

Title: *I Wish You all the Best*

Author: Mason Deaver

Genre: Romance

Reviewer Name and Grade: Sarah F. 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 24, 2020

*I Wish You all the Best* is truly beautiful. This fiction novel breaks the stereotype of heterosexual relationships in the most unique way. This novel takes place after Christmas at North Wake High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. It takes place in current times. The main characters are Ben, Nathan, Hannah and Thomas. Ben is a shy, antisocial senior who is new to the school. They are nonbinary, meaning they do not identify as a gender. Ben refers to their pronouns as “they” and “them”. After coming out, Ben is kicked out of the house to live on their own. There they move in with their sister, Hannah, and her husband Thomas. While Ben tries to find a therapist to help with their severe anxiety, they also have to keep quiet at a new school in fear of rejection. That is until Ben meets a boy named Nathan. Nathan is also a senior and decides to help Ben get used to the school. His outgoing and bubbly personality leads them to become friends. But after getting more comfortable with each other, their feelings start to change.

*Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for non-fiction) keep you interested?*

The plot definitely kept me interested with the tension-filled moments. Especially the beginning, when Ben got kicked out of the house and had to move to a new house. I never expected them to get kicked out, so it surprised me to keep on reading to find out how the story progresses.

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?* The pace of the book was pretty good, but I feel like the end was a bit rushed with Ben and Nathan’s relationship. All of a sudden, they were dating after hanging out once. That part confused me a bit, but overall, the pace was just right, especially when Ben moved to a new school while trying to find his identity.

*What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?* I recommend this book to grades eight and up, because homosexual relationships and some of the topics in this book can be sensitive or offensive to some people.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?* I would only recommend this book for mature or young adult readers that can handle this kind of topic.

*What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

Hopefully, engaging in this novel will teach the youth more about the everyday struggles of the LGBTQ+ community, and how to find your true identity.

Ultimately, I rate this book 4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading, because this unique novel touches on a theme that most novels do not.