

BOOK REVIEW:

It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover

By Briana Sanchez

WARNING: SPOILERS AHEAD

Okay, here's the deal. Was the book good? Yes. Were the characters well developed? Sure. Did Colleen Hoover have me viciously sobbing on my couch on a Tuesday afternoon as I read the last chapter? On my mother's life, YES.

Initially, I was like everyone else when it came to the novel, fighting every urge to be a part of the mainstream book bubble. However, I caved. And boy, do I love the fact that I did! This book was my introduction into the world of Colleen Hoover's writing and honestly, I was not disappointed. She had me deeply moved by the characters, especially Ryle, the deeply troubled counterpart to the main character and love interest, Lily. I felt a huge knot in my stomach the moment he began apologizing to her for crossing every boundary that was unsaid. And I cried the next time he apologized, and the next time, and then again! I do appreciate how we are given a warning that there are triggers of domestic abuse throughout the whole book. I was enraged, yet filled with pity and sympathy for the mess of a man Ryle is.

Lily's character dynamic was amazing. She began the novel with an enticing edge. She is confident, but not too confident. Watching (reading lol) her get torn down repeatedly by someone she loves created a shift in her. Her pain and suffering caused by Ryle, had her character needing to heal by the end of the book. There is just SO MUCH vulnerability! And that is what kept me from putting this book down. Now, I need to say that I have not read *It Starts With Us* just yet. I feel that my heart needs a moment to rest. Nonetheless, I feel that it will be a good one. Kudos, Colleen Hoover.

