



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Now Is Everything By Amy Giles Reviewed by Mia Li

Name: Mia Li

Grade: 8th

Book Title: Now Is Everything

Author: Amy Giles

Number of Pages: 357

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 5/5

Character List:

- **Hadley McCauley:** In school, she seems like a quiet girl who has everything she could ever want. What people don't see is the grief she's been put through. She tries to keep everything to herself, but the people around her can sense that something is wrong. It's not until the accident that people truly begin to realize what has happened.
- **Charlie Simmons:** Charlie looked like a typical player who quit everything he did. In reality, he worked three jobs to help his living situation and struggled to keep his mother sober. When Hadley comes into his life, he finally finds someone to share his struggles with.
- **Meaghan Maki:** One of Hadley's best friends. Through high school, she dated numerous guys to try and find the right one. When Hadley finds the perfect guy on her first try, she can't help but to feel jealous.
- **Miles McCauley:** The father of Hadley. He puts the most pressure onto Hadley to be the perfect everything. He pushes Hadley until she hates him, and it's for good reason.
- **Lila McCauley:** The younger sister of Hadley. She was confident, outspoken, and all around just loud. Hadley tried to protect her innocence and kept Lila away from their father's abuse. However, as Lila grew up, she saw what her dad did and she started to hate him almost as much as Hadley does.

Review:

The McCauley family. They seemed like the perfect family. Their daughter was the best at everything in school: the best at lacrosse, the best in grades. What people didn't realize was that to keep to facade of being the perfect family, abuse was running through the house, along with alcoholism. Hadley struggled to protect her sister, Lila, from their father and keep up with the high expectations of the family. Things only get worse for her after she develops a relationship with her long time crush, Charlie Simmons. After being pushed to the edge, Hadley does something unthinkable. Only Hadley knows what she did, and she doesn't plan on telling anyone else.

Now Is Everything is a book filled with real life problems along with typical teen problems. The author uses a Then and Now format to explain what had happened leading up to the accident, as well as what is happening after the accident. Although it takes a dark turn at the end, throughout the book the author shows the struggles of many children that are going through abuse. The author teaches the readers the many signs of abuse, and also to ask for help when help is

needed. The author also includes a short note at the end really explaining the signs of abuse and the different abuse hotlines to explain it more in depth. I think it also shows victims of abuse that they are not alone. I would recommend this book to everyone except for young kids and teens because there are some inappropriate concepts in it.