



# TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

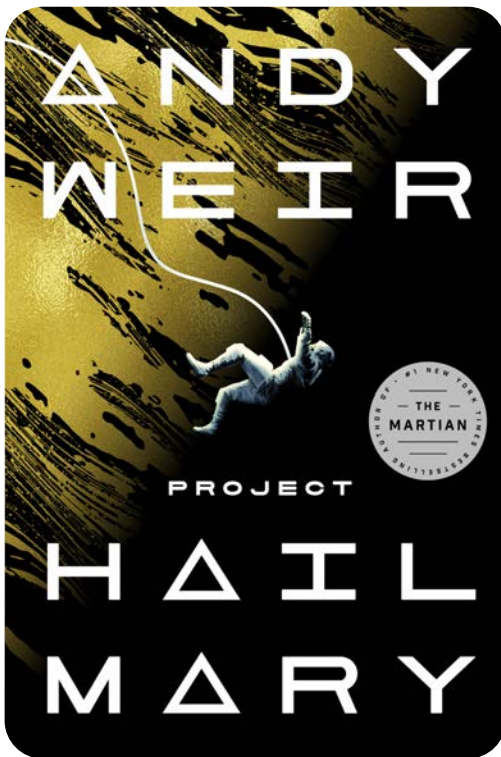
JANUARY 2023

GUIDE

BOOKS IN THE  
YOUNG ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
CHILDREN  
COLLECTION



# PROJECT HAIL MARY BY ANDY WEIR

CALL #: S WEIR

RATING:



GENRE:

SCIENCE FICTION,  
SCIENCE FICTION THRILLER

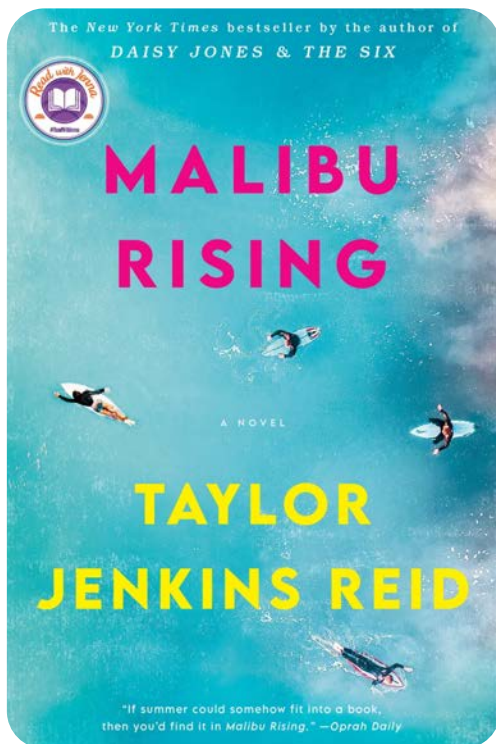
## Book Review:

Set in the near future, "Project Hail Mary" is a hard sci-fi thriller about a scientist named Ryland Grace, who wakes up from a coma light years away from Earth and finds that Earth is in the midst of a global dimming event due to the exponentially dimming Sun, which is caused by alien microbes. One star, Tau Ceti, is mysteriously more resistant than other stars. Being the sole survivor on the starship, it is up to Grace alone to solve this scientific mystery and save humanity from extinction. Or is it?

"Project Hail Mary" is a first-person survival narrative written in a parallel narrative structure.

This book is amazing and was an exciting read. I liked the characterization. Grace's perspective helps the reader understand the complex scientific concepts introduced and adds humor to the narration. The author did a great job with foreshadowing and pacing to create a suspenseful, interesting story. Overall, the story is well-written, with the aspects of the book well-connected.

I would recommend "Project Hail Mary" to all teens, even if you don't normally read science fiction. It's a little longer than the average novel, but it's a great read. Andy Weir is also the author of other sci-fi books such as "The Martian" and "Artemis."



# MALIBU RISING BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID

CALL #: FIC REID

RATING: ★★★★★

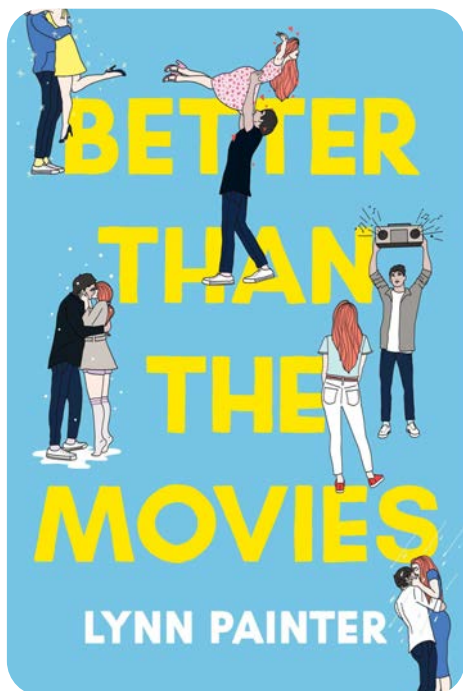
GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION

## Book Review:

“Malibu Rising” by Taylor Jenkins Reid is a story about the Riva family’s struggles. The story begins by telling us about a fire that happened at Nina Riva’s house after her house party ended, but who started it? Four siblings, Nina, Kit, Jay, and Hud, are the children of Mick Riva and June Costas. Mick and June met when they were just teenagers. Soon after they met, they fell in love and decided to spend the rest of their lives together. Mick promised June that he would give her everything she desired. They had three beautiful children together. Mick would always come back to see his family as soon as possible until he didn’t. June had to raise her children by herself while working to make money to feed and clothe them. They all grew up to be amazing surfers and extremely famous individuals due to their father’s popularity.

This book got me out of a reading slump. It entertained me from beginning to end with all the plot twists and character development. I loved that Taylor added flashbacks to Mick and June every few chapters to remind us of their story and how they raised their children. Each child had their own struggles and difficulties in life, which really helped me put into perspective that other people’s lives may not be as good as it seems. This story was also really wholesome because of how the siblings were constantly looking out for each other and supporting each other no matter what.

I recommend this to teens that enjoy reading stories with drama and romance. I think teens would like this book because it will always keep you entertained and wanting more. I hope whoever reads this will enjoy it as much as I did.



## BETTER THAN THE MOVIES BY LYNN PAINTER

CALL #: YA FIC PAINTER

RATING: ★★★★★

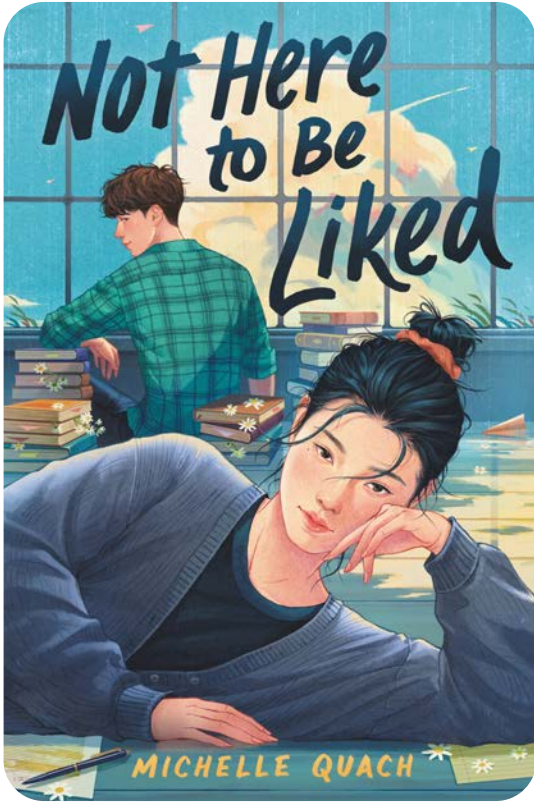
GENRE: ROMANCE

### Book Review:

"Better than the Movies" by Lynn Painter is a YA romance novel revolving around Elizabeth Buxbaum, a senior in high school. When her crush since childhood, Michael, moves back to town, she resorts to asking her next-door neighbor and childhood frenemy, Wes Bennett, to help her get with him. However, as Liz becomes closer to Wes, she notices all the perks of him- how kind he is, how attractive he is, and how much she enjoys being around him. Despite having always wanted to be with Michael and thinking Wes was the typical "bad boy" she should never be around, she finds herself falling for her neighbor and has to rethink who "Happily Ever After" truly is for her.

All the characters in this cute and "fluffy" story were so fun to observe. Each of them was compelling and funny, yet so different from one another. Despite the amount of cliché, I found myself constantly wanting to turn to the next page. It was just the right amount of reality and typical romance cringe. I think any reader would immediately fall in love with the kindness of Wes Bennet and Liz's ability and desire to be her complete self. Throughout the novel, you can see all the characters supporting one another with utmost genuineness. From Liz's step-mom Helena trying to provide her with another mother-like figure to look up to after her mother's death to Wes constantly putting in a good word for Liz, they all have her back. I often found myself unable to put the book down, wondering when Liz would finally realize the affection Wes had for her. Each character has an important role in the storytelling, and none of them felt unnecessary. The lightheartedness of the novel is balanced out by the sad backstory Liz and her father have. On top of that, there are so many wonderful quotes and references from classic rom-com that just added another flavor to this novel.

If you are looking for the perfect cute YA romance novel, I highly recommend giving this book a read. After reading a scary thriller or sad classic, this will surely lighten up your mood and make you smile. "Better than the Movies" would be a great option for a romcom-loving teen who just wants to have a fun time reading.



# NOT HERE TO BE LIKED BY MICHELLE QUACH

CALL #:

YA FIC QUACH

RATING:



GENRE:

Romantic Comedies

## Book Review:

"Not Here to Be Liked" follows the story of Eliza, a Chinese Vietnamese American girl who loves working for her high school newspaper, the Bugle, and is content with her unassuming social position and asphalt-gray sweater. However, her life gets a lot more complicated—and interesting—when a less qualified boy runs against her for editor-in-chief of the Bugle and, incredibly, wins. In her frustration, she writes a manifesto blaming the election on misogyny; when someone posts it publicly, the backlash shakes the whole school community, leading to the formation of a feminist movement on campus. Eliza finds herself deeply entangled in a web of confusing social dynamics: in the span of just a few days, she finds herself swinging between popular heroine to shunned disappointment as her peers judge her words, actions, and evolving relationship with Len, the boy who defeated her in the fateful election.

I found this book engaging partly due to the social drama but also based on the deeper themes of feminism, discrimination, and judgment. I found the main character to be very relatable, particularly in her adversity to dressing nicely just to please others and her dismay at obsessing over a boy. The setting is mostly realistic, although different from my high school experience. I was a bit incredulous at the extent of an improvised high school feminist movement, but it made a scintillating story all the same. I highly recommend this book—it pulled me in and kept me up reading past my bedtime.