

Suite Scarlett

Maureen Johnson

Reviewed by: Courtney Cheng, 17

Star Teen Book Reviewer for Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Scarlett Martin and her family own the Hopewell hotel in the heart of New York City. With the rising tourist industry, however, the old-fashioned hotel isn't doing as well as the family hopes, and they end up losing all their staff. Summer starts off on a bad foot: Scarlett's older sister Lola is dealing with an infuriatingly rich and clingy boyfriend; her little sister Marlene is demanding attention, as always, because of her leukemia a few years back; her older brother Spencer is attempting to find an acting job or go to culinary school; and Scarlett herself is left alone at the hotel, forced to tend to the family's one guest, Mrs. Amberson. What Scarlett doesn't anticipate, however, is Mrs. Amberson's glamorous Hollywood lifestyle. A summer that held bleak prospects plays out with drama of proportions that Scarlett never imagined.

Suite Scarlett is a fiction book meant for teenagers from 7th grade to 10th grade. The story is well written; Johnson manages to capture the complete mentality of a fifteen-year-old girl, from the sibling spats to naïveté about boyfriends, while maintaining a captivating style of writing. Although all the characters have their own archetypes, none of them fail to develop their own personalities, bringing even more charm to the overall story. *Suite Scarlett* provides the perfect mix of drama, comedy, and suspense that makes the reader imagine about the "magic" of New York City and long for their own adventures. This is a story that I would definitely have my friends check out for themselves.