

The Revolution Of Birdie Randolph

By. Vanessa Duong

In the book of *The Revolution Of Birdie Randolph*, the main character, Dove Randolph, who also goes by the name Birdie, is a 16 year old who lives in Chicago. Birdie works hard to be the perfect daughter for overprotective parents who set very high standards for her. Her parents expect nothing but success from Birdie and she follows the path her parents have planned for her.

Until, she starts having a secret relationship with Booker in the summer. Booker has a past but was very open about it with Birdie. Birdie accepts Booker for who he is and puts it behind them but is afraid her parents would not. But then, everything changes when her aunt Carlene unexpectedly moves into their house.

Carlene has struggled with addiction for years and Birdie is confused on why she doesn't know much about her aunt because her parents never talked about her. Carlene and Birdie's relationship began to grow throughout the book but Birdie's mom encourages Birdie to keep her distance because she's afraid that Birdie might "end up like her aunt." Carlene created a sense of home and comfort with Birdie and encouraged her to embrace who she truly is and not just who her parents expected her to be.

Over the course of the book, everything in the dark came to light. All the family secrets that were hidden were revealed and so was her relation with Carlene. Birdie finds out that Carlene she grew to know that was her "aunt" is actually her biological mother. This left Birdie in a tough spot because she grew up not knowing that her biological mother is her "aunt" that was sent away to rehab because of her strong addictions with drug and alcohol abuse. After finding this out, it left Birdie to rethink her identity,

relationships, and how she will continue her life with her own life decisions. Through it all, Booker stays by her side and remains supportive.

One thing I liked about this book is that I can relate to it. I have strict parents who also set high standards for me and want me to succeed in life. I don't want to disappoint my family so I try to be the best daughter as well. I feel Birdie's pain because I also get overwhelmed when I constantly get pressured to do good in school and life in general while also trying to live life at the same time. Having strict parents is definitely not for the weak and I understand why Birdie was being rebellious because she didn't have any freedom.