

Title: *He Must Like You*
Author: Danielle Younge-Ullman
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewer Name and Grade: Oliver W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: January 31, 2022

Libby is a senior in high school and has just submitted her college applications when her parents tell her that they've lost all the money saved up for her college fund and that they're going to kick her out of the house over the summer so they can Airbnb her room. Her dad, Rick Stowe, says that he is doing this so she doesn't become spoiled like her brother Jack, who dropped out of college to go to Greece and escape their dad. Libby's dad has already made a bad impression in Pine Ridge due to the many scandals he's caused over the years, and Libby experiences the fallout when trying to apply for a job. Libby's dad himself doesn't have a job, spending most of his time in the basement doing nothing. No business in Pine Ridge will hire Libby because of her dad. However, Libby's friend Noah suggests a nearby restaurant that is out of town, named the Goat, and she gets a job as a waitress there. One night, Libby lets her coworkers at the Goat come to her house, and she is raped by a boy named Kyle. Several days later, her school's public health nurse Dahlia Brennan gives a presentation about sexual assault, and that's when Libby realizes she has been raped. A short time later, Libby is serving Perry Ackerman, who owns the Ackerman Brewery which employs most of the people in town, when he starts sliding his hand down her back to her butt. In response to this, Libby angrily pours a pitcher of sangria onto Perry, causing her to get fired and videos of the incident to go viral. In the aftermath, the incident becomes the center of discussion both online and at school, with Libby doing everything possible to avoid attention. However, there are a few people online, including Kyle, that speak out to defend her and talk about their experiences with Perry's sexual harassment. There's one especially active person defending Libby, whose profile name doesn't match with anyone in town, and Libby discovers that it is her dad. With an online search, she discovers countless examples of her dad getting into fights with strangers online over many things, and Libby becomes convinced that her dad needs to seek treatment for his mental health. When her dad reveals his plan to write an exposé revealing the identities of anonymous people who have accused Perry of sexual harassment against their will, Libby hides her dad's phone and the modem. Libby, who is now engulfed in multiple crises, must find a way to get her life together and deal with her growing crush on a boy named Noah.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot mostly kept me interested. There were consistently new developments that caused me to want to continue reading. All the characters had their own unique traits which kept the story interesting.

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

The pace of the book was pretty good, as there was plenty of action and never really a dull moment throughout the book. The plot never felt boring but was also never overwhelming.

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

I think this book is appropriate for readers in grades 8 and up. The book does cover some pretty serious topics, though never in a way that is very heavy. There is also occasional profanity.

What type of reader would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy realistic books with a tinge of romance that talk about important topics such as sexual abuse and mental health.

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

I think it would be helpful for teens to know that this book is centered around some heavy topics, including sexual abuse, mental illness, and abusive parenting. However, the author keeps the discussion about these topics pretty light.

I would rate this book: *4 stars - I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.* I really loved that the author discussed sexual assault and harassment in a very honest and nuanced way, avoiding generalizations and still making it very informational. All of the characters felt real and complex. The reason why I didn't rate this book 5 stars is because I felt that the author was trying too hard to cover all her bases, resulting in some issues not getting enough space. For example, racism is brought in very briefly near the end of the book, but it felt a little forced. In general, I felt that this was a very skillfully written book that kept me engaged the entire time.