



## 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

- Sales Rank: #635200 in Books
- Published on: 2015-01-27
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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 engaging 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:**

#### **Gregory Jones:**

Here thing why this particular Playlist for the Dead are different and dependable to be yours. First of all studying a book is good but it depends in the content of it which is the content is as delightful as food or not. Playlist for the Dead giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no reserve that similar with Playlist for the Dead. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Playlist for the Dead in e-book can be your alternative.

#### **Jennifer Fields:**

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#### **Wade Diaz:**

Many people spending their time period by playing outside along with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to pay your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Playlist for the Dead which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's observe.

**Thomas Obrien:**

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