

The Sun is Also A Star

Nicola Yoon

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The Sun is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon follows two teenagers on a wild adventure against the clock. Natasha is a 17-year old Jamaican girl, trying to keep her family from being deported. The day of her deportation, as she searches for a way to stay in the United States, Natasha meets Daniel Bae. Daniel is a 17-year-old Korean-American boy who is stuck between his dreams and his parents' wishes of him going to Yale. The story follows them as they fall in love and their struggles as they fight against the clock.

The Sun is Also A Star is an exciting and heartfelt read that will definitely capture the attention of a reader. Natasha's factual no-nonsense personality juxtaposes Daniel's more flamboyant and dream-like thinking. I enjoyed the quick pace of the book as it holds true to the limited time the characters have together. A part of the story that peaked my interest was the structure in which the book was set up. The perspective not only switches between Daniel and Natasha but also has the viewpoint of the universe. The universe plays a large role in the book as it provides backstory but also insight on why things end the way they do. In my opinion, that added real depth to the story making you feel more connected to the characters.

While the storyline has you rooting for the characters and their love, there were a few things that were missing for me. Yoon does a terrific job of giving as much background on the main characters' lives as possible, explaining why they are the way they are, but the future is rushed through until Natasha and Daniel meet again. Not much information is given to what Natasha's life is really like when she returns to Jamaica or what Daniel's life looks like after he decides against Yale. At the end of the book, you are really rooting for them and when they finally meet again you want to know more. What do their lives look like? How did their younger lives affect their older versions of themselves? Do they even get together in the end? Though, the open-ended nature does allow the reader to imagine for themselves.

Overall, I think this is a great read especially for fans of romance and spontaneity. I recommend this book for ages 11 and up as it does use profane language once or twice. This is a light and enjoyable read that many can enjoy. Other books I would suggest are *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon, *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell, *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen, and *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan.