

RPHS Library Book Review:

Hate List by Jennifer Brown



Summary:

Hate List opens up very dramatically at the scene of a shooting. The shooter goes by the name Nick Levil and his girlfriend, who everyone seems to blame, is Valerie Leftman. The day of the shooting Valerie is in just as much shock as everyone else and to end it she jumps in front of Nick, getting shot in the leg. She realizes her Hate List, which was all meant for joke, had been brought to life and all the people on it were being shot. During her senior year, everyone is trying to cope with what had happened that last May 2nd as well as Valerie who had lost so much... her boyfriend, her friends, and even her dad in the midst of all of this. As everyone begins to turn against her, Valerie realizes it is up to her to change their minds.

Review:

3 stars is what this book has earned based on one main factor. It's blandness. This book had been quite boring. For the books summary, it was written very on point. However, I had been hoping that somewhere in the text there would be a twist. This book seemed more like Valerie's diary. The conflict in this plot was more of an internal conflict and it was not interesting at all. I think the emotions were dramatized and repetitive. They were just plain annoying after a while. It was also wishy washy because the character Valerie kept having second thoughts about Nick and if he really was the bad guy; she kept jumping back and forth. The ending had also been very random and not like the character at all. The only interesting part was reading the flashbacks to the shooting. Other than that, I felt like reading this book was a dread and I just kept reading in hopes that maybe, just maybe, something would finally happen... but it never did.

The book had for sure lived up to its summary but there was nothing special about it. It was very corny, how all of a sudden, the characters change their minds about one another and try to be friends. The whole Hate List idea was also very pointless because it was almost as if everyone in the school, but Nick and Valerie were on it. They were all on the list for very ridiculous reasons and what they had done to deserve this didn't justify the shooting at all. Valerie's family also played a very important role but, I think the family didn't really have a point in being such a big part. There was also a lot of new characters being introduced that hadn't really served any purpose, such as the artist who she become friends in and her mother's attorney who soon became... well I guess you have to read to figure out what happened from there.

Michelle Kotlowski
12th Grade