



# TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

JUNE / JULY 2023

GUIDE

BOOKS IN THE  
YOUNG ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
CHILDREN  
COLLECTION



# HELL FOLLOWED WITH US

## BY

### ANDREW JOSEPH WHITE

CALL #

YA FIC WHITE

COLLECTION:

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

DYSTOPIAN FICTION

#### Book Review:

Set in a dystopian future, "Hell Followed With Us" is a book about queer teens struggling to stay alive in a world that wants them to conform or die. Written by a queer author, the incredibly diverse main cast will make any queer teen feel seen and understood. The book touches on some pretty deep topics, such as religious trauma, and by doing so, mirrors the experience of many people, including queer and trans individuals.

My favorite character was Nick, who, for better or worse, protects his community with everything he has. I also liked how this book shows community, this group of people held together by a common goal, inside jokes, making bead lizards, and, most importantly, their love for one another. Benji had never met other queer people before the start of this book, but throughout, Benji falls in love with having people with his shared experience. That's the power of community, and I think that's perfectly represented by "Hell Followed With Us."

I would recommend this book to queer teens everywhere. It's not an easy read, and the topics touched on are not the happiest; I highly recommend reading the content warning at the beginning of the book, but by the end, you feel connected to the characters and understand why the author wrote them in this way. With the representation of queer and trans teens, people of color, and neurodivergence, and what that all means in the post-apocalyptic world they live in, I think "Hell Followed With Us" deserves the 5 stars I gave it.



# IT STARTS WITH US BY COLLEEN HOOVER

CALL #

FIC HOOVER

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

## Book Review:

This book is a follow-up to the book, "It Ends with Us." Just like the one before it, it follows Lily and her relationship with the people in her life. More specifically, the connections with her, Atlas, one of her old boyfriends that she recently reunited with, and Ryle, her ex-husband and the father of her daughter. It follows the story of her finally getting her life together after an abusive relationship.

I really enjoyed the plot. It's interesting, especially when you know the context of the book and understand that the author, Colleen Hoover, had grown up in a home where her own mother was abused by her father. It shows how hard it can be to get out of situations like that and the mentality people are left with. The writing style was not my favorite. I prefer more mature writing styles, and this one just screamed Wattpad, but I don't think that it made the plot and actual story completely unenjoyable.

I would recommend this book to people who are looking to broaden their understanding of domestic violence and how every aspect of someone's life is affected by it. I would say it's not for someone who is looking for a book that will enlighten them, but it is good for people who want to be left thinking about what they read on a shallower level. I would recommend reading "It Ends with Us" since this book picks up almost immediately after. It allows people to be more empathetic and understanding of people's situations and shows the courage people need to get out.





# YOU DON'T HAVE A SHOT BY RACQUEL MARIE

CALL #

YA FIC MARIE

COLLECTION:

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:

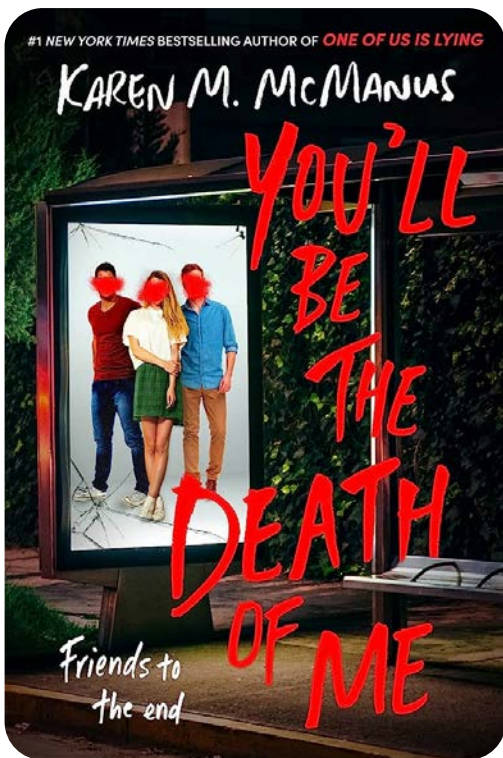


GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION, CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

## Book Review:

The book, "You Don't Have A Shot" by Racquel Marie is about a girl named Valentina; everyone she knew was into the sport of soccer, and she loved soccer too. Valentina was playing at her soccer tournament and got into a fight with one of the other team's players, Leticia Ortiz. After the fight, Valentina felt like her love for soccer was going away; she didn't want to play the game anymore, and she felt like she would never make it to college soccer. However, she was later signed up for a soccer camp where she would be captaining a team, and on the other team was her rival, Leticia Ortiz. Since there were a lot of scouts scouting for college, and Valentina wanted to play college soccer, she had to do well here for her to make it to play college soccer. So later on, Valentina leans on Leticia for help because her father told her to ask for help. Ultimately, she asks for help so scouts can see her, and an unlikely alliance forms.

I thought the book was really good because it is really realistic, and I liked the action in the book, especially when Valentina and Leticia got into a fight. I would recommend this book to young teens who would like to play soccer because the book can inspire lots of young soccer players to play soccer in the future.



# YOU'LL BE THE DEATH OF ME

## BY

### KAREN M. MCMANUS

CALL # YA FIC MCMANUS

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING: 

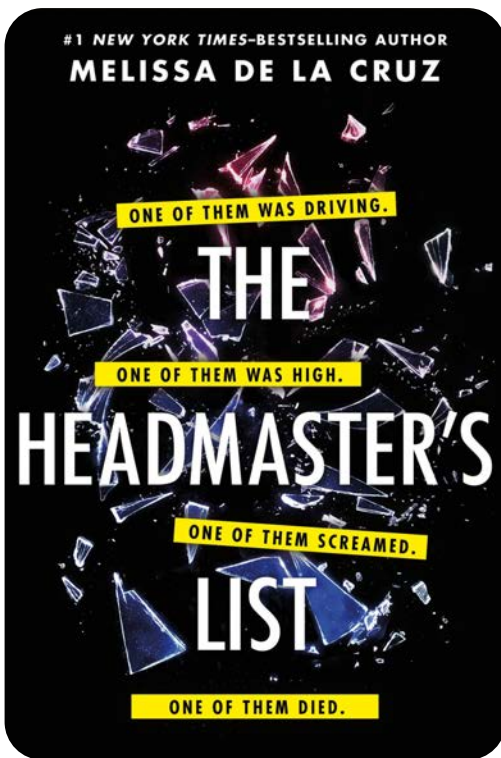
GENRE: THRILLERS AND SUSPENSE, MYSTERY

#### Book Review:

"You'll Be the Death of Me" is a thriller novel about three reconnecting friends, Mateo, Cal, and Ivy, uncovering the story of a murder that happened right before their eyes. On the day of the newly elected school council, who plan to give their speech, the three buddies decide to skip school and have a day off from high school. But this break from the stress would soon turn into a catastrophe. The trio spots another student who happens to be skipping school like the rest of them and decides to see what they're up to. Shortly after, they witness the death of that very student. All they know is that he was meeting up with someone before his quick demise. Can they figure out the entire story, or will they live in fear of the murder for the rest of their lives?

I thought the book was very entertaining and could really bend your brain with all the plot twists. The storytelling was great, and the story was very compelling. The book had a very interesting way of telling the reader the story, which was alternating each chapter between our three protagonists. At times it can be a bit hard to follow, but overall, it was very easy to understand. My favorite character was Mateo (who was also part of the friend trio), as he had a very interesting backstory, and I enjoyed his thought process throughout the story.

This book is definitely for readers who enjoy thrillers and murder mystery-type books. I recommend this book due to its well-written story, interesting story, and well-thought-out characters. Although it wouldn't relate to most teens, I still think this book is able to be a good read for them. Not only can teens read this book and enjoy it, but I'm also sure many people who read the book will love it. For me, I would say it wasn't too overwhelming to read, and it was just the right amount, which made me enjoy the book even more.



# THE HEADMASTER'S LIST

## BY

### MELISSA DE LA CRUZ

CALL # YA FIC DE LA CRUZ

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



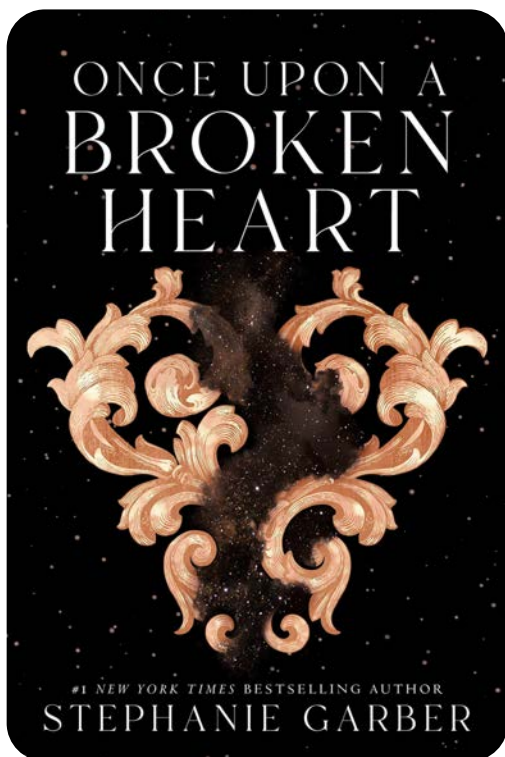
GENRE: THRILLERS AND SUSPENSE

#### Book Review:

"The Headmaster's List" is a novel about an 18-year-old girl named Spencer who was involved in an accident where a boy named Chris Moore was tragically killed in a car crash. Spencer, who was part of the accident, couldn't remember anything but started to hear rumors that her ex-boyfriend, Ethan, was the reckless driver that killed Chris. Spencer was still confused because she was in the car when the accident happened but didn't remember; she wanted to go deeper into the case, and she did. After searching, she found the truth.

I thought the book was really good. The book was well written and also had lots of mystery and surprises. Also, every chapter always had something new to read, and also every chapter was interesting. Although the book was not always a mystery and sometimes sad, its storyline was brilliant, mixed with some romance and sad parts. The book was kind of long, but even though it was long, every page had great detail.

I think this book would be great for people who are into mystery and the way Spencer went into so many problems, like trying to find out what happened during the crash. This book would be great for teens like me, and even though the book was a pretty long read, the whole book was amazing.



# ONCE UPON A BROKEN HEART BY STEPHANIE GARBER

CALL # YA FIC GARBER

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE: EPIC FANTASY, PARANORMAL ROMANCE

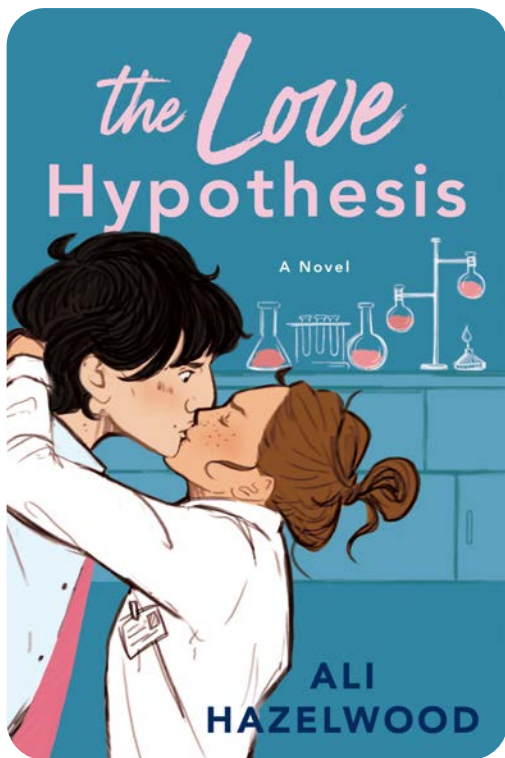
## Book Review:

"Once Upon a Broken Heart" is a fantasy story centering on Evangeline Fox, a hopeless romantic who learns that the love of her life is planning to wed another girl. Her heart breaks, and she is desperate to stop the wedding. So she consults the Prince of Heart, a Fate, and he tells her that he will help in exchange for three kisses of her choosing. However, once he does his magic and stops the wedding, she learns that his methods do not align with her morals. As she goes on in her journey, she realizes that making bargains with the "Prince" is not all that she thought it would be, especially since he expects more from her than she wants.

I had a difficult time getting through this book simply because there's a lot of world-building and description of this fantastical place that I wasn't a huge fan of. And although some of the characters and their actions frustrated me, the dynamics between them were fun to witness. Evangeline starts out as an innocent girl who only wants a fairytale happily ever after. She's overly trusting and a complete optimist, but after dealing with Jacks, the Prince of Heart, she is able to recognize that sometimes people have bad qualities. Through all of this, though, she still remains her same self, and seeing the contrast between her happy self and the wounded, pessimistic Prince of Hearts was very entertaining. Also, it's important to mention this is the first book of a trilogy, and it definitely does an excellent job of setting up for the rest of the series.

I would recommend this book to those who are fans of fantasy, particularly YA fantasy. It reminded me a lot of "The Cruel Prince," so I encourage fans of that trilogy and others like it to give this book a try.





# THE LOVE HYPOTHESIS

## BY

### ALI HAZELWOOD

CALL #

FIC HAZELWOOD

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE

#### Book Review:

This book follows the relationship between Olive, a Ph.D. candidate, and Adam, a professor of biology. It focuses on their supposed “fake” relationship and the development of the two as people. Right before an interview at Stanford, Olive runs into Adam, who talks her into doing the interview. Later, the two reunite in an unexpected fashion, and it turns into them faking a relationship and eventually developing feelings for each other.

I enjoyed the book and the writing style. Every chapter starts with a hypothesis regarding Olive’s life. Since she is a biologist and Adam is a biology professor, there are many mentions of scientific topics in the story. The author is a neuroscientist, so it has a very authentic feeling when it comes to that aspect of the characters’ lives. Due to the whole “fake relationship” aspect of the book, most of the focus goes toward the development of their relationship, and the eventual ending is quite predictable.

This book doesn’t dive into super heavy topics, but it’s still a fun novel to read. It’s really simple but sweet. It does a good job representing various topics, like women in STEM. Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a cute, sweet-feeling novel, but I wouldn’t say it’s for someone who cares about more profound books or wants a book focusing primarily on science.





# THE GIRL FROM THE SEA

## BY

### MOLLY OSTERTAG

CALL #: YA GN GIRL

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL

RATING:



GENRE: ROMANCE, FANTASY

#### Book Review:

“The Girl from the Sea” is a graphic novel about a girl named Morgan who wants to leave behind her hometown, a small island, and be open about her sexuality. That also includes being away from her friends who don’t truly know her, her divorced mom, and her angry brother. But, her plan changes as she falls in love with a girl that has a strange and mostly unknown background...all she knows is that she came from the ocean. In this beautifully illustrated story, Morgan learns the importance of acceptance and embracing the moment.

I thought the book was amazing (definitely 5 stars!). The drawings were incredible and brought the story to life. The words in the novel really bring out Morgan’s emotions and feelings. The book is exciting and has a great storyline, with some romance mixed in. It wasn’t a long or dense book to read, and I enjoyed every minute of it. I also like how they were inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community and that the book reflected how teenagers are in modern times.

I think that this would be a fantastic read for teens. The issues and experiences Morgan had are definitely relatable for teenagers. Although not everyone is part of the LGBTQ+ community, it definitely is worth reading since the lesson that this book gives to readers could be empowering for all teens/people. Also, because it was a graphic novel, it was a short read, but an incredible one!