

Reviewer Name: Anonymous

Grade: Junior

School: Yorba Linda High School

Book Title: If He Had Been With Me

Author: Laura Nowlin

Rating: 5

Autumn and Finny were once the best of friends. Made for each other and incapable of leaving the other's side, their childhoods were simply intertwined. Born to mothers that were the best of friends, the pair were raised next door to one another. Except things have changed since then and now it looks as though they are magnets of the same side. Autumn and Finny couldn't be more different at this point in life. Autumn has a boyfriend named Jamie, who leads their oddity of a friend group. Finny, or Finn as everyone knows him by, is the kind of boy the whole school is attracted to, in more than the physical sense. Finn is dating someone as well, Sylvie is her name and she is insanely beautiful. Tensions exist between Autumn and Finny, yet they find themselves being pulled back to one another in various forms. Autumn begins to question the history that caused their separation and wonders if her and Finny would be better together. Autumn has to fix this and make things right, especially before she loses the opportunity.

I loved this book dearly, during, and after reading it. It will remain etched in my memory forever as it left a void in my heart once I had completed it. I'd call it one of my favorite books as this romance was written in a devastatingly beautiful manner. Personally, there wasn't anything I disliked about this novel. My favorite characters have to be Autumn and Finny, even though this seems to be a basic response, these characters are incredibly complex. I found myself reflected in Autumn at times, which comforted me through the similarities. Finny is what would be a perfect, good-hearted individual that doesn't deserve anything less than the utmost happiness. This book provided me with an intense roller coaster of emotions that lasted even after the book was over. Every feeling is layered throughout and can be felt deeply in the human heart.

I would and will recommend this book to anyone and everyone. It is an amazingly real story with small messages I feel should be heard by everyone. The writing is spectacular and really ties a bow on the tone of the novel. The writing is incredibly unique and fails to remind me of any other read. I believe anybody could read this book and learn something from it, and they should.