

Author: Jennifer Brown
Title: Hate List
Length of Book: 413 Pages
Reviewer Rating: 5 Stars
It's awesome; please add it to Teen Favorites!
Fiction Category: Realistic Fiction

When Valerie Leftman's junior year of high school comes to a close, her boyfriend opens fire in the Commons when he has finally had enough of the bullying and being terrorized by the other people in their high school. Valerie did not know how critical her role was in all this, in fact, she did not know about any of it. Before the shooting, Valerie and her boyfriend, Nick create a book called the Hate List, which contained a list of people that went to their school who they disliked and even despised; it was a list of students and even teachers. Valerie never knew it would lead to a shooting. It caused seven people to die and it wounded many others, including Valerie. Valerie got in the middle of her boyfriend and a girl named Jessica, who even though she disliked she knew that did not deserve to die. Nick accidentally shot Valerie, and in spite, shot himself. After the shooting, Valerie was left in the hospital with many others, trying to recover physically and mentally. When she went back to school to complete her senior year, she was left with no friends and many people even hated her because they thought she wanted/ caused the shooting; her own father even hated her. As she struggled to survive in school, the girl she saved, Jessica decided to become friends with Valerie and invite her to the club she started for people who survived the shooting. Valerie even had the idea of creating a time capsule for the people who were involved in the shooting. As the book came to a close, Valerie shared her side of the story of the shooting at her graduation ceremony and many people saw through her eyes what happened on the day of the shooting.

The authors writing style was very detailed, especially during climatic parts of the book. Due to the violence and other content in the book, I would only recommend it to anyone in 9th grade or above. This book shows how bullying can really push someone over the edge. This piece of literature is realistic and shows the views of someone who was involved in a tragic event such as a shooting.

-Will H.