

All The Bright Places

Jennifer Niven

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“All The Bright Place,” written by Jennifer Niven is about two teenagers navigating life in a little town in Indiana. Violet is coping with the loss of her sister and Finch is dealing with mental health problems. They meet in the unexpected of places, a bell tower in which they are both contemplating jumping off of. After talking one another out of jumping, they become partners for a project. They’ll have to explore different sites around Indiana. Throughout the project, they’re able to see a homemade roller coaster, Blue Hole, Hoosier Hill, and much more. They begin to develop romantic feelings for one another during the course of their project. Although things seem to be looking up for Violet, Finch is going toward a downward spiral and is ultimately expelled from school. Finch decides to run away and leaves cryptic notes and messages to Violet, that make her visit the sites they hadn’t for their project. Ultimately, Finch sends a message to people he knows and cares about saying goodbye, which deeply troubles Violet. However, she realizes she’s too late when she confirms her belief that Finch drowned himself at Blue Hole, an attraction they went to visit for their project. Violet feels guilty for his death, but with support from her friends and a song that Finch left her, she is able to not blame herself and move on with the next chapter of her life.

This book was able to capture the essence of two teenagers, in pain and distraught, trying to find something that will give them peace and tranquil. It was written so well that you can imagine yourself in the places that these characters were written in. Not only that, but the book was written in a way in which you can feel all the emotions that Violet and Finch feel when they are going through a breakdown. It also brings light to the issues regarding mental health. They show how mental health isn’t something that’s fixed by meeting someone. They show the darkness and dangers of depression and bipolar disorder and show that these issues aren’t something that should be romanticized.

This book is more so for teenagers in high school. It’s a very touching book with very important messages that everyone should hear. I would recommend that this book is bought as a gift because it’s just one of those books that you can go back and read many times and never get tired of. Not only do I love how the book and characters were written, I also appreciate that the last few pages of the book are dedicated to different hotlines and numbers you can call if you are experiencing depression, grief, or anything else.

Recommended Titles:

“I’ll Give You The Sun,” by Jandy Nelson

“Turtles All The Way Down,” by John Green

“Girl In Pieces,” by Kathleen Glasgow