

Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda

Becky Albertalli

Reviewed by Ziqing Kuang (14)

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Sixteen-year-old Simon Spier has lived a pretty normal life. His parents were kind, loving people, and he had a sister who supported him through all his decisions. He has 3 amazing best friends who have been with him since they were in preschool, and there's nothing that would ever break their friendship apart. Well...there is one secret that he hasn't told anyone: he's gay. When he meets another gay person through the Internet, they start to exchange emails about their closeted feelings and how it has been impacting their life. Simon starts to pour his heart out to this unknown person (who he knows as "Blue"), telling him about his worries, his dreams, and his problems. When Martin, one of Simon's archenemies, gets a hold of one of his emails, he threatens to out him unless Simon helps him get with one of his best friends, Abby. Not knowing what to do, Simon falls in this difficult, messy web of lies to satisfy Martin and all his needs. One night at a football game, Martin tells Abby how he feels about her. Already having feelings for someone else, Abby rejects him in front of the whole school. After going home with boiling feelings and emotions, Martin blames Simon for his own rejection and posts the emails on the school website for everyone to see. Simon's life soon falls apart after his best friends leave him for a separate decision he decided to make and his entire school knowing that he was gay when he didn't feel comfortable telling anyone yet.

This was such a beautiful novel about love and friendship, and I was able to relate to a lot of the characters in the book. All of the teenagers in this novel were growing up and experiencing different things that led to character development and change. Simon learned a lot from his experiences, and at the end of the book he was able to feel comfortable with who he truly was before he went to college. I would definitely buy this book for a friend, especially a friend who is going into high school or college. I recommend this book to readers from the ages of 13-16. This is definitely one of the best books I have ever read, and I totally suggest watching the movie after reading the book.

Recommended Titles:

Everything Leads to You by Nina LaCour

Juliet Takes A Breath by Gabby Rivera

Openly Straight by Bill Konigsberg

One Man Guy by Michael Barakiva

Noteworthy by Riley Redgate