

Name: Sofia Marin Grade: Junior

Reviewer Name: Anonymous

Author: Chloe Walsh

School: Yorba Linda High School

Book Title: Binding 13

Rating: 5

Binding 13 is the first in an ongoing series, kick-starting what will be a bumpy road. The book switches between the perspectives of Shannon and Johnny, our two main characters. This romance is set in Cork, Ireland during the early 2000's. Johnny is his school's star rugby player, bound for a professional career. Shannon is from the other side of the tracks, living far from a lavish lifestyle. Johnny works harder than ever to make it with the big shots while Shannon works harder than ever trying to survive in a cruel, mean world. Their lives couldn't be more different from one another, yet they can't seem to stay away from each other after an eventful meeting on the first day of school back from winter break. Binding 13 follows these two characters as they navigate their own lives as well as this brewing connection forming between them.

I personally really loved this book. I enjoyed the story it told, as well as the characters portrayed. All the characters are incredibly complex and differ from one another. Alternatively, the writing sometimes felt slightly repetitive, but it was never much of a bother. I really liked Shannon's character as she is so unknowingly strong and resilient while maintaining a pure heart. Some of her words truly resonated with me as a reader, providing a thoughtful outlook. This book had me feeling a plethora of emotions, it was truly a rollercoaster. There were many incredibly happy moments that had me laughing, then followed by an inescapable looming sadness.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys an incredibly enticing story. I believe it is a very well developed story that causes a whirlwind of emotions to all readers. I'd advise that there are many mature themes covered in the book as the main characters' lives are far from perfect. I wouldn't say this book reminds me of any others as it is able to maintain a balance of lightheartedness while simultaneously covering dark topics.