



# TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

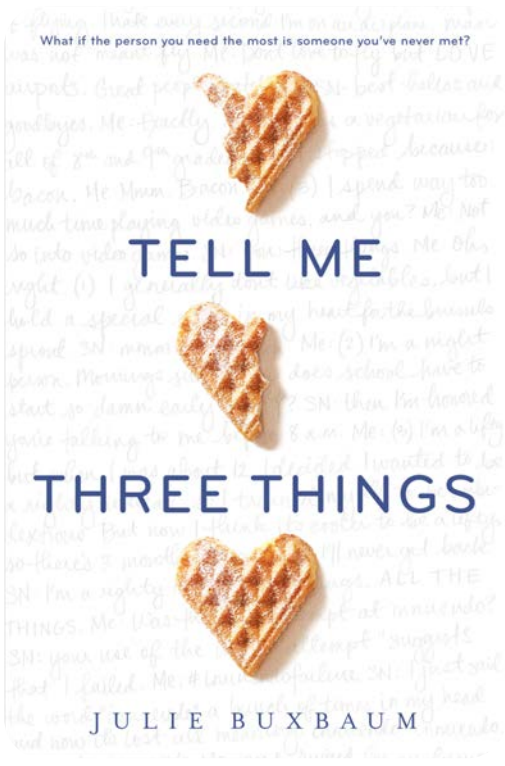
MARCH / APRIL 2023

GUIDE

BOOKS IN THE  
YOUNG ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
ADULT  
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE  
CHILDREN  
COLLECTION



# TELL ME THREE THINGS BY JULIE BUXBAUM

CALL #: YA FIC BUXBAUM

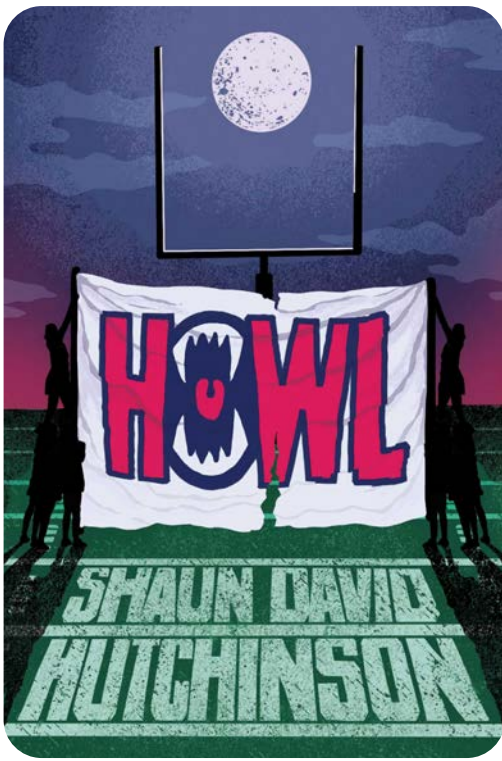
RATING: 

GENRE: REALISTIC FICTION

## Book Review:

"Tell Me Three Things" by Julie Buxbaum tells the story of a high school teen, Jessie, who recently lost her mom. Jessie moves from Chicago to a fancy town in Los Angeles after her dad elopes with a woman he met online. She is forced to start attending a prep school in the new town where she is now living with her dad, stepmom, and stepbrother. Shortly after she starts at her new school, Jessie gets an anonymous email from Somebody/Nobody. At first, Jessie is suspicious of what Somebody/Nobody's intentions are, but throughout the book, you get to see the development of their relationship over their emails. When reading this book, you see Jessie's experience facing a new school, family, and peers and creating a relationship with someone she has never met before.

I personally liked this book. It seemed like the perfect length to thoroughly delve into this story without boring the reader. I loved seeing the different relationships that Jessie had and developed throughout the story of the book. The mystery of who Somebody/Nobody was, was a great plot point for this story.



# HOWL BY SHAUN DAVID HUTCHINSON

CALL #: YA FIC HUTCHINSON

RATING: 

GENRE: HORROR

## Book Review:

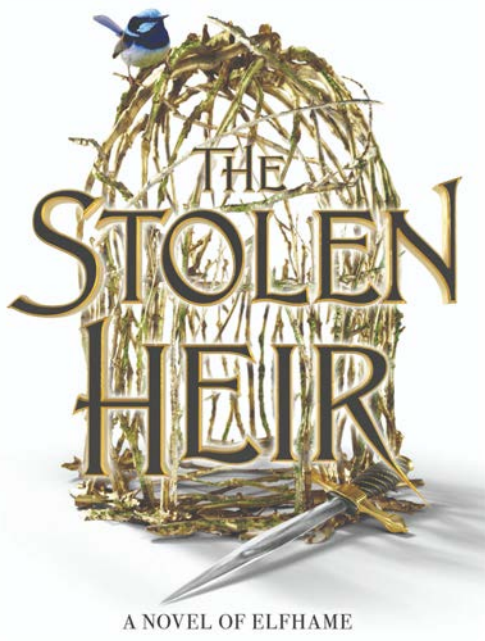
"Howl" is the story of Virgil Knox, a boy from Seattle who is forced to move to the tiny town of Merritt with his dad after his parent's divorce. He is unhappy to live with his strict grandparents and struggles through high school in a culture less than welcoming to him.

The book begins with a seriously wounded Virgil limping down the deserted main street of the town after being attacked by a monster in the woods—no one believes his story and the town writes him off as a liar. The traumatic memories of the monster and the sexual assault he suffered at the party before the attack plague Virgil as he tries to get his footing in his new environment. He begins the school year as a social outcast, but when one of the most influential boys in town shows an interest in him and offers him friendship and social standing, Virgil must decide whether to forgive Jarrett for what he has done or satisfy himself with his two eccentric but loyal friends. Meanwhile, he is drawing further apart from his best friend and boyfriend back home in Seattle and feels unvalued by his parents, perpetually preoccupied with their work. Virgil gets a relieving reprieve from his worries in his drama class, where the thrill of being on stage erases all other thoughts from his mind. However, this escape is only temporary, and in the end, Virgil will have to face his fears in order to conquer them and choose the people that truly matter to him.

I didn't like this novel quite as much as Hutchinson's other books that I've read, like "Before we Disappear" and "The Apocalypse of Elena Mendoza." They all explore similar themes of existential crises, risks, and choices faced by young, queer characters as they struggle to find their identities and trust the people around them. I did find Virgil more relatable in some ways than Hutchinson's other main characters, perhaps because the plot was a bit less fantastical than in the other two novels. The monster in this story was more clearly a symbol of internal struggles than the supernatural occurrences of the other novels, which lent to a more interesting plot but decreased the relatability of the characters.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

HOLLY BLACK



# THE STOLEN HEIR

BY

## HOLLY BLACK

CALL #: YA FIC BLACK

RATING:



GENRE:

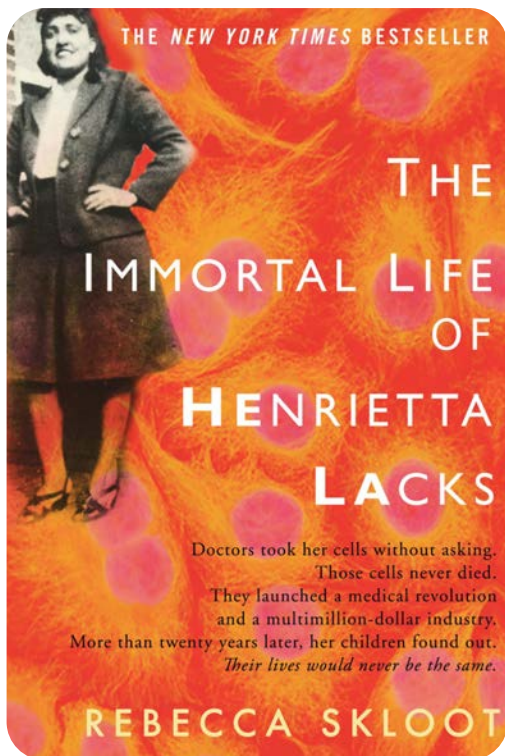
FANTASY

### Book Review:

This book is the fourth book of the Elfhame series, and if you haven't read the first three, you should definitely read about those there before reading this book. This book mainly discusses the story of Suren, a queen exiled into the human realm. She forages the forest and helps humans against faes longing to return to her home. Suren ran into the prince of Elfhame, Oak, and was asked to help him in a dangerous quest to help his father. However, Suren is unsure of her decision. Will she be able to go back to her home? Or will she help the prince?

This book is really well-written; there is a lot of figurative language that helped me understand the story. The author engraved each character's emotions into sentences and used imagery to help us imagine the character's actions and what the places looked like. My favorite character was Suren because she had terrible experiences that made her trust no one, but she also gained the ability to think quickly. Additionally, she has helped the humans against the faes, even while knowing how dangerous they are; this shows how Suren is a strong woman who helps the weak.

I would definitely recommend this book because there are a lot of interesting events and characters in the book. I was into it the moment I finished the first chapter. If you love fiction and faeries, you should definitely read this book because this book was made for you. All the characters are carefully designed, and their personality and action are just so fun to read about. And Suren is definitely one of the best characters that has both the personality and the action.



# THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS BY REBECCA SKLOOT

CALL #: 616.0277 SKLOOT

RATING: 

GENRE: NON-FICTION

## Book Review:

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" is a nonfiction book about a woman named Henrietta Lacks whose cells were taken without her knowledge or consent for medical research in the 1950s. Her cells became one of the most important tools in modern medicine and were used to develop vaccines and treatments for many diseases. However, Henrietta's family was unaware of her contribution to science until decades later, and they faced many ethical and emotional challenges as a result. The book explores the impact of Henrietta's cells on science and society, as well as the importance of informed consent and ethical practices in medical research.

I thought the book was a good read. I liked how it talked about a point in history that greatly impacted the modern medical field and the sacrifices and struggles it took to get here. I also fell in love with the characters, the way their story is written feels very personal and I sympathized with them. My favorite character was Joe Lacks, who was a really interesting character that made me deeply fascinated by the book. There are some sensitive topics discussed but I think that only added to the serious but very engaging feel of the book.

I would recommend this book. It is very interesting and tells an important part of our country's history regarding the medical field. It can be disturbing in some parts but that is only because this book's job isn't only to entertain, but to also inform. It is truly unlike anything I have ever read and the only thing stopping it from getting a perfect rating is how the pacing of the book can seem too slow for some readers as the balance between educational reading and storytelling is not quite perfect.