



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Rebel With a Cupcake By Anna Mainwaring Reviewed by Abigail Wilson

Name: Abigail Wilson

Grade: 11

Book Title: Rebel With a Cupcake

Author: Anna Mainwaring

Number of Pages: 208

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

Character List:

- **Jesobel Jones** - Referred to as "the girl who eats life," Jesobel enjoys both cooking for her family and eating food, and when a video of her goes viral, she notices how overweight she is, and decides to change it.
- **Hannah/Izzie** - Jesobel's best friends, they both share the same attitude most girls do towards clothes and food. Hannah's older brother becomes Jesobel's love interest, and Izzie becomes jealous, and thinks Jesobel is blowing them off.
- **Matt Paige** - After making eye contact through Jesobel's window a year before, Matt became her love interest. He ended up ditching Jesobel for a much skinnier mean girl.
- **Alex** - Hannah's brother, Alex tries to kiss Jesobel after Matt breaks her heart, and she turns him down. Soon after, she realizes that she does like him back, and she has to get him back.
- **Zara** - A bully at Jesobel's school, Zara rips Jesobel's leggings to be mean. To get back at her, Jesobel pushes her down the stairs, and the security clip goes viral, giving Jesobel mixed feelings. Zara ends up stealing the boy Jesobel had liked for over a year, and broke Jesobel's heart.

Review:

Jesobel Jones is a girl who enjoys living her life, and who doesn't obsess over what she looks like. She is surrounded by negative images of what beautiful looks like, from her mother's bad habits, to her sisters. Everyone is constantly trying to convince her to drop her mindset of loving herself, no matter what she looks like. It isn't until a boy starts paying more attention to her that she decides that maybe she could look different and still love herself. When a boy that Jesobel has liked for over a year asks her to a party, she is ecstatic, until her mother buys her a dress for the occasion that also happens to be a few sizes smaller than Jesobel wears. She begins starving herself, and exercising with her older sister, and she realizes that she is becoming like everyone else, and that she has lost herself. When the party comes, she realizes that the boy was never truly interested in her, and ditched her for Zara, a girl who Jesobel has had issues with for years. Following these events, Jesobel learns that she doesn't need to conform with others, and that she can be loved the way she looks.

I believe that the author has had personal experience with the subject at hand, giving her more of an inside look at the issue. I enjoyed the flow of the plot and the writing style - it made it seem more like real life. One aspect of the book that

I didn't enjoy was that everyone was portrayed to have issues with loving themselves, when in reality, most people don't care about how they look. I also think that the author could've done a better job in developing some of the characters from earlier in the book, like Dom or Fred, who were only briefly mentioned. I also think that the author could've looked into the mindset of the girls who were feeling like they had to abstain from eating or exercising, and why they felt that way. Lastly, I think the author should've given those girls who were struggling a solution, and make them love themselves the way they are.

I believe that any girl who is struggling to love themselves should read this novel. It portrays a real life problem that a lot of girls face, and gives many reasons why girls shouldn't feel that way.