



## The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles)

*Amy Spalding*

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Seventeen, fashion-obsessed, and gay, Abby Ives has always been content playing the sidekick in other people's lives. While her friends and sister have plunged headfirst into the world of dating and romances, Abby has stayed focused on her plus-size style blog and her dreams of taking the fashion industry by storm. When she lands a prized internship at her favorite local boutique, she's thrilled to take her first step into her dream career. She doesn't expect to fall for her fellow intern, Jordi Perez. Abby knows it's a big no-no to fall for a colleague. She also knows that Jordi documents her whole life in photographs, while Abby would prefer to stay behind the scenes.

Then again, nothing is going as expected this summer. She's competing against the girl she's kissing to win a paid job at the boutique. She's somehow managed to befriend Jax, a lacrosse-playing bro type who needs help in a project that involves eating burgers across L.A.'s eastside. Suddenly, she doesn't feel like a sidekick. Is it possible Abby's finally in her own story?

But when Jordi's photography puts Abby in the spotlight, it feels like a betrayal, rather than a starring role. Can Abby find a way to reconcile her positive yet private sense of self with the image that other people have of her?

Is this just Abby's summer of fashion? Or will it truly be *The Summer of Jordi Perez (and the Best Burger in Los Angeles)*?

## The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles) Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2018 by Sky Pony Press

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Author : Amy Spalding

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Amy Spalding**

## From Reader Review The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles) for online ebook

### Chelsea (chelseadolling reads) says

This was cute, but waaay too angsty for me. I'm bummed because I wanted a great new novel to obsess over about a girl who is a lesbian (yaaaas) and fat (YAAAASSSS) but I couldn't get over how childish everyone was acting. It's not the worst thing I've ever read, but I definitely think I went in with my expectations too high. Womp ?

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### autumn says

totally adorable!!! absolutely lived up to all the hype i created for myself (i'm just crazy about that title)! i had to force myself to read it more slowly so i could savor it. super cute, SUPER gay, super fun! fashion + food + friends!!

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### thefourthvine says

This was a cute, sweet, light f/f YA romance, and I 100% valued it for that. It was the perfect companion for a night when I was too sick to sleep, and I in no way intend that as criticism. It's the kind of light lesbian teen romance I would have loved to read as a teen, and that I'm still delighted to find now. I mean, for this to be my ideal book, it would need to have, say, dragons in it also, but this is still pretty great. And it's so FLUFFY, which is exactly what I want from f/f. I've done the angst! I've done the lonely lesbians and the dead lesbians and the wretched misery of it all. I am full up on that, possibly forever, and I am now in Full Fluff Mode when it comes to books about lesbians. This met my needs.

Also, I love that the author clearly ACTUALLY KNOWS and appreciates Los Angeles.

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### Sara ➤ Ink Is My Sword says

#### 2.5 “Too youngish for me” Stars

*“I’ve just realized that I’m probably doomed at love. Because I’m pretty sure I’m not the heroine. I don’t even think I’m in my own story.”*

#### ➤ [FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED:](#)

I picked this up with very high expectations. The story had so many elements that I had been wanting in my books for so long. Abby is a fat, lesbian, fashionable and our main character. She enters to do a summer internship a clothing boutique and falls in love with her classmate Jordi Perez, who is a photographer, and

her rival. At the same time helps her new friend Jax to taste hamburgers in LA. And I highlight again, **fat, lesbian, fashionable main character**. Pretty much me, but queer instead. It had great potential to be fantastic and one of the best contemporaries of this year. Sadly, the lack of plot and the childish ways of Abby had me pretty bored.

**I think my relationship with the novel was a first love type of thing, first dates and couple months meant the first 30% of the novel and then it just went downhill for me until I fell out of love.** The whole plot and tension for our main characters to get together and acknowledge their crushes was resolved very early in the novel taking away the source of addiction. I took almost a week to finish this contemporary novel, which is not something I usually do. I was basically only hanging in there for the climax or problem at the end of the novel and went it came, I said: “this is it?!”. I really wanted to connect to the adolescence aspect, as the main character and I just share 1 year of difference, but I felt I was at least 4 years apart. Our main character has a very low self-esteem, which is not something it bothered me the most because I do share this characteristic, it was more her inability of communicating and judging people from her own assumptions.

**I did enjoy many things.** For example the unpredictable friendship with Jax, and the tight group of 4-girlfriends and their small teenage issues. I loved the fashion aspect because it shoves the stereotype of fat girls cannot be beautiful too down. Jordi’s family dinners and how Abby’s weight was the main issue with the relationship with her mother. I just feel I may have liked this more when I was 15-years-old. P.s. also the first kiss scene was so cute.

**I do recommend this for fans of YA contemporaries looking for more diversity and people who want a fun short summer read. I really hope you find more enjoyment in this book and representation like me.**

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**maegan \*** says

**You may also find this review on my blog here.**

*I received an e-ARC through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

*If we’re all standing out, aren’t we all just...blending in?*

**FIRST OF ALL.** It made me incredibly anxious to know that I’ve still got a pending e-ARC (an ARC whose book is already out, no less!), so here’s my official “I’m sorry” to Edelweiss and the publisher for only reviewing this now. Please don’t hate me, ILY guys.

Second of all, ***The Summer of Jordi Perez (and the Best Burger in Los Angeles)* is exactly the kind of feel-good contemporary summer romance I’ve been dying to read.** I have this policy of reading about only 2-3 contemporaries a year because they’re not my thing. No hate, but they’re just not my cup of tea. I’m glad this book was one of my chosen contemporaries for 2018 because it was a breath of fresh air after reading only cis-heternormative stories all the time.

To put it all out there, this book stars a plus-sized lesbian who falls hard for the very person she’s supposedly

competing with for an internship. It sounds like it's got a dose of angst—and it sometimes does, during portions of the story—but it's more of a fluffy read than anything.

**The three things I loved most about this book were the representation, the message of the story, and the romance.** (I mean, I did request this book because it featured a sapphic love story.) Our main character, Abby Ives, is a plus-sized fashion blogger just trying to live out the best summer she could possibly have. What I liked most about her was how real she was to me. She was kind yet stubborn, confident in her appearance yet reserved with her public image. **It was easy to relate with her frustrations and her joy because of how much layers she had.**

I'm also a fan of the numerous messages this book advocates for. **For one, I appreciate the love story so much.** I don't often come across lesbian romances (a fact I should rectify immediately), and this one just reaffirms the fact that the YA world needs more LGBT+ stories. **For another, I love how the author constantly reminds its reader that being fat is not a bad thing.**

*But people—especially people on the internet—can be so mean when you're fat. As if fat makes you stupid or dirty or irresponsible. As if fat makes you anything other than...fat.*

The only thing I wanted more was a longer ending. It ended so abruptly (however sweet), and I wanted some more pages and time with the characters of the story! **I did like the parting message of the novel, which is to say that making a mistake does not equivalent to the end of your life.**

*I don't know why I thought that one mistake would alter everything. People make mistakes.*

It's a nice reminder, what with Twitter and the Internet canceling everyone with every little mistake as of late.

If you're looking for a sweet summer read with lots of kissing, lots of fashion, and lots of burgers, this is the book for you.

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### **Jasmine Guillory says**

This book is fun, heartwarming, warm, and super fashionable. And it will make you crave burgers! It is the perfect book if you need to put a smile on your face.

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### **Kate Olson says**

Thanks to the publisher for the review copy of this title!

PEOPLE. This book is YA absolute perfection. PERFECTION. I am ALWAYS up for a whip-smart

romantic comedy, but this one blew that description out of the park. It is about a queer, body positive, social media savvy teen (Abby) in her very first relationship, but it's also about so much more. It's about friendship and business and family dynamics and standing up to the pressure of parents. It's about loving carbs and walks, and about love and learning to let the world see who you really are. I adored the fashion/store/internship aspect and the social media storyline was spot on.

I am struggling to find the words to say how much I love this book, but maybe it would help to tell you that THIS was the book I needed 20 years ago when I was 17. A book that told me it was okay to love my body just the way it was and that the future is SO bright. A book about a HAPPY fat girl who dressed in her own distinctive style simply because it made her feel the most comfortable with who she is. A girl who ATE FOOD and LIKED IT. A girl whose friends never once cut her down, and who never once in the whole book tried losing weight.

As a librarian, I am in love with the romantic relationship because the girls aren't coming out and there is absolutely no drama about their sexual status. They are just both girls who love girls and everyone in the book is totally fine with it. Well, except one person, but she's just clueless and comes around!

Required purchase for every library serving teens and highly recommended for any reader on earth.

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### **Cece (ProblemsOfaBookNerd) says**

This is honestly all I've ever wanted in a f/f romance, I feel so fulfilled and happy and overwhelmed right now.

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Update 5/21/18

I feel like every year I spend as a reader and a reviewer for queer books, I am constantly hearing the desperate call for f/f rom coms. Personally, as a lady who happens to love ladies, I am also one of those people seeking out stories like this. I want simple stories about girls falling in love, with all the shenanigans and cuteness that I have seen in books with m/f and m/m couples. These f/f rom coms are few and far between, but god did *The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles)* give me everything I have been looking for.

A few tropes this book delivers on in spades:

- i. Workplace romance
- ii. A sunbeam and a character of a \*questionable past\* falling for each other
- iii. Romantic misunderstandings
- iv. Creative types deeply inspired by their partners to create ART

I mean, there is so much more going on in this book overall, but this is a personal list of things that deeply appeal to me and that made this book a ridiculous amount of fun. Rom coms are fun! They're tropey and possibly a tiiiny bit predictable, but I fall for them every time. Tropes are exactly what I love about the genre, and it's why this little book about a summer romance between two girls competing for the same job made my lesbian heart melt a bit more every day.

Abby is a fantastic character. She loves fashion, she's fat, and she's super gay. She has a famous nutritionist

for a mother, a gaggle of friends who tell each other everything, and a plus-size fashion blog on tumblr that has a pretty decent following. But beyond all of this, she's a girl who has always seen herself as the best friend, the one who is destined to live a life on the sidelines. There's a real focus on body positivity from Abby's perspective, how she sees herself and how she thinks others see her, and I really appreciated every aspect of her character and the journey she goes on throughout the book.

I also loved Jordi. She has a vibrant family and a passion for photography, and a more subtle personality really complimented Abby and the whole style of the story. She's a girl who wears all black all the time, but maybe has a hidden passion for Hello Kitty. She'll do anything for the perfect picture, even if it means she's been in a bit of trouble in the past.

I mean, ok, this is a rom com. It's all about the two falling in love. And I loved these two being flirty and awkward and fantastic. Helloooo book about a lady with pink hair and a lot of fruit-printed clothing falling for a moderately emo photographer girl???

From a writing perspective, this book is simple and sweet without getting too cheesy. There are definitely stakes, and a few signs that this is perhaps a first romance for both people involved. But it means there is a kind of earnestness that carries through from beginning to end, an honesty that helps take the story to another level. It's a rom com, but it's also a story about new friendships and old ones, and about how we judge both ourselves and the people around us. It's about two people, but the world around them is fleshed out and full of the people that define Abby and Jordi's lives outside of their relationship.

To round this whole review off, I would be remiss if I didn't add that this is an absolutely perfect summer read. Of course, it's set during the summer before Abby and Jordi's senior year. But it's also about a summer romance, a summer job, and a ridiculous summer plan that involves eating at every burger joint in Los Angeles while talking about girls. There's a balance of the summer job, and the parties at a friend's pool. I wanted to read this pool side, sipping a lemonade, and I can only recommend that you take the shot and do the same.

What can I say, I'm a simple lesbian with simple desires, and *The Summer of Jordi Perez* checked off just about every single thing on the list.

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### **Fadwa (Word Wonders) says**

*I received a copy of this book from Edelweiss in exchange of an honest review*

Full review originally posted on my blog: *Word Wonders*

### **CW: Fatphobia (challenged), multi-gendered attraction erasure in the narrative**

If you've seen my most anticipated releases of 2018 post then you saw that this book was one of them, it just sounded so cute and fluffy and like a very fast read, plus it has fat rep AND and f/f romance. So it's only normal that I went RUNNING to Edelweiss when i heard that it was available for immediate download and I literally threw all my reading plans out the window to pick it up because it was exactly what I needed in that moment. And it lived up to my expectations when it comes to the cute, it was really all I wanted and needed from it.

The writing is the kind that is there to tell a story, it's not over the top, it's easy to read but still has some really quotable parts that hit me right in the feels. The story is written from Abby's POV and she was a really pleasant character to follow the journey and growth of. It \*really\* felt like we are in her head because she'd be present in the moment a second and then zone out and go on a tangent the next and I mean... if that's not the most relatable thing ever I don't know what is.

The only issue I had with the book and the reason it has 3.5 stars (which isn't a bad rating at all) with how much I actually enjoyed it is that it perpetually erases multi-gendered attraction. For most of the book, the author does a good job at keeping it "girls attracted to girls" rather than putting a label on it. But then when she does bring up labels, she seems to ignore/forget that sexuality is actually a spectrum rather than the oversimplified and quite often hurtful gay vs. straight narrative. There's one fleeting mention of bi people at some point but other than that, this is a pattern throughout the whole book.

There's also the fact that Jordi is immediately assumed gay when Abby realizes that she likes her. There's never "a talk" or an explicit moment where Jordi says "I'm gay" before Abby starts labeling her that way. For all we know, she could be bi, pan, omni, poly, queer or not like labels at all. So that really came off really presumptuous to me and erases a whole bunch of identities that could apply to her.

Now that my complaint is out of the way I want to talk about the characters because I LOVED THEM. Abby is a fat gay girl with a great sense of fashion she wants to make a career out of and a blog she's really passionate about. She's cheerful and bubbly but can also be and is more often than not awkward which was super relatable and endearing to me. The way her fatness was discussed is not my lane to discuss but I just wanted to mention that I really liked that balance between how she was confident and comfortable in the way she looked but still being fully aware of how harsh the rest of the world can be, especially with a mom so blatantly fatphobic. She mostly raised above her constant comments but couldn't help but let them get to her sometimes.

Jordi is Abby's mexican-american, (presumed) gay, love interest. she's really passionate about photography which sometimes consumed her whole and I really admired that. I really liked her character, how sweet and thoughtful she was but still fucks up, especially when it comes to being consumed by her passion and making questionable decisions for the sake of her art. And that puts a strain on their relationship. A relationship I really loved, might I add. The development of it felt so organic and IT WAS JUST ADORABLE, OKAY? Their banter, cute dates and everything in between really warmed my heart and I also thought that the way the bumps along the road were handled was quite nice.

The Summer of Jordi Perez might be romance centered but it also puts emphasis on Abby's friendships as well. I started super iffy about her friendship with Malia, she seemed like she didn't respect Abby's privacy at times and was judgmental of her feelings for Jordi while still ditching Abby for her boyfriend a lot of the time. But the way that unfolded made up for it well and I ended up really liking her character. Now her friendship with Jax is my favourite thing EVER. It was just so effortless ad they got along so so well, were there for each other even if their friendship was only just blossoming. They just clicked, they were themselves with each other and could tease each other without either one of them getting offended. And that's something I value in friendships.

All in all, this was a really quick enjoyable read, that I would highly recommend picking up if you are looking for good fat rep, or are just looking for a cute wholesome romance. But I still want you to be aware of the erasure because it's there and I would hate for anyone to get hurt.

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## Iris says

This book was so CUTE! It wasn't super memorable, and it wasn't super unique, but it was hella fun, and the romance was adorable!

### **Short List of Thoughts:**

- Abby was great! She didn't exactly stand out to me, but I *liked* her. She felt real. She had passions and hobbies and insecurities. She liked fashion and had bright pink hair and spent her spare time on social media (relatable haha). She was a compelling MC and I was rooting for her.
- Jordi was awesome! From the very first time she came in I knew I was going to love her! She made some (okay more than some) questionable decisions, sure, but she genuinely meant well. She loved photography and her family, and ahhh I loved her!
- The romance between them was super cute! I was squealing and flailing the entire book, because they're SO GOOD TOGETHER AND I LOVE IT. I will say some of Jordi's actions at the end were... questionable and sorta uncool, but she also realized it and felt horrible and they were just so CUTE TOGETHER.
- Abby's friendship with Jax was amazing! Jax was sort of an ass, but also I really loved him, and they just had the most genuinely sweet caring friendship?? And I loved it?? I loved it a lot.
- This book was super funny! I was snickering the whole time, and ahhhhh I loved it!!
- Also I couldn't put it down? I read it in one day, which seeing how short it is maybe isn't saying much, except it was also CHRISTMAS DAY, and I still managed to binge it in a day. So. That says something haha.

This book was just so freaking fun and cute and I really liked it!

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## Madalyn (Novel Ink) says

This review originally appeared on Novel Ink.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Well, this was exactly the adorable f/f summer romance I needed to read! The Summer of Jordi Perez follows our protagonist, Abby, during the summer before her senior year of high school as she works to balance her internship at her favorite fashion designer, new and old friendships, and falling in love for the first time.

First off, can I say how much this book means to me as a plus-size queer girl??? I got to read about a protagonist who looked like me and felt the same way about girls as me!!! I've seen these identities of mine

represented well separately in many books, but never this intersection. I related SO SO much to Abby and her struggles with her body. Like Abby, yes, I truly do like myself and the way I look, but it's what others might think that gets to me. Seeing a successful fashion blogger and intern struggling with the same things I deal with was really comforting and validating, and I felt better about myself as I read about Abby learning to fully embrace herself. Plus, while Abby is a lesbian and I identify as bisexual, I still thought the queer representation was done really well.

Speaking of which, Abby and Jordi's relationship was so cute! I will honestly never tire of reading cute f/f romances that take place in the real world, because, like, we deserve to have those. While the two of them were pretty different as people, they complemented each other well and helped each other come into their own. Normally, I loathe the miscommunication trope, but I thought it worked really well in this story. I just love a good summer romance, tbh.

I also adored Abby's group of friends. Maliah, Brooke, and Zoe reminded me lots of my friends in high school. Maggie, Abby and Jordi's boss, also made me happy! I loved reading about their internship, honestly. Lemonberry is a store I could totally see myself shopping at if it existed. I also have a soft spot for Jax, who reminded me of so many of my unlikely friendships with guys now. The two of them were full of banter, but not in a romantic sense, which was fun to read. And, of course, all the food descriptions were delicious.

Overall, I think this is the perfect fluffy spring/summer read that's not entirely mindless. It still includes important representation and makes you think, but the setting and the characters lend it a feel-good vibe. Highly recommend to any contemporary lover!

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### **Lola says**

\*happy dance\*

This is definitely a feel-good book. While there is serious conflict towards the end, it remains a story full of good humour, positive romance and blossoming friendships. Side bar: I recommend only reading the first two paragraphs of the blurb seeing that the third contains spoilers. I'm shocked this was overlooked.

Abby is a funny, fat and pink-haired gay girl who loves fashion so much she landed an internship at her favourite store. She has never been with a girl before so she has trouble believing that she could find love this summer, especially since she considers herself to be the "sidekick" of her own story, instead of the "heroine". But as she begins to fall for Jordi, the other intern who is passionate of photography, she realizes she might need to trust herself more.

Nothing is rushed. Everything happens very naturally. The romance is sweet and gradual. There is no insta-love or insta-lust or insta-anything. It's not by looking at Jordi that Abby suddenly becomes interested; it's by talking to each other about their respective passions, lives and selves that Abby's crush on Jordi grows bigger and bigger until she knows she has to act or will regret it forever.

It's a simple enough story; nothing will blow your mind or persuade you to look at the world differently, but just like *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, it will charm you to no end and make you wish you could be part of Abby's world.

### **Jen (Pop! Goes The Reader) says**

The Summer Of Jordi Perez is, without a doubt, one of my favourite books written for this or any other age group or genre. I was lucky enough to first read an early draft of this novel in June 2015 and I've lost track of how many times I've re-read it since. Diverse, inclusive, empowering, body positive and all around wonderful, I have no words to describe how deeply I love this novel.

(Full review to come closer to publication.)

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### **Ann Elise Monte says**

Twitter is screaming about this book, so when I saw that it was on Edelweiss, I immediately got over my total confusion with how the damn website works to snap it up.

Just kidding. I still don't understand Edelweiss. I just made it bend to my will long enough to grab this.

See this review on my blog.

#### **Details at a glance:**

**Genre:** YA Contemporary

**Format:** e-ARC

**Pairings:** F/F

**Sexual content:** None

**Rep:** Fat lesbian MC, Mexican-American LI black supporting character

**Ownvoices:** Yes for fat rep, unknown for queer rep

**Content warnings:** Ableist language, weight loss pressure, anti-fat relatives, lowkey anti-gay parent, bi erasure

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This is a fun novel about a career-focused plus-sized fashion blogger who's also a lesbian. My review might be a little messy because I'm trying super hard to be positive even though there was one part that really annoyed me and has kind of ruined my enjoyment.

Let's start with some positives.

It's awesome to see fat queer rep. Intersectional stories can be hard to find sometimes, especially in mainstream publishing.

Abby is a great character. She's bright, cheerful (usually), and has a great sense of style and pink hair! While she is super chatty and usually decked out in bright colours, she does have her insecurities. She's totally fine with being fat, but doesn't want to post pictures of herself on her fashion blog because of the potential fallout from anti-fat strangers.

Abby does have to face anti-fat microaggressions fairly often, and she has some great stuff to say about the way "fat" is treated like an insult when it shouldn't be, because being fat isn't a bad thing. She's often put at odds with her mother, who runs a health food blog and regularly pushes Abby to lose weight. She's also pretty weird about Abby being gay. They have a complicated relationship.

The friendships in this book are super interesting. You have the established best friends Abby and Maliah, plus their larger group of girls. You also have Abby's newer friendship with lacrosse bro Jax. Abby's friendship with Maliah has become more complicated since Maliah got a boyfriend and has less time for her. Abby grapples with feelings of abandonment because of this. Jax is such a bro, but he's also a good friend to Abby and super supportive. It's really cool to see a character who has both male and female close friends.

The relationship between Abby and Jordi is super cute, but I did have some issues with the pacing at times, especially in the last quarter.

On the bi erasure: It's like the author was trying to avoid bi erasure for a lot of the book but still messed it up. For example, she put liking boys in opposition to liking girls as if they're mutually exclusive, acted like the only possibility for a character of unknown orientation was to either be straight or gay. There is one token mention of bisexuality, but then not long afterwards, suddenly the characters talking about finding more gay people for the main character to date as if bisexuals and pansexuals and other queer folk have suddenly stopped existing again.

One token mention of bisexuality does not undo the erasure everywhere else. It's so, so easy to avoid erasing us and yet authors keep failing. I actually thought the author was trying early on and just was really not good at it, given there was more about "does she like girls" rather than "is she gay" but nope. We got into that fun little tradition later on.

I wanted to like this book, but I'm absolutely tired of queer books doing this and I'm really starting to regret getting a review copy because I don't want to deal with this anymore. This has literally ruined my enjoyment of this book. I hope this changes in the final copy, but I'm not holding my breath.

(If any of this changes in the final copy, feel free to let me know and I'll add a note to this review, but I'm not spending money to find out myself.)

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### **Fafa's Book Corner says**

Mini review:

DNF

This book was recommended to me by dear GR friend Lola! Click on her name to read her review. I have read one of the author's previous book and I was really looking forward to this one. Unfortunately it just wasn't for me.

This book was actually really cute! But somehow I found it cringey at the same time. I couldn't keep the smile off my face while reading. Yet there were so many things that Abby said and thought that really rubbed me the wrong way. It bothered me quite a bit so I simply DNFed it.

Nonetheless I highly recommend it. I honestly think that a lot of people will connect with Abby.

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