



This Song Is (Not) for You

Laura Nowlin

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Bandmate, best friend or boyfriend? For Ramona, one choice could mean losing them all.

Ramona and Sam are best friends. She fell for him the moment they met, but their friendship is just too important for her to mess up. Sam loves Ramona, but he would never expect her to feel the same way--she's too quirky and cool for someone like him. Together, they have a band, and put all of their feelings for each other into music.

Then Ramona and Sam meet Tom. He's their band's missing piece, and before Ramona knows it, she's falling for him. But she hasn't fallen out of love with Sam either.

How can she be true to her feelings without breaking up the band?

This Song Is (Not) for You Details

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From Reader Review This Song Is (Not) for You for online ebook

Debbie at Snuggling on the Sofa says

THIS BOOK. BE STILL MY ACHING HEART.

Elle says

Love, love, loved! This wasn't what I was expecting but I loved it. Everything from plotting, characterizations, to the ending. I can't rave enough about this one. The concept of love and how we all see it and what makes love different for everyone is just amazing. Highly recommend and can't wait to add this to my personal library.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Christina says

My original review of this title can be found [here](#) on The Book Hookup.

****SPECIAL NOTE:**** *An eARC of this title was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. However, that did not influence this review in any way. All thoughts, quotes, and opinions will be of this version and not of the published edition.*

♥ **Quick Thoughts and Rating: 2.5-3 stars!** It's been weeks since I've read this book and I'm still not quite sure how I felt about it. It was...*slightly* weird--sometimes even good weird--and I'm not really able to formulate my thoughts into something that's review-worthy, to be honest. It wasn't bad by any stretch of the imagination, and had some pretty great quotes and ideals worth sharing, but overall left me feeling generally indifferent about it all.

♥ **The Lowdown:** Ramona and Sam are best friends and bandmates, but also secretly in love with one another. When they find their missing sound in oddball artist, Tom, everything seems to be looking up for this duo. But then Ramona starts falling for Tom while she's still in love with Sam, and Tom loves Sam and Ramona, but has zero sexual interest in either and everything is suddenly...weird. But when the group has a major communication breakthrough, they manage to find a rhythm that suits their personal interests, the group's interest, and romantic interest all in one go that creates a perfect harmony and a satisfying ending.

I am in love. With Tom. And with Sam, who I knew was my Sam as soon as I met him.

Some people don't think this could be true.

But I do.

I am.

I love.

~quote taken from the eARC of *This Song is (Not) for You* at 59%

♥ **Review:** I've spent the better part of a couple of weeks trying to untangle all the opinions in my head when it came to this book, and I still don't feel like I've successfully managed them at this point either, but I'm going to give it an honest-to-goodness go. In the beginning, I found it rather difficult to connect to the characters. The pacing was slow-going and each of the characters felt almost caricature-like and very one note: Romana was always hyper and cheerful, Sam was super pensive, and Tom appeared to be quiet despondent. For it to have been written in alternating first person POV between all three main characters, I felt a general lack of varying "voice" between them all. However, over time and as the story progressed, allowing their stories to finally intersect more, I came to appreciate the uniqueness of each character and the differences they brought to the story. I also enjoyed all the musicality that the story had in it, but I'd imagine for those that aren't aware of certain music elements or those that don't care to go in-depth about it will find it difficult to trudge through, even skim-worthy at some times because music seems to be at the heart of who these kids are. I also respected the way the author decided to handle the ending, and while it felt a little open, I can see the need for it to happen this way in this situation.

The biggest reason I feel like people need to read this book is because of Tom. He was the first asexual character I've read about, and while I would have loved to have delved into his character a little more, I liked the brief explorations into his mind when dealing with his sexual desires--or lack thereof--arose. I almost wish the author would have spent a little more time on this particular aspect, but seeing that sex didn't necessarily interest him that much, I can see why it wasn't in his thoughts a little more.

"I'm not gay. I'm not straight. I just don't really care about sex."

"You don't care. About sex." She said it like I'd said I didn't care about curing cancer.

"I don't know why," I said. I tried to gather together my years of puzzling over this and lay it all before her. "I just never developed this obsession with sex that everyone else has.

It's never interested me, and it just seems to cause everyone else a lot of trouble. I love you, Sara. I think you're so smart and beautiful, and I love being with you. I just don't want to have sex with you."

~quote taken from the eARC of *This Song is (Not) for You* at 45%

-♥-

I have a lot of love in my life. I don't feel like I'm missing out on anything.

I don't know why I don't feel sexual urges, but I don't.

I didn't have anything horrible happen to me as a child.

I've told a doctor and been checked out. Nothing's wrong with me.

Except that something must be wrong, right?

Right?

So I should try to be with Ramona in the way she wants. I should try to feel sexual desire.

Maybe it's like a muscle that can be exercised. Maybe I can be jump-started, and then I'll still be me, but I'll have this thing that everyone else feels.

~quote taken from the eARC of *This Song is (Not) for You* at 55%

♥ **Rec it? Maybe.** Certain elements in this book give me the perfect reason to push this on others (namely Tom and his asexuality), but other reasons (love triangle-y bits and music music everywhere!) make me a

little more hesitant to tell people to jump on it. Mostly, I appreciate that with the setup, it could have been drama overload, but it was relatively light and ended on a good note (heh, see what I did there?).

Mostly I appreciated this book because it once again reminded me that love isn't quantifiable or can't be shoved into some tidy label, nor does it look or feel the same to everyone. We're all different with our own unique experiences, and that means that love is going to be expressed and accepted differently by each individual in our own way.

I love how they laugh together. I love how Tom is able to get mellow, dreamy Sam excited. I love making music with them in pairs and as a trio. I love listening to them as they make music together. I love how Sam can get hyper Tom to stop and think, just like he can with me. I love it when they tease me together.

I love them. Their friendship is at the center of my mind's maze, and their love is the highest-flying banner on my heart. Loving one does not take love away from the other. There isn't a limit to the amount of love I can feel.

There isn't a limit to how much I can love, and this knowledge makes me want to fly. Lying here on the couch, I feel as if I could lift off and away. The boys laugh and grin at each other.

This love makes me want to love everyone more. Everyone."

~quote taken from the eARC of *This Song is (Not) for You* at 74%

♥ A very special thanks to Sourcebooks and NetGalley for providing an advanced copy of this title in exchange for my honest review.

Amber (bookstacksamber) says

Not sure where my review went!

I picked up this one because it has an ace character and , and it had an unexpected polyamorous aspect that I was pleasantly surprised about. I loved all three of the main characters and their individual POVs. The way the relationship played out between all three characters was so interesting. I loved seeing how they grew closer and how Ramona and Sam's dynamic changed as they added Tom into their small friend group and band. I highly recommend picking this one up!

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to SOURCEBOOKS Fire and NetGalley.)

“So here’s the plan,” I say. I am taking Ramona glitter bombing.

This was a slightly strange story, about three teens and their relationships.

Ramona was a bit of an odd character, and she always seemed to be hyperactive about something. Tom was a quiet boy who liked glitter a lot, and liked to do illegal things like putting fish into fountains, and Sam seemed the most normal out of the bunch (which isn’t saying much).

The storyline in this seemed to be about these three teens playing weird music, and glitter bombing things (including a fire hydrant! So irresponsible!), as well as their relationship with one another. We started the book with Ramona and Sam secretly fancying each other, and then we got Tom thrown into the mix, even though he seemed to have no libido at all.

The ending to this was okay, although things were still a little weird on the romance front.

6 out of 10

Hannah ?Reader in the Rough? says

And I realized that maybe Tom was good for us. It’s good for Ramona to have someone to pull the rug out from under her every once and awhile. She turned and smiled at me. And I realized that it’s probably good for me to have another person between me and Ramona.

Um.

This is not at all what I expected.

spoilers

Polyamory. Strangeness. Music without descriptions. Love without conviction.

Chelsey Ellice says

I wouldn’t say I loved this book. I enjoyed it and the love triangle but then that kinda got weird towards the end. She should have chosen one person. I liked how there band was different and they weren’t afraid what others thought

Paula M. of Her Book Thoughts! says

Although there are some good aspects in this book I really can't deny that this is like my worst nightmare.

This is the first novel I read about Laura Nowlin although I seen her name before and was planning to read her other book. I really like her writing, and sadly that is the only thing I can say about this novel. Oh and **I appreciated the book's effort to explore asexuality although it failed miserably.** The love triangle was just.. a mess.

It really dragged, it keeps readers reading because it will make you believe that there will be like a big revelation or something important will happen but sadly, that didn't happen at all. I was bored and I was just pissed because the girl is just annoying and the other guys came out as crybois instead of swoony and charming. I did not like anyone at all. **Plus, this book is filled with such music snobbery that it makes me wanna throw it. Yes, things like that makes me a violent person.**

Fatima says

Thank you to NetGalley for providing me with an eARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Okay, so, I read the synopsis of this book and thought, "Ooh look, a book with a love triangle!" I have nothing against love triangles, in fact, if written well, most of them are right up my alley! So when I got accepted for this book on NG, let's just say... I *immediately* delved into it. The love triangle totally turned out to be more than what I expected, which I'll be discussing below.

I started reading this book at 11 pm and finished at 2 am even though that was a TERRIBLE decision considering the fact that I had school in three hours. Like, I didn't even notice the book go by - not once did I check which page I was on! That's how much I enjoyed this book.

Each character had such a unique & distinctive voice and the POVs alternatively switched between the three of them in a very well-paced manner. This pleased me... a lot! Also, the characters' personalities were amazing! Their evolution throughout the story was definitely something to read. Ramona was cheerful and quirky, Sam was adorable and soft-spoken, and Tom was just such a driven character!

This book turned out to be more than just a love triangle, I won't be spoiling, but there was such a positive outlook on so many things! The relationships, the experimental music...etc. There are many small and realistic life lessons hidden within the book, and many of them really resounded through me.

Part of what made this book such an enjoyable page-turner is the writing itself. **The prose was beautiful** and the metaphors had me rereading half the paragraphs again. **The descriptions were flawless & flowed smoothly;** they effortlessly allowed the reader to get an idea of what's going on without being excessive. It was just fantastic.

Overall, this was such a **refreshing change from other books in the genre.** This book had such a positive

outlook of many things in life not usually reflected in typical YA books such as high school, relationships, and love. If you like reading atypical YA Contemporary books, then this book is for you. (Haha, that was accidental, but I'll go with it.)

Zemira (Kylo Ren fangirl) Warner says

“Growing up isn’t summing a mountain, you know. There’s no end point.”

This is one strange book.

On one hand I had a feeling it was robotic at times and there were brief moments where I got everything these kids were saying because I too am dealing with my (a)sexuality for the past year. You're never too old to change or even realize things about yourself.

So in a way, this review is about me coming out. I was brave enough to come out to 2 people. One in person, which was really hard but liberating and one over text.

For the longest time I've felt like people were judging me for not wanting to date again or even hook up with randoms. Those feelings are still there and I've already explained a million times why I'm the way I am, I can probably recite it in sleep. I'd try to tell them I have bigger priorities, that having a boyfriend is the least of my worries. I've never outright told them: "I'm ace." because they've probably never heard that term and they would say very helpful things like-you just haven't found the right person yet, you'll feel differently when you're thirty, or even look down upon me and ask me if I was into women, which sets me off completely. I guess other people find it hard to grasp the fact not everyone wants to have sex, get married or have kids.

I've been always obsessed with couples on tv and in book mostly because I've never felt that connection you share with someone else. I've never been in love despite being in a couple of long relationships. I've always been the cold one in a relationship and I've been (in a way) bullied because I wasn't showing my affection in a more physical way. I've cherished the friendship parts of those relationships but for some reason those moments can easily be interpreted as sexual attraction to some people. Why is it so hard to have a normal conversation with someone without them asking me out after that? People like to call me a bitch and mean cause I like to say it how it is but why is it so hard to accept someone who thinks nothing like you?

I'm an aromantic asexual! I've been this way my whole life. Yes, I've had sex and no, I don't really want to have sex just to please someone else. I don't want to repeat those experiences. I accept my very flawed, over the top, sometimes too serious/immature and opinionated personality. I'm just human and I'm not perfect. But I'm okay with that.

I'd like to thank Laura Nowlin for writing about something as complex as asexuality and for other reviewers saying she misrepresented ace community I say this- everyone experiences sexuality in their own, unique way so you shouldn't be saying things you probably know nothing about. Some aces do have sex and they do experience some form of sexual/emotional attraction towards same/different gender. You are not entitled to define anyone.

Joanna Marie says

received an eARC copy care of Sourcebooks and Net Galley! Thank you guys.

Uhm this book is an ok book for me. Fast read? yes. I don't know if it's just because it felt weird reading this or it really lacks the energy. It took time before it got my interest because the plot moves so slow. But towards the end, I already enjoyed reading it. The characters matured and the words used became more beautiful every time.

And if there's one thing that the book shared to me, it's positivity :)

Rachel Geiger says

[I have never read a book that explored asexuality and that was a pleasant surprise (hide spoiler)]

Sarah {Literary Meanderings} says

This review can be found on my **Youtube channel** here: This Song Is (Not) For You by Laura Nowlin

Laura Nowlin says

This book is not for you.

teavious says

I FREAKING LOVED THIS.

The characters are absolutely all likeable. I literally love all, even secondary ones, because this book doesn't leave them at just being secondary characters, but actually acknowledges that there are stories we might not know behind every personality.

Tom is my favourite, because he's such an edgy artist who wants to educate himself constantly and change the world, and it was beautiful. I also love that he honestly has nice things to say about people he fell out with, and he's actually lovely. He loves glitter! Come on!

They are all very open minded teens and it was beautiful to see this when YA is usually filled with dumb af teenagers.

Also this book contains discussions about gender issues, calls out misogyny and sexism and explores various sexualities and relationship types. It was brilliant.

It's a short one. Make yourself the favour of reading it. Surprisingly nice. I'm not that much of a music person, but if you're into that (making of music, old bands), then this book is even more for you.
