



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Winning By Lara Deloza Reviewed by Ashley Tran

Name: Ashley Tran

Grade: 7th

Book Title: Winning

Author: Lara Deloza

Number of Pages: 300

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

Character List:

- **Alexandra (Lexi) Miles** - A senior who has been raised to get everything in life no matter what it takes. She has everyone woven around her finger with lies, heartbreaks, fake tears, and sympathy. These are all a part of her plan to win Miss America and get out of the quiet town she calls home in Indiana.
- **Samantha Schnitt** - The closest friend of Alexandra who follows her around like a puppy. She is a major contributor to Lexi's plan and even if she does not see it, is one of the best people Alexandra has ever had in her life.
- **Sloane Fahey** - Mission: Ruin Alexandra Miles. Sloane had been easily duped by Lexi, and now, it will be her turn to be the laughingstock.
- **Ivy Proctor** - A corrupt girl who is only known for an unexpected breakdown in the middle of sophomore year. She is Lexi's latest pawn and is yet to be dropped like last year's MAC lipgloss.
- **Erin Hewett** - The new girl who arrives with an unwavering smile, great contributor to her community, and all-around perfect girl... who gets in the way of Alexandra's meticulous plan. She... is going down.

Review:

Winning is survival. At least, in Alexandra Miles' case. She did not ask to succeed in everything. It just happened, under her mother's strict regulations, of course. Getting the Miss America title was her mother's unachieved dream, so naturally, she pressed it all on her daughter. Her father had died a few years ago, leaving Lexi with a deranged mother. Now, Alexandra has this big picture painted in her mind: Get to the top of the social chain in Spencer High School, win Homecoming Queen, become Miss Indiana, then, finally - Miss America. It's simple, really.

Lexi's plan is jeopardized when Erin arrives with her "New Girl" aura and everyone loves her within moments of introduction. Alexandra is usually able to take down any obstructions fairly quickly, but Erin is a tough case. So, she takes an unexpected move - she resigns from being a homecoming princess to coach (use as her puppet) Ivy to be the

Homecoming Queen with the hopes of beating Erin. Although Alexandra finds her plan to be foolproof, she may be surprised when she realizes that she may not always get what she wants.

This novel gives an inside view of teen drama and how hard some people may have it in life, even if it does not seem so. Lexi may have seemed shallow and selfish on the outside, but on the inside she is pressured by her defective mother much more now that her father, the only person who seemed to truly love her, passed away. She ruined everyone else to make sure they would not ruin her. This book will really appeal to young teens because it is not about the generic plot of a vain bully who gets a taste of his/her own medicine. This is one of the very rare plotlines where the bully really wants to change and makes sure the people she had 'preyed' on get their happily ever afters, even if she does not get one herself.