

**Title:** *Blackout*

**Author:** Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon

**Genre:** Romance/Young Adult

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Alexandra P., Grade 9

**Date Reviewed:** March 24, 2023

Blackout is a heart-warming young adult anthology novel that captures the essence of human perplexity and the unpredictability of life. The six interconnected stories written by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon, are set in New York City during a city-wide blackout that affects millions of people. A diverse group of individuals who are all coping with different problems and circumstances are featured in the stories. The darkness unexpectedly draws them together and forces them to face their fears, wants, and connections from the past and present. In Nic Stone's "The Longest Night," Nelly and her ex-boyfriend are stranded in an elevator and forced to confront their unresolved affections for one another. When they move through the little area and emerge into the dark, the tension is obvious. In "Anywhere But Here," by Nicola Yoon, Daniel and Natasha are two teenagers who meet by chance during the blackout. They explore the city together, discovering new parts of themselves and each other, before facing the reality of their respective life situations. Ashley Woodfolk's "In A Blink" follows a group of friends who must confront their hidden secrets and unresolved emotions during the blackout. The raw emotions and intense conversations that ensue reveal the complexity of their relationships and the challenges of growing up. Tiffany D. Jackson's "The Night is the Only Time to Live" follows young Audrey as she faces her biggest fear during the blackout. The story is intense and emotional, highlighting the unpredictability of life and the strength we can find within ourselves. Through their stories, the authors explore themes of love, family, friendship, and self-discovery. They capture the burstiness of life, the moments of unexpected connection, and the way that our lives can change in an instant. Overall, Blackout is a powerful and engaging novel that captures the complexities and unpredictability of life. The book reminds us that even in the darkness, there is hope and the possibility of connection and growth.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

The plot kept me very interested. I loved how it was about a city-wide blackout and how it affected all these different people's lives. The stories were amazing because they all connected in some way, and I thought it was super interesting to see how each character dealt with their own problems during the blackout.

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

Blackout is a book that had a perfectly paced plot, in my opinion. Each story was long enough to fully develop the characters and their situations, but didn't drag on unnecessarily. The pacing of the book kept me engaged and interested from beginning to end.

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

This book is appropriate for teens grades 8-12.

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

I recommend this book to anyone who loves stories about people coming together and finding strength in each other during tough times.

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

This book contains many interesting and relevant themes, such as love, family, friendship, and self-discovery. Also, the book contains some mature content, including discussions of sex and drug use.