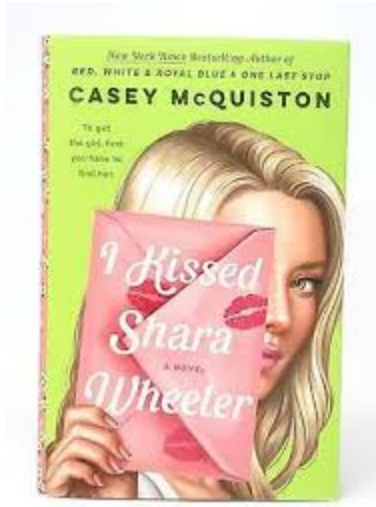




Warning: This blog contains spoilers!!

This month I read *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* by Casey McQuiston. Chloe, the narrator of this story, only wants to track down Shara Wheeler, her long-time rival. The night of prom, Shara kissed Chloe and two other people, Rory, and Smith before disappearing, and now they're all on the hunt for her. But as they find more and more of the clues Shara left behind for them, Chloe starts to question her feelings for Shara. So, as graduation nears, time is running out. Will they find her? The story *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* by Casey McQuiston illustrates the theme, sometimes tough challenges can give a new perspective.

When Chloe starts talking about how being around Rory she's learned that he has a softer side to him, and he's not all about rebellion, it shows, sometimes tough challenges can give a new perspective. After a month of looking for Shara and eventually finding her, graduation has come, and Chloe gives her speech as valedictorian. She's rewritten this speech so many times, but after all, she ends up talking about how finding the girl who kissed her has changed her view on many things, and she notes how thankful she feels to have met the people she met while solving the mystery, like Rory. She talks about him, saying, "'...Rory, I will never stop feeling lucky to have gotten to know you...'" (McQuiston 341). Rory has always just been Shara's rebellious neighbor, or the school delinquent to Chloe, but ever since working with him to solve the mystery, she's gotten to know him better. She's found the charming and sweet side of him. She finds that it's not just about what you see on the surface of somebody.

Likewise, when Chloe tells Shara that her perspective of her has changed and that she no longer hates her, shows that sometimes tough challenges can give a new perspective. There's always a bonfire the graduating class has, everyone comes, and they burn all their old books and tests. After Chloe makes her way around, trying not to miss anybody, she eventually gets to Shara. They agree to burn the clue cards and sometime in their conversation about Shara disappearing, Chloe jokingly says I hate you, after Shara rubs marshmallow on her nose. Shara mentions that it only took her 4 years to say that to her face. In which Chloe responds, "'I can

only say it because I don't mean it anymore,”” (McQuiston 341). Overall, Chloe’s perspective on Shara has changed a lot over the past months, and so has Shara’s perspective on Chloe, and they both know it. Shara believes that they both still hate each other a tiny bit deep down, but that's what makes their relationship work. Their relationship would never work if they weren’t able to have a different view of someone.

I Kissed Shara Wheeler was a great book, I would rate it a 9/10 only because it got slow at certain parts like when they got stuck on a clue. Overall, I loved seeing clues slowly connect, the twists and turns in the plot, and seeing Chloe gradually fall for Shara. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves a good romance book. I would also recommend this to anyone who’s read, *6 Times We Almost Kissed* by Tess Sharpe, or *Cleat Cute* by Meryl Wilsner.