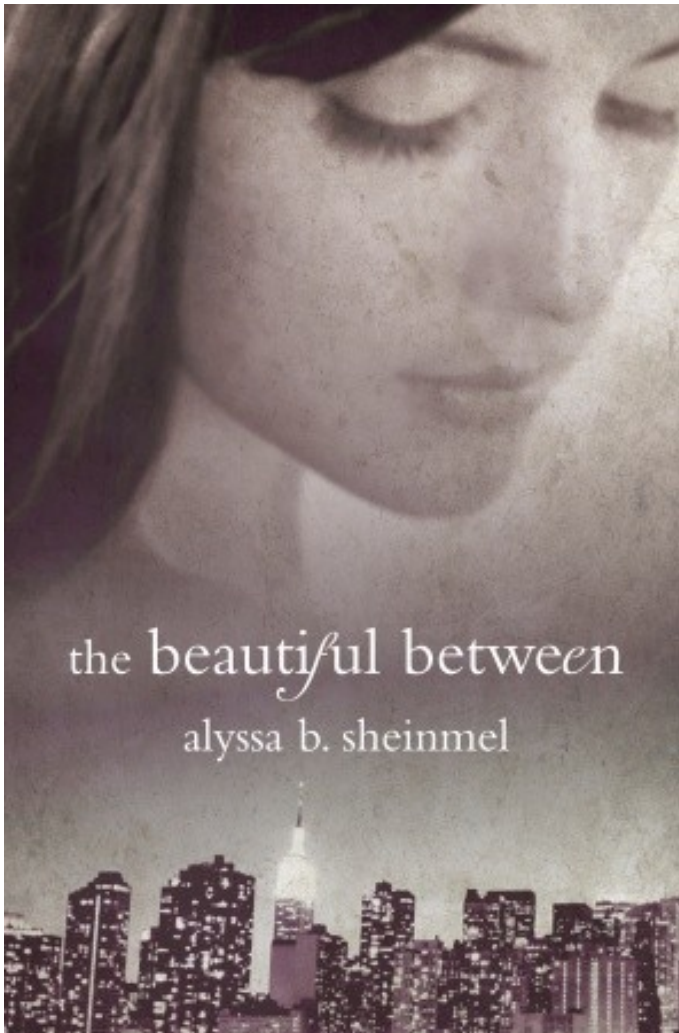

Alyssa B. Sheinmel

The Beautiful Between



Title: The Beautiful Between

Author: Alyssa B. Sheinmel

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Description

If high school were a fairy-tale kingdom, Connelly Sternin would be Rapunzel, locked not in a tower by a wicked witch but in a high-rise apartment building by the SATs and college applications—and by the secrets she keeps. Connelly's few friends think that her parents are divorced—but they're not. Connelly's father died when she was two, and she doesn't know how.

If Connelly is the Rapunzel of her school, Jeremy Cole is the crown prince, son of a great and rich New York City family. So when he sits down next to her at lunch one day, Connelly couldn't be more surprised. But Jeremy has a tragic secret of his own, and Connelly is the only one he can turn to for help. Together they form a council of two, helping each other with their homework and sharing secrets. As the pair's friendship grows, Connelly learns that it's the truth, not the secrets, that one must guard and protect. And that between friends, the truth, however harsh, is also beautiful.

This lovely and memorable debut by Alyssa B. Sheinmel contains many of the hallmark themes found in young adult literature—friendship, coming of age, finding a place to belong, and overcoming the death of a loved one. Emotionally moving from start to finish, *The Beautiful Between* introduces a strong new voice to the genre, a voice with a long future ahead of it.

Insightful reviews

Laura T: I read this book in about 5 hours because I was so addicted. As soon as I had read the first page I found myself racing onto others. I love how the character compares her life to a fairytale. It makes you realize that life is a fairytale and you have to live it the way you want to. Anyway, back to the review, Alyssa Sheinmel's novel caught me after about 2 chapters. Connie had lost her Dad when she was about two, ever since then she had only spoken about him once with her mother. Now she was sixteen and needed to get to the bottom of her fathers death. Then the hottest boy in school, Jeremy Cole, notices her. He has never even spoken to her before so what was this all about. Could recent events affecting her reveal her fathers secret, or will life pass her by, along with the mystery of her fathers death?

I liked this book because of the way Sheinmel described Connies feelings. Connie seemed to have an opinion on almost anything, which I enjoyed reading. This is a beautiful book and shows how people cope after a death or a heartbreaking event. Connie seems to have changed rapidly after the events in *The Beautiful Between*.

Overall this book got a 3 star rating because I thought that there could have been more things happening. I prefer action books more than these type of steady conflict books. After all this I can say I mostly enjoyed it.

Amanda: As far as literary YA that I would shove into the hands of a conflicted young girl and tell her to read it, this qualifies. With all the mistakes that Connelly makes, she's a real girl with real problems, and she's searching for a truth, which is what YA is all about.

Connelly's father died when she was very young, but she doesn't really know how or why. When the most popular boy in school starts hanging out with her, they embark on a friendship that helps her face her past and helps Jeremy through one of the most difficult things he will ever face.

What I liked about this book: The genuine friendship and reality of the characters. I could almost see them walking down the hall of their high school. The title had several meanings for me, which I like. I like layers and complexity.

What I didn't like: I think I was a little YA'd out when I read this book. I was a little tired of the whining, and I never love bad language. I was grateful, though, that this book didn't really go overboard.

Overall: I would recommend it. It is heavy, so be emotionally ready for that.

Laila: At this point in my life, I hate sad books. More than traffic, the B52s, and soggy sandwiches. And this book was sad. It had a sad middle and a sad ending, when all I wanted was a classic happily ever after.

Other than the parts I hated, I enjoyed the book. Great characterization.

It ends with a quote from A Farewell to Arms: "But we were never lonely and never afraid when we were together." I think the author included the quote so the end wouldn't feel so depressing, but (maybe because I now feel so melancholy) all I can wonder is what happens to you when you're not together? You're lonely and afraid? That bites.

Melissa: This was once a brand new addition to our highschool library, so i made a decision to learn it within the hopes of getting one other booklet to suggest to students. What i discovered as an alternative used to be a tremendous disappointment. i'm really not oblivious to the actions that many highschool scholars are concerned in, yet does literature have to symbolize it as a wholly common reality? apart from the incessant highschool smoking (with overall mom and dad condoning the behavior), keg parties, a 12 yr outdated melanoma afflicted baby dispensing beer to her sixteen yr outdated brother and his friend, and a frightening line because the major characters watch a classmate devour a number of leafs of lettuce and declare "anorexia is so 90s" simply because all people now has "blow". The book's blurb made this sound like a fairytale analogy, which stuck my attention, however it is actually loosely conveyed, other than the most male personality many times being referred to as Prince Charming. it's a brief read, yet nevertheless, it isn't well worth the time.

Ailu: Es una historia muy muy corta, lo que en parte está bueno, pero por otro lado se sintió un poco incompleto. Es difícil encontrar un libro que sea corto pero tenga todo lo que tenía que tener, en fin. Lo que más me gustó fue que trató más sobre amistad que otra cosa. Que no se mezcle otro tipo de vínculo. Y los angeles confianza, algo que no se tiene que entregar de una, que se necesita tiempo y sentirse cómodo con esa personalidad como para confesar cualquier cosa. Y quise llorar pero había gente alrededor así que fue un poco molesto aguantarme el moco. Dejando de lado el detalle (de que es un libro corto, no lo de mis mocos), me encantó. Deja un gran mensaje.

Ana Banda: Dios que hermoso! Las amistades empiezan de los angeles forma mas inesperada..pero terminan siendo lo mejor que te puede ocurrir en l. a. vida. Ame l. a. amistad de Connelly & Jeremy, es tan simple, tan verdadera! Lloré, definitivamente lo hice..pero de

verdad que es precioso! :')

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