

Title: *Kate in Waiting*

Author: Becky Albertalli

Genre: Contemporary Fiction, Romance, LGBTQ+, Young Adult

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Julianna V., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: July 14, 2022**

The novel *Kate in Waiting* written by Becky Albertalli follows the main protagonist Kate Garfield and her love life during the start of her junior year at Roswell Hill High School. The story takes place during the present time and is set in Roswell, Georgia. Kate always relies on her friend squad: Raina, Brandie, and her gay best friend Anderson Walker (also known as Andy). The members of the squad always have each other's backs, and they share many things in common such as their love of theater and their strong distaste of the jocks at their school. Although Kate and Andy always deny it, their friends always tease that Kate and Andy are especially co-dependent. At one point, Andy and Kate were so close that they started dating. However, when Andy came out as gay, they decided that they were going to remain inseparable best friends platonically in love with each other. The two are so inseparable that they do everything together, text each other constantly, and they are neighbors. They even share communal crushes with each other; they fall in love with a guy for a short period of time until he leaves their town. Their recent communal crush from the past summer, Matt Olsson, the dreamy new guy and fellow theater lover they met at theater camp, is an exception. Unlike most of their communal crushes, Kate and Andy were surprised when they found out that Matt had just moved to their town and now attends Roswell High. Now that Matt is at their high school, real feelings are involved for this boy that interfere with Kate and Andy's friendship. Throughout the novel, the reader sees how different friendships and relationships evolve. As Kate tries to deal with her crush on Matt while trying to keep her friendship with Andy, she establishes a closer relationship with her older brother Ryan, and she begins to realize that not all jocks are as bad as she thinks after she spends time with Noah Kaplan. This novel explores the important themes of friendships, relationships, and accepting yourself and others for who they are.

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

Personally, at the beginning I felt that the novel was a little boring. However, at the halfway point, I became more interested since more events were happening and there was an increased tension between the characters. But overall, the plot did keep me interested.

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

I felt that the beginning of the novel was slow, which is why I found it boring as mentioned in the last question, but by the halfway point, the book was at the right speed.

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

I feel that this book is appropriate for older high schoolers. Throughout the novel, the author utilizes a lot of mature language and it deals with certain topics that are appropriate for older

high schoolers. Also, most of the characters are juniors or seniors, so I feel that this book is mature for and is more relatable for older high school students.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

Honestly, I would recommend this book for any reader. However, this book is great for anyone who loves theater and anyone who wants to read an easy romance book.

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

This novel contains important themes about friendship and relationships, and it has LGBTQ+ representation. I would like to inform readers that if they decide to read this book, expect a lot of mature language and mature concepts throughout the book, but it is still worth reading.

I would rate this book *4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading.* One aspect about the book that I enjoyed was the humor; there were many times where I was literally laughing out loud, and I especially found the dialogue really funny. I also enjoyed seeing the friendship and closeness between the members of the squad. I feel that in life, many people will say that they are friends with a specific group of people, but in reality, they share nothing in common. However, in this book, I appreciated how the group of friends always looked out for each other and positively influenced each other; in my opinion, this is how real friends should treat each other. Also, without giving away spoilers, I really enjoyed Noah's character; at the beginning of the book, I was not a big fan of him, but as the book progressed, I enjoyed how funny and sweet he was. Although I enjoy watching plays and musicals, I personally am not an avid theater lover, but I did enjoy the theater aspect of this book. As I mentioned before, although the beginning is slow, I found the book enjoyable and worthwhile reading. I enjoyed the important messages of friendships, relationships, and appreciating yourself and others. I would recommend this book to any older high school readers.