



## TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

### *Turn It Up* By Jen Calonita Reviewed by Abigail Wilson

**Name:** Abigail Wilson

**Grade:** 11

**Book Title:** Turn It Up

**Author:** Jen Calonita

**Number of Pages:** 259

**Rating (on a scale of 1-5):** 4/5

#### **Character List:**

- **Lidia-** Lidia is a girl who is extremely family oriented, and loves to dance and sing. Her mom is the headmistress at her school, and loves that Lidia is involved in the Nightingales, an acapella group that she was once a part of. Lidia loves the group, but she loves dance even more, and she begins to doubt that the Nightingales will take her anywhere in life.
- **Julianna-** As the new girl, the headmistress of her school pushes Julianna to join the school's acapella group. She can sing, but her last school turned her down from joining the acapella team, so she is worried that she will not make it.
- **Cydney-** Cydney is Lidia's best friend and co-captain of the Nightingales. She falls in love with a boy who Lidia has liked since the eighth grade, and it tears their relationship apart.
- **Griffin-** Griffin is a boy who comes in between Lidia and Cydney, when he kisses Cydney. He complicates their relationship and causes Lidia to question her involvement in the Nightingales.

#### **Review:**

Lidia and Cydney are best friends, and co-captains of the schools acapella team, the Nightingales. Lidia has been in love with one of the leads in the schools male acapella team, Griffin, and feels completely betrayed when she spots Cydney kissing him. This makes things awkward between the girls and for the group as a whole. During a meeting meant to bring in new members, the girls get into a fight, and Lidia walks out. This chases away a few good candidates, which puts the team at risk since they need at least a dozen more girls to even compete. During auditions, Lidia reappears to fulfill her duty as co-captain, and ends up leaving again when she doesn't agree with Cydney's judgement of some of the girls. During the auditions, Julianna tries to perform, but ends up chickening out. Afterwards, she plays her piece in the empty auditorium, unaware that Cydney is still in the room. She is quickly invited onto the team. Even after being taken onto the team, Julianna still has doubts about her talent. She was turned down by the acapella team at her old school, and the team made her think she wasn't good enough. She confides in Cydney about her worries, and she is assured that she is just what the team needs to succeed. Lidia and Cydney's issues cause Lidia to step down from her position, which puts the team at risk. Their first performance at a school pep rally quickly turns into disaster, until Julianna steps up and turns it around.

The plot flowed nicely, and the shifting between different point of views worked in favor of the author, giving the story a deeper meaning, and adding into character development. I didn't see any flaws in the plot or the story. There were no slow parts, and I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in teen drama, or who is involved in music.