

Between the Lines

Jodi Picoult and Samantha Van Leer

Reviewed by: Amberley Heins

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

www.bethestaryouare.org

This novel centers around two star-crossed lovers, Delilah and Oliver. Delilah is a girl in high school who keeps her head down and minds her own business. She has never been popular and spends most of her free time rereading a fairytale for children. Oliver is the prince and hero from Delilah's book who, unbeknownst to her, is struggling with his role, and would love more than anything to break script and make his own choices.

After Delilah notices Oliver accidentally move on his own while she is reading the fairytale, they begin to converse with each other whenever Delilah gets a chance to open the book, explaining the differences between their worlds. After hours spent confiding in each other, Delilah and Oliver fall in love, and are heartbroken to think that they will never see each other in the same world. Determined to escape the book, Oliver begins brainstorming with Delilah and they try multiple solutions to try and pull him out of the book. With each new idea and set back Oliver and Delilah support each other so that neither gives up hope and keeps trying to come up with new solutions.

Review:

Between the Lines is a really adorable idea for a novel and is perfect for any high school or middle school girl who is always hoping for a happily ever after. I love that this is written by a mother and daughter team, and that they created a great collection of secondary characters who have their own characteristics and problems they are working through as well. This is definitely a story where a reader's favorite character may not end up being one of the protagonists, but might instead be the pirate from the fairytale, who happens to love practicing dentistry in his free time. The parts of the story that take place in Delilah's world make the story relevant and realistic by littering pop culture references throughout the dialogue, and the characters from the fairy tale put just enough of a spin on the stereotypical magical roles that the reader stays engaged, not sure what is going to happen next.

I borrowed this book from my public. I would recommend this book for readers 12 and up.

Other Suggestions:

Ella Enchanted – Gail Carson Levine

Princess Academy – Shannon Hale

September Girls – Bennett Madison