

Reviewer Username: Anonymous

School: Valencia High School Grade: Junior

Book Title: Night of Many Endings Book Author: Melissa Payne

Rate: 5

Five strangers find themselves trapped together in the local library during a particularly heavy snowstorm. During such a crisis, every individual is compelled to share his or her own troubling past while helping each other overcome their trials. A special focus is placed on Nora, a librarian whose brother surrendered his life to drugs after a harrowing accident. Lewis, a homeless drug addict, sheds a light on the librarian's sibling's predicament. An acquaintance of Nora's, Marlene struggles with both physical pain due to old age and mental suffering from the passing of her husband. The security guard working at the library, Vlado, reveals his immigrant background yet high aspirations for a bright educational future. Meanwhile, a young and subdued girl named Jasmine discovers herself having to spend the night with the four aforementioned people. After the weather becomes less severe, each person returns to his or her old situation with a renewed perspective.

The author accomplished an incredible feat by creating such thoroughly fleshed-out individuals, each with unique backstories and regrets. I enjoyed how every character of the main cast made great strides to improve their lives after the night of the snowstorm, attesting to how everyone can change if they put their minds to it. As such, *Night of Many Endings* carries a motivational message to all its readers despite its rather mature content. In fact, its heavy references enhance the story even further, with the characters successfully rising from the lowest of lows.

As stated before, this novel includes some topics not suitable for the consumption of young readers, such as drugs and suicide; however, I would strongly recommend this read for a more mature audience. I believe that Payne's *Night of Many Endings* is more than just typed text on paper and rather a theme that permeates into the reader's own subconsciousness, inspiring change—especially small choices that may only better the individual's life and not necessarily large ambitions.