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# Tone Deaf



## Synopsis

His world is music. Her world is silent. Ali Collins was a child prodigy destined to become one of the greatest musicians of the twenty-first century; until she was diagnosed with a life-changing brain tumor. Now, at seventeen, Ali lives in a soundless world where she gets by with American Sign Language and lip-reading. She's a constant disappointment to her father, a retired cop fighting his own demons, and the bruises are getting harder to hide. When Ali accidentally wins a backstage tour with the chart-topping band Tone Deaf, she's swept back into the world of music. Jace Beckett, the nineteen-year-old lead singer of the band, has a reputation. He's a jerk and a player, and Ali wants nothing to do with him. But there's more to Jace than the tabloids let on. When Jace notices Ali's bruises and offers to help her escape to New York, Ali can't turn down the chance at freedom and a fresh start. Soon she's traveling cross-country, hidden away in Jace's RV as the band finishes their nationwide tour. With the help of Jace, Ali sets out to reboot her life and rediscover the music she once loved.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This was a really great book with amazing and real characters. Ali Collins was a child prodigy musician until her life changing brain tumor caused her to be deaf. Now Ali lives with her father that was a retired Police Chief that abuses her and tortures her daily. Her best friend drags her to Tone Deaf's concert. Ali has studied American Sign Language and does her best to read lips. She thinks about turning 18 and running away from her horrible father and life. She doesn't feel safe and she's

miserable. Her mother was killed while she was in surgery for her brain tumor and she's stuck with a father that doesn't care about her. She and others have tried to get Child Protective Services to help many times but her father was a police chief and no one could believe it. Jace is the lead singer of Tone Deaf and he has a reputation for being a jerk and a playboy. Ali wins backstage passes during the concert but when he realizes she is deaf, he is worse than normal. He grew up with parents that were deaf. His mother was loving but his father used drugs and abused him. He recognizes the way Ali acts and seems and asks her to run away and go on tour with him. He knows she's only 17 years old and he could be in serious trouble but he doesn't want something horrible to happen to her. He experienced it and wants to save her. His band is really different. Two of his bandmates (and one is his cousin) are in a relationship. But they are a tight group and they are always there for one another. Definitely worth reading.

I was really looking forward to reading this book but I wasn't quite sure how I would feel about it. It's a YA book and I'm 60 years old. I have read lots of YA books in the past but this one is different in many ways. I am partially deaf and I was anxious to see how being a deaf person was presented in the story. I'm also a survivor of physical and emotional abuse. And I'm also a mother. Mix all these things together and you have a reader that has very mixed feelings about what she just read. Ali is 17 years old, lost her hearing when she was 10 years old and is being physically abused by her police chief father. Jake is 19 years old, was terribly abused in the past and is now the lead singer of the group TONE DEAF. And he rescues Ali from her father and heads cross country with her. First, Ali's being deaf was handled superbly in the story. She knows ASL (sign language) and can also read lips. The story was told in alternating chapters from Ali and Jace's points of view so we really got to get an in-depth look at how Ali felt and dealt with her being deaf. And we got to know how others reacted to her not being able to hear. The sections on abuse and recovery from abuse were handled well, in a sensitive manner. I guess the one negative (and I'm ambivalent about it) is a 17 year old girl traveling cross country with a group of older boys - even though I realize she needed to escape the home situation she was in. Add in some drinking and I waver back and forth on whether this should be a YA book. But the writing was excellent with believable diverse characters and I enjoyed the story - at least probably 95% of it. I am glad that I received this book from Skyhorse Publishing through Edelweiss in exchange for my unbiased review.

Starts well, premise is well thought out, makes sense. Life as a runaway is boring. No explanation or resolution of Ali's relationship with Arrow. Throws in Mensa membership out of the blue, no purpose.

An accomplished pianist, yet she never plays. The careful premise development in the beginning is inexplicably undone in about a page and a half at the end. Feels like the author got bored and decided to end it. Book could have gone so many places, paparazzi avoidance, music collaboration, rediscovering a piano, exploring towns along the trek to New York, counting days until her birthday, having to say goodbye when she goes to college...so many possibilities. Needs a stronger editor, a character that develops a backbone, and a real ending.

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