

Chaltas, Thalia. **Because I am Furniture** 352p.

Recommended for Grades 9-12

Realistic Fiction

The book, *Because I am Furniture* centers on Ankh, a ninth grader in her first year of high school. Through the poems of Thalia Chaltas a tale is told about Ankh, her more girly older sister, and her smart older brother. At home Ankh's father is abusive to her brother and sister and her mother does nothing about it. Ankh struggles with finding her voice on how to stop her father. She is glad that she is not physically abused but on the other hand she almost feels jealous of her brother and sister for getting attention from their father. After trying out for her high school volleyball team, against her father's wishes, she finds that voice. Ankh deals with an annoying peer, Angeline, who loves Ankh's father because she is lacking her own, and sometimes receives more love than Ankh and her family. Ankh's love interest falls between Jed, the senior heartthrob across the street who sees her just as a friend, and cute Kyler, a freshman soccer player who just may like her back.

The author's writing was usually very easy to read. The novel is written as a series of poems though, and sometimes the writing would become very metaphorical and a bit hard to understand. The author did fulfill most aspects of the plot except for the love interest. There weren't any major flaws in the book and the content was very exceptional. I feel that this book is targeted to a high school audience and it does have a lot of teen appeal because many teens do deal with abuse in their families. This book is worth having in the library. It is recommended for readers who enjoy Ellen Hopkins.

-Elizabeth