**It’s not just another pinkish fairytale!**

By: Natalia Cuevas and María José Verdugo

From the book Looking for Alaska - by John Green

**M**ost girls have grown up surrounded by all the fairytales Disney has offered, such as Cinderella, Snow White or Sleeping Beauty. What do they have in common? All of them end up with a happy ending where Prince Charming saves the Princess and suddenly they fall in love the first moment they meet. John Green’s first novel talks about how relationships are not always what we expect and how first love might not be the last one.

**L**ooking For Alaska cannot be merely written off as a typical boy-meets-girl love story, because it isn't. Indeed, it's more of a tale of how love isn't as translucent as it seems.

“*Someday no one will remember that she ever existed*, I wrote in my notebook, and then, *or that I did*. Because memories fall apart too.” - Miles Halter

**F**irst of all, it is necessary to say that the main character in this novel is not a girl, it’s a sixteen-year-old boy named Miles. If we try to understand this novel as a fairytale, Miles would be our Prince Charming who is trying to save Alaska, our princess. Alaska’s character plays the role of an enigmatic teen girl who seems to offer him all the freedom and adventure he was looking for in the new boarding school, giving him the chance to reach his “Great Perhaps”.

In this novel, the author drew an analogy between Alaska and the swan at Culver Creek. There is a clear comparison between Pudge’s -Miles’s nickname- admiration for Alaska’s appearance and society’s preconceived notion of swans as beautiful creatures. The first time Colonel and Miles visited the lake, Colonel warned him that the swan is a creature to be feared, in the same way he later warned Miles about Alaska’s erratic behavior and told him not to fall in love with her. Still, Miles ignores both warnings; hence he suffers a bite from the swan and falls in love with an enigmatic teen girl. But, does Miles fall in love with her in less than five months? Let’s be honest. Pudge was clearly blinded by Alaska’s physical qualities, and he barely really know something about her. So, could we really call this obsession “love”?

Now, if we try to think about this friendship Alaska and Miles had as something not so bad, we could actually realize that there were some good aspects about them being friends: she gave him the chance to start living his “Great Perhaps”, he had friends -for the very first time- and also, apart from taking their lives to the extreme wrong side of pleasure, alcohol abuse, and teenage wild adventures Miles and Alaska shared a valuable treasure which is the joy of reading books. Both were very keen on reading and many aspects of the books they read played a big role in their own story.

This novel shows us a little part of teenagers’ reality. Teens make mistakes, fall in love with the wrong person, abuse of pleasures, but at the end of the day, it’s not wrong. It’s okay to get a little bit crazy sometimes and do what we want, but we always must be cautious and be aware of consequences.