

**Title:** *With You All the Way*

**Author:** Cynthia Hand

**Genre:** Fiction

**Reviewer's Name and Grade:** Benjamin W., 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** August 13, 2022

After disappointing her boyfriend with a failed sex attempt and then catching him with another girl the next day, a vacation to Hawaii is just what Ada needs. However, with the family's recent choppy relationship, the upcoming vacation only serves to stress Ada out more. First, she has been fighting with her sister Afton, who she has always gotten along with. Then there are her parents, who seem to be growing more distant with each other. This issue seems to be confirmed when Ada's dad announces that he won't be going on the vacation. Lastly, there is her mom, who has been spending too much time at work and not enough time with the family. Nonetheless, Ada is determined to have a good vacation and go paddleboarding, the one activity her dad recommended her to do. Ada's wish is granted on the first day when Afton offers to take her little sister Abby to a hula class, leaving her free for the entire morning. However, she realizes that she forgot to bring a swimsuit and frantically searches for one her size. When she finally finds one, Ada goes back to her hotel room to change, but finds her mom in the room having sex with another man. Ada is distraught and knows that this could be the end for the family. However, she keeps the incident a secret, with hopes that nobody else will ever find out so her parents won't have to divorce. As the trip goes on, Ada begins to wonder what's so good about sex. She decides to finally try it out with Nick Kelly, the nerdy son of one of her mom's colleagues. Together, they draw up a plan on when and where to do it, but on their day of choice, Ada wakes up with her period. Ada determines that her period should be over before the end of the trip so they decide to try again on the last day. Ada decides to call her dad to try and convince him to fight to keep the family together. When she's done with the conversation, she runs straight into Afton. Afton demands that Ada tell her what happened, so Ada tells her about their mom's affair. The news shocks Afton just as much as it did Ada, and Ada is afraid that her sister might confront their mom. However, she is able to keep her mouth shut. On the last day of the trip, Ada and Nick sneak away to Nick's room and attempt to have sex. However, just as they are about the start, Ada pulls away and tells Nick that she can't do it. Instead, they spend the night on the beach. The next morning, Ada finally confronts her mom about her affair. The situation turns into a mess, especially when Afton finally reveals the truth to stop the fighting. It had been her that morning in the hotel room. Ada is shocked by the news and even more shocked when her dad shows up and announces that they are going to extend the vacation.

Now, I will answer some questions about the book:

*Did the plot keep you interested?* - This plot definitely kept me interested. There were a lot of plot twists that kept me wondering what would happen next. The continuous tensions between the characters in the book made it very interesting.

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?* - I think the pace of this book was just right. The author kept the plot moving at a good pace with a good amount of well placed fights and plot twists.

*What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?* - I think this book is appropriate for kids in grades 8-12. There was a lot of sexual content that wouldn't make this book appropriate for younger kids.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?* - I would recommend this book to readers who are teenagers because this book captures the teen drama that teenagers can relate to in one way or another.

*What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book* - Nothing. This book was very clear.

*Rating:*

I would rate this book *5 stars*. Everything was well explained and clear. The characters were well developed and could be related to.