

PICTURE US IN THE LIGHT

by Kelly Loy Gilbert

Published in 2018

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other: Dystopian thriller

Picture us in the Light by Kelly Loy Gilbert is a novel surrounding an 18-year-old high school senior named Danny Cheng who is struggling to cope with a mystery his parents have kept from him and the suicide of a close friend. After getting into RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) on a full-ride scholarship, Danny finds a box owned by his father that is filled with blackmail on a wealthy family. He investigates it which leads him to discover a deep family secret. At the same time, his friend group is mourning the loss of their friend who had committed suicide and chooses to honor her memory in a way that upsets the school.

This book approaches complicated, sensitive topics like mental health in a respectful, caring manner. It is relatable to any high schooler trying to figure out what to do with their future or is currently experiencing a difficult situation. Danny goes through a lot of intricate emotions, but it is easy to see where he is coming from. I would also like to highlight how it manages to twist two different plots into one that is easy to follow. Based on all these factors, this story deserves a score of nine out of ten.

I recommend this book to any teenager looking for an informal but intriguing story to get into. It is well-written, easy to read, and uses language that people would actually use in real life. However, I would avoid the book if topics surrounding mental health bother you in any sort of way.

By Kaye G, 9th grade, enjoys reading mystery and contemporary books