



We Were Promised Spotlights by Lindsay Sproul
Reviewed by Fadila



Stand Alone, Fiction, LGBTQ+

Give a summary without spoilers!

Told from Taylor Garland's perspective, the audience learns she is the so-called 'perfect' popular girl at her high school. She's dating popular guy Brad, and soon to be homecoming queen. But Taylor isn't interested in any of those things. She's interested in her best friend Susan. But Susan is in love with Brad.

Living with only her mom, Taylor tries to contact her dad, who is a famous actor. As the story progresses, and Taylor realizes she doesn't want to hide that she's a lesbian, she becomes closer with an old friend, who helps her towards accepting herself.

What drew you to this book?

I was drawn to this media because I wanted to read more queer, romance focused novels. Sails network suggested this book because of other books I had read. I was also drawn to how the main character had been pretending to be someone she was not, and was finally coming to terms with her truth.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

We Were Promised Spotlights by Lindsay Sproul was unique to me as a reader. I had never read a book that detailed the twists and turns of social life in high school in such a way. I also had never read a book with such an...unsatisfying ending.

To whom would you recommend this book?

We Were Promised Spotlights by Lindsay Sproul is geared towards an older audience, with bad language and sexual references. I would say anyone 15-16 and older would be fine reading this book. If someone was looking for a coming of age/coming out story, this is where they should look. The plot has a romantic focus, so it would definitely appeal to people who like high school romance. The plot moves fast, and doesn't have any particularly boring parts, and is great for getting out of a reading slump.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

Honestly, I can't say I'm a fan of *We Were Promised Spotlights*. I found the main character unrelatable and mean. There were a lot of unnecessary plot points that actually didn't really relate to the overall direction of the plot. And the ending, don't even get me started. The ending left so many questions unanswered to the readers, and seemed irresponsible. I'm not going to spoil the ending, but I just believe it felt rushed. For these reasons I wouldn't recommend this book to someone unless I was trying to have them see how unsatisfying the ending was.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

I felt a little let down by this book. I had high hopes for the ending, but was let down. A lot of times I had to disagree with Taylor's actions (especially at the graduation scene). I feel like this book is a bad representation of queer books.