one viewpoint that I prefer over the others. In this book, I was interested in them all, as each offered a differing perspective. Souza also did a great job maintaining consistency of tone from chapter to chapter. I thoroughly enjoyed UNPAVED SURFACES. It is one of the best books I've read this year and one I highly recommend.

I received this book via Kindle Scout to give an honest review. When looking through the blurb really pulled me to want to read this book. You have a young boy that just vanishes, the family is no longer the same and we watch as the family slowly starts to heal but it is taking time. Now the names of the kids will probably throw you off. I know it did me when I was reading, I like different names in books but not too different. We are introduced to Keith who blames himself for Auggie going missing when he took him to the bus stop. Auggie's mother blames herself because she was suppose to take him but instead did not. Keith believes he sees Auggie's ghost on more than one occasion and follows him wherever he is going, he is hoping to find out what happened. Now no one really believes Keith when he says he sees the ghost of his missing son. Now enter in an author who ends up playing a crucial role but we don't know much until towards the end when it all comes full circle and it is like oh wow that is a nice twist. We watch as slowly but surely the Battle family even though they are down on luck with the depression of losing a family member, losing jobs and campaigns they all eventually come together and get the answers they need. The characters are very descriptive and the author has a way of giving you a lot of detail on the place where they live that you feel like you are there. You feel connected to the characters one way or another. I have to say I felt bad for Shippen and the things he had to deal with at school, it did kind of though me for a loop

when his peers thought he had something to do with Auggie disappearing. I never truly understood why just because he kept to himself. I honestly could not put the book down as I was determined to find out myself what happened to little Auggie. If you are looking for a good mystery then this would be the book for you.

Another how could anyone give this book a five star rating. Firstly I know that it has proven that when a child goes missing or is found dead then the parents blame each other and the pain usually causes a break up of the marriage. This is understandable, too many reminders and normally one parent does want to move on while the other is lost in the past. In this case though we have the mother Clair that blames her husband totally whereas she was equally to blame, neglects the rest of her children even though they are suffering the loss and one of whom has his own demons to deal with. She even considers entering a relationship with another man. The whole story is flawed, poor characterization and totally unbelievable behaviour and attributes for those that enter their lives. Why two stars, have read so many rubbish books that had on offer that this was better than the worse.

This was NOT what I was expecting when I came across this book on the Kindle Scout campaign page. Even after reading the first few pages I was ill prepared for the story that would unfold within the pages of this literary gem. Souza does a magnificent job of painting a picture of a family whose very core is shredded by the unimaginable and unexpected loss of a child. From the guilt, grief and ever changing landscape of lives no longer traveling a course that this family had taken for granted prior to this tragedy the reader is drawn in to the new chaos that defines this event. If you are looking for a book that is exceptional in the ability to deliver raw emotions of various colors, and whether you come to despise, empathize with or question these characters in turn this author is a master at causing you to feel through his writing.

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