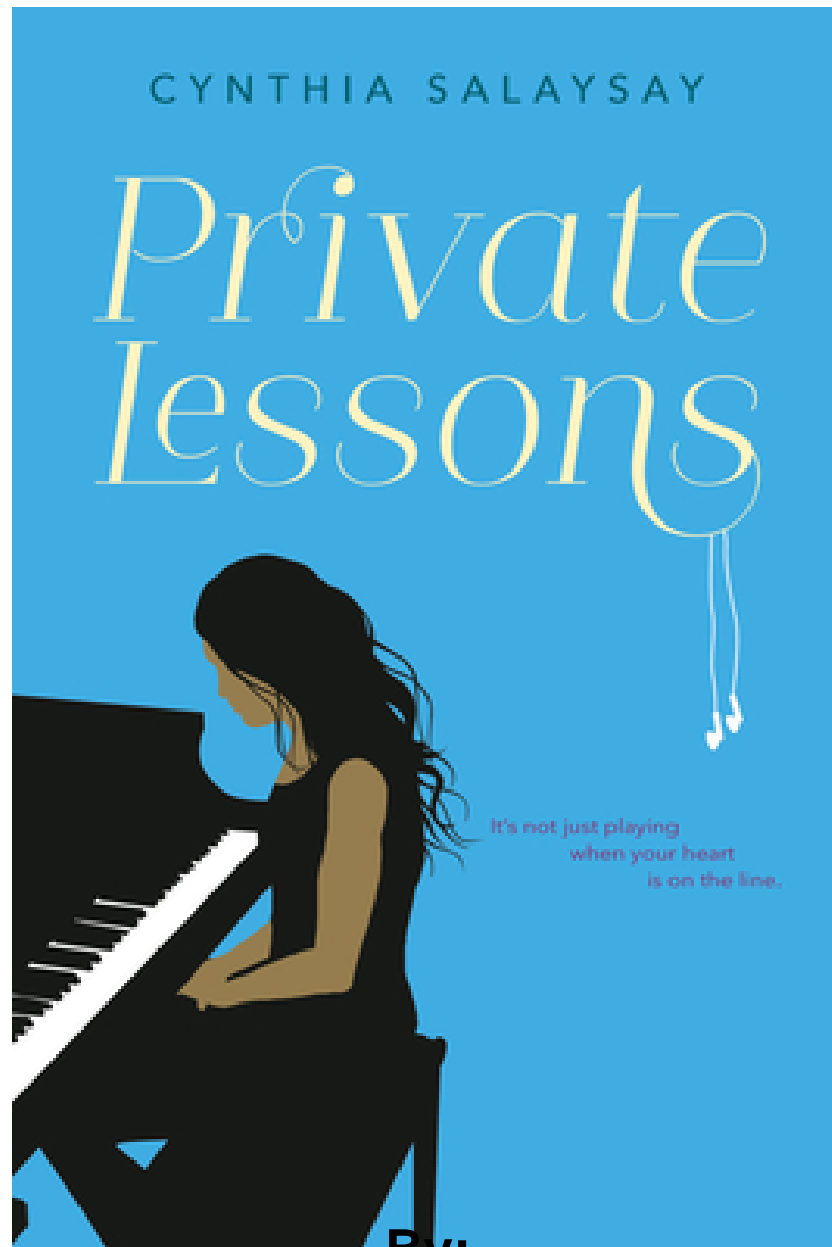


Private Lessons Book PDF Download



By:
Cynthia Salaysay

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I think this book is a classic case of

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I went into this book with certain expectations in mind, and when they weren't realised I was disappointed.

For some context, I have recently heard nothing but amazing things about the book

, which similarly tackles issues of a manipulative student-teacher relationship. However, because my library is shut, I was left with a yearning for a story I could not access. So when I stumbled upon this book on Netgalle

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Kristi

Private Lessons by Cynthia Salaysay is not a feel great sunny book. I don't think the author intended it to be so. It's a story about Claire, a piano prodigy who falls prey to her instructor, Paul's, machinations and for lack of a better word, is groomed to be taken advantage of. This is a painful story of a girl with deep insecurities whose emotions often run the gamut from sad and lonely, to jealous and harmful, both to herself and others. Claire isn't always the most likeable of character

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intended it to be so. It's a story about Claire, a piano prodigy who falls prey to her instructor, Paul's, machinations and for lack of a better word, is groomed to be taken advantage of. This is a painful story of a girl with deep insecurities whose emotions often run the gamut from sad and lonely, to jealous and harmful, both to herself and others. Claire isn't always the most likeable of characters but the important message, especially in this month of mental health awareness and the critical #metoo movement, is that she experiences depression and anxiety and yet, finds a way to heal herself despite the odds.

While it's a disturbing look at a predator who takes enormous pleasure in singling out young women, manipulating and abusing them, I think it also sends a positive message to women who've been victims of abuse. You are not alone and there is healing. Seeing Claire's emotional wreckage all the way through to the end emphasizes just how important this message is.

Thank you to Candlewick Press, Cynthia Salaysay, and MMB Tours for providing me with a DRC of Private Lessons in exchange for my honest review.

3.5 stars rounded up to 4

its.me.the.bibliophile

Thank you to NetGalley, the author, & the publisher for a chance to read & review an E-ARC of this novel!

This was a surprisingly intense read with important themes of overcoming hardships, grief, cultural differences, expectations that we put on ourselves, expectations from others, friendship, & the confusing world of relationships. Please find my extended feedback below...along with some spoilers (beware).

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Toya

The more time I've had to sit and think about this book, the more I realize that this one really just wasn't for me. It has to do more with the writing rather than the specific content.

Claire is a first generation American with Filipino immigrants as parents. With that comes the pressure to be perfect: 4.0 GPA, excelling in piano, and gunning for scholarships to the best universities.

Claire decides to hire an exclusive piano tutor to sharpen her skills in order to be more competitive. However,

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Claire decides to hire an exclusive piano tutor to sharpen her skills in order to be more competitive. However, the line between student and teacher is blurred, and Claire finds herself in the hands of a master manipulator.

I think that this book is incredibly timely with the MeToo movement and addresses pertinent societal issues. However, I don't think this book does a great job of telling the actual story. This plot of this book is too slow for YA in my opinion. While I do think it is important for teens to have books that feature heavier content, a warning about the on-page rape needs to be included.

The protagonist herself is just not a great character. Overall, she is uninteresting and unlikable and does nothing to keep the plot moving forward. We find ourselves meandering around her thoughts

more than anything. In all honesty, it seems like much thought didn't go into her development.

While I commend the author for tackling tough themes, I just don't think the overall objective was met with this one.

Shealea

The tl;dr is that the book isn't terrible, but the main character certainly is. Full review to follow.