

If you have read any of Jennifer Niven's early works and enjoyed them, this is the book for you. This story follows Claude, a girl of eighteen, who is experiencing all the feelings surrounding finishing high school and figuring out who you are meant to be. When Claude's parents inform her that they are separating Claude's world is turned upside down, especially as she goes to stay on an island with her mother. Here Claude struggles to cope with all the changes going on in her life.

I think this book is perfect for those in the same age range who will relate to the changes one faces when they leave school and home. This YA contemporary was not fluff, but hard-hitting, dealing with topics such as virginity, sexuality, friendship, identity and familial relationships. I thought these topics were discussed really well, especially those surrounding consent. The author's note at the end made this story all the more poignant and gave this book a powerful punch.

Another aspect of this novel that was done well was the atmosphere. You could feel a summery breeze as you were reading this. There are a few scenes that involve baby turtles and I couldn't help but be reminded of Nicholas Spark's *The Last Song*, another book I love. As the characters visited different parts of the island the more you felt like you were there with them.

My only critique was that perhaps I didn't relate so much to Claude as I didn't have a similar experience and in parts became frustrated with some of the decisions that she was making. But I think the majority of readers will find something in Claude in which they identify with and make this book a valuable read.

Ultimately, *All The Bright Places* will still be my fave Jennifer Niven read, but this book was well worth the read and I would recommend to those who have enjoyed Niven's previous works, those dealing with similar changes and those who simply want to FEEL.

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