Bunheads by Sophie Flack
Click here to find in catalog

This realistic fiction book is told by Hannah Ward who dances with the prestigious Manhattan Ballet company. She juggles intense rehearsals, amazing performances, and complicated relationships backstage.

I wanted to read this book because I am a dancer and the main character is also a dancer, so I was interested in the content.

Nineteen-year-old Hannah Ward goes to the Manhattan Ballet Company. She meets Jacob, who is a musician. They both have a lot in common, except for their schedule. Hannah is never free to go out with Jacob, and he feels like he is unwanted. But when he introduces her to other activities besides ballet and theater, she has to decide if she wants to compete with other “bunheads” for a star spot in the company, or to start something new. The front cover shows all the dancers performing a dance on stage, but none of them stand out. This symbolizes the theme of the book since Hanna struggles with standing out and being herself.

The main character Hannah has to learn to be herself and not who other people want you to be. She realizes that she can have a life outside of ballet—that she wants to live like a “pedestrian.” Pedestrians are what the ballerinas call non-dancers.

I would recommend Bunheads to people who enjoy seeing the hidden parts of a life on stage, and what really goes on, and people who like dancing.

I would definitely recommend this book to teens. I rate it a 10/10.

Submitted by:
Tess R.