

Title: *The Infinite Noise*
Author: Lauren Shippen
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Peter S., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: December 29, 2020

The Infinite Noise is a fantasy story about Caleb, a high school star running back who begins to experience drastic mood swings. After getting into a fight at school during one of these mood swings and not remembering afterwards, Caleb is sent to therapy with one Dr. Bright, who tells him that he is not normal; in fact, he is an Atypical, a human with supernatural powers. Caleb has the power to feel other's emotions, but also takes them on. In his therapy sessions, Caleb uses visualization to describe his emotions, which provides the reader with an idea of how he feels throughout the book. At school, Caleb is overcome by stress, fear, and other negative emotions from the other students, but finds one other kid who acts as his refuge from the crashing waves of negative emotions. That student, Adam, exists in a kind of quiet sadness that Caleb finds comforting, and Caleb often finds himself looking forward to seeing him for the peace that Adam brings despite their great similarities. Adam is an intellectual and enjoys the humanities, as an alternative to Caleb, who struggles in school. At Dr. Bright's urging, Caleb seeks to become friends with Adam to discover the real source of the correlation between their emotions. Caleb and Adam become fast friends, and soon the story is split between them as Adam struggles to understand what Caleb is hiding while fighting a crush, and Caleb explores himself to find what he feels for Adam. In addition to his new feelings for Adam, Caleb is also in danger, as dangerous people search for others like him. Throughout the story, Caleb will also meet people who he can relate to as he goes through a drastic change in his life. Caleb's story is heartwarming, and creates a genuine relationship which continues until the end of the book.

The plot and pace of the story were slow, and did not keep me interested throughout the entire book. For most of the book, the plot only involved a few main characters, and quickly added major characters at the end of the book, with their own backstories. This book is appropriate for older teenagers due to themes of self-harm, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in romance. This book also contains references to self-harm.

I give this book *three out of five stars*. The plot was slow for the majority of the book, and themes were unexpected and I was not entertained by it. I can imagine liking this book, and I would not hesitate to recommend it, but I did not personally enjoy it.