

Title: *You Asked for Perfect*
Author: Laura Silverman
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Adam B. 9th grade

Date Reviewed: May 31, 2020

You Asked for Perfect is a book about expectations. Expectations from parents, expectations from teachers, and expectations from one's self. Ariel is a high school senior whose main goal is getting into Harvard. He is first chair in the orchestra, has A's in all of his AP classes, volunteers at an animal shelter, and goes to synagogue every Saturday. Ariel thinks he has it all together. But when he fails a calculus quiz, he catches a glimpse of losing what he has worked so hard for. Ariel's family seems perfect, so why can't he be like them? His mother, always chasing a story for the paper, but still making time to make dinner for her family. His father, effortlessly juggling being a neurosurgeon and a father. His sister, Rachel, a soccer star who still manages to get her work done. Ariel has sacrificed sleep, a social life, and his well being for Harvard. What happens if he doesn't get in? Ariel decides he needs a tutor, so he turns to his childhood friend, Amir. Amir is more laid back than Ariel, preferring take photos or read Harry Potter than stress about school. But, as the tutoring begins, Amir and Ariel hit it off, and soon, Ariel is back on the right course with calculus. However, Ariel and Amir end up doing more than just studying. A romance between them blossoms. Though, soon, Ariel realizes he can't handle the new responsibility that comes with having a boyfriend. Now, Ariel needs to handle a serious relationship, playing in his best friend, Sook's, band, and English extra credit, on top of all of his normal schoolwork. It's not possible for Ariel to get it all done. Ariel must reconcile with the fact that he can't do it all, and he must realize that perfect isn't possible, and his happiness is more important than what's at stake.

Did the plot keep you interested?

Yes, the plot kept me interested. The book kept me engaged in both its romance, as well as the struggles its characters go through.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the book was just right. Although the book covers a significant amount of time, it is concise, because it only focuses on the parts that contribute to the climax of the story.

What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?

This book is appropriate for seventh to eighth grade and up. There is a minimal use of vulgar language, but, aside from that, the book is appropriate.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

This book is great for fans of romance or realistic fiction. In addition, I would especially recommend this book to queer readers, as it is a book that has queer characters, but the coming out experience is not at the forefront of the plot, which is refreshing.

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

It's helpful to know that this book can help teens reframe their mindset about school and work, and it is a worthwhile read to anyone who is feeling stressed from the pressures of school.

I rate this book 5 stars.

I rated this book 5 stars for many reasons. First, it is a great example of normalized queer relationships and people, especially teens. Second, its pace and plot were engaging and worked well. Finally, because the book was a genuinely enjoyable experience to read.