

## **Far From The Tree**

**Robin Benway**

**Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 17**

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

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*Far From The Tree* follows three adopted teenagers as they discover that they are all related. Maya, the youngest, feels isolated from her family, and with her mother's drinking and her parents' constant fighting, she cannot help but feel angry. Grace, the middle child, had a baby and gave her to another family for them to raise, but she still feels connected to her child, and she doesn't know how to feel about the emptiness inside her after the birth. Joaquin, the oldest, has been through many foster homes, and at 17 years old, is only now getting a chance to get adopted. But after so many years in the foster system and events that hurt him, he is apprehensive about anyone adopting him.

These three siblings have to learn how to work together and keep this family that they now know they have. But most importantly, they need to learn how to love each other, and that family is always going to be there.

I absolutely loved reading this book, and I found it difficult to put it down. Seeing these different characters with all of these different stories and backgrounds come together and connect was heartwarming, and author Benway did an amazing job at making it feel natural and real. I feel like the main focus of this book is on Grace, but Maya and Joaquin's stories were also captivating, and it was almost as if I could feel their pain. I would recommend this book to teenagers and older for language and some content.

### **Recommended Titles**

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Mexican WhiteBoy by Matt de la Peña

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate