



## Playlist for the Dead

By Michelle Falkoff

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**Playlist for the Dead** By Michelle Falkoff

**“A page-turner that combines genuine intrigue with heartbreak and desire.”**  
—Holly Goldberg Sloan, New York Times bestselling author of *Counting by 7s*

There was a party. There was a fight. The next morning, Sam’s best friend, Hayden, was dead. And all he left Sam was a playlist of songs and a suicide note: *For Sam—listen and you’ll understand.* To figure out what happened, Sam has to rely on the playlist and his own memory. But the more he listens, the more he realizes that his memory isn’t as reliable as he thought. And it might only be by taking out his earbuds and opening his eyes to the people around him that he’ll finally be able to piece together his best friend’s story. And maybe have a chance to change his own.

Part mystery, part love story, and part coming-of-age tale in the vein of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *The Spectacular Now*, Michelle Falkoff’s debut novel is an honest and gut-wrenching first novel about loss, rage, and what it feels like to outgrow a friendship that’s always defined you—and the struggle to redefine yourself.

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## Playlist for the Dead By Michelle Falkoff Bibliography

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- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Accustomed to operating outside of the major social scene, Sam is disappointed when a rare party he attends is ruined by a fight with his best friend, Hayden. Disappointment fades quickly when he discovers that Hayden killed himself afterward. Rocked by the tragedy, Sam is left puzzling over tracks that his friend left for a playlist and struggling to figure out who he is without Hayden around. Despite the heavy subject matter, the overall tone of the book is less somber than the title would indicate, and it is a quick, engaging read. Falkoff nails the war-zone mentality and painful symbiosis of high school friendships. The mixture of grief, anger, and guilt that Sam works through is realistic and well written, and his reactions to Hayden's music choices further illuminates not only his struggle but also how their friendship was beginning to change. The characters and concept work better than the plot—it gets an all-loose-ends-tied-up treatment at the end. This is especially frustrating as an entire eerie subplot is explained away in the course of a short paragraph. The strong characters, dialogue and the use of the playlist to structure the book make this a good pick for struggling readers. Hand this to fans of the movie Superbad and Spotify-obsessives.—Erinn Black Salge, Saint Peter's Prep, Jersey City, NJ

Review

“An absorbing and sensitive read.” (Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books)

“Debut author Falkoff lightens the substantial topics of grief, bullying, and suicide with Sam’s enganging investigation.” (ALA Booklist)

“Realistic and well-written...The strong characters, dialogue and the use of the playlist to structure the book make this a good pick for struggling readers.” (School Library Journal)

“Falkoff treats a difficult topic with delicacy and care.” (Publishers Weekly)

“A nice premise with some truly powerful moments.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“[A] debut novel that limns the shifting boundaries of teen friendship, loyalty and identity. Playlist takes the expected conventions of stories about teen grief and turns them inside out, keeping readers guessing until the final chapters.” (Austin American-Statesman)

From the Back Cover

Here's what Sam knows:

There was a party.

There was a fight.

The next morning, Sam's best friend, Hayden, was dead.

All he left Sam was a playlist—

and a note, saying

that he took his own life.

but what Sam doesn't know is:

Why?

To figure out what happened, Sam has to rely on the playlist and his own memory. But the more he listens,

the more he realizes that his memory isn't as reliable as he thought. Especially when someone claiming to be Hayden starts sending him cryptic messages, and a series of violent attacks begins on the bullies who made Hayden's life hell.

Sam knows he has to face up to what happened the night Hayden killed himself. But it's only by taking out his earbuds and opening his eyes to the people around him—including an eccentric, unpredictable girl who's got secrets, too—that Sam will finally be able to piece together his best friend's story.

And maybe have a chance to change his own.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Regina Rodgers:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Playlist for the Dead? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

#### **Ila Robinette:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this specific Playlist for the Dead book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

#### **Austin Lawrence:**

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**Lisa Martin:**

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