



TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

DECEMBER 2024

GUIDE

BOOKS IN THE
YOUNG ADULT
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE
ADULT
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE
CHILDREN
COLLECTION



THE MOONLIGHT MARKET BY JOANNE HARRIS

CALL #:

FIC HARRIS

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

URBAN FANTASY

Book Review:

The novel, *The Moonlight Market* by Joanne Harris, is a fantasy and action fictional story that introduces the reader to the mysterious second world of Daylight Folk and Midnight Folk. The protagonist is a photographer by the name of Tom Argent, who falls in love with a strange woman one morning at his local shop. Unable to forget her, Tom goes on a search for her, leading to the discovery of a world unseen by society. *The Moonlight Market* is a story that packs the discovery of oneself, finding true love, and accepting the changes that come along the way.

While reading, I found the story to be very confusing at times. The story's pacing is very out of place, which unfortunately causes a difficult time in understanding contexts. Other than pacing dilemmas, the story also can't quite grasp the reader upon turning its first few pages, which leads to some troubles at the start. Despite these shortcomings, the novel has an excellent style of writing, utilizing complex vocabulary and intriguing sentence structures. Another highlight is the worldbuilding; the author does an excellent job of creating a world with deep lore and history.

This novel is reminiscent of going back to an old game from your past. It doesn't seem very enticing, but it can capture you in some moments. I would recommend this story to readers who enjoy a complex world, which was done perfectly by the author. As I have said before, the book may be slightly challenging to understand at the start, but the path to the end slowly grows easier and easier. This book may not have been the best read. However, it is one that I will still remember in the back of my mind.



I SURVIVED THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, 1944 BY GEORGIA BALL

CALL #: J GN BALL

COLLECTION: J GRAPHIC NOVEL

RATING: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GENRE: HISTORICAL COMICS

Book Review:

This book is the illustrated adaptation of *I Survived the Battle of D-Day, 1944*. It is about a battle during World War II. The main character is a boy named Paul who lives in a small town in France which is under the control of the Nazis. He finds an American paratrooper named Victor, and he finds out about a secret resistance movement to stop the Nazis. He learns that the Allies have a plan to defeat the Nazis. Soon, he finds himself in the middle of the battle of D-day and needs to survive. The story shows Paul's courage, bravery, and strength, as well as how people work together to achieve a common goal.

I personally like all the “I Survived” series because I am fond of history, and this series is like a perfect blend of history and fiction. So, along with explaining the historical details, it also excites readers with a story; they can imagine being in the historical moment while reading the book. The graphic novel version makes it easy to read and understand because of the amazing illustrations.

I recommend this book to all those interested in history and also to those who have forgotten history. It is a good book to keep in a classroom so kids can read it during history class. Because this book is about a battle, there are weapons and violence in it, so children aged 11 and older would be a good fit to read it.



THE WISHING GAME

BY MEG SHAFFER

CALL #:

FIC SHAFFER

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCES

Book Review:

The Wishing Game by Meg Shaffer is a whimsical and heartwarming novel that explores themes of imagination, resilience, second chances, family, and love. The story follows Lucy Hart, a woman in her late twenties working as a kindergarten teacher's aide. Having grown up in a family devoid of love or attention, Lucy found solace in books, particularly the Clock Island series by Jack Masterson. As an adult, she shares her passion for these stories with her students, especially Christopher Lamb, a seven-year-old boy who became an orphan after his parents' tragic deaths. Lucy dreams of adopting Christopher and giving him the loving home she never had, but her limited financial stability stands in the way. Everything changes when Lucy receives a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity from Jack Masterson himself. The author has written a new book and is holding a contest on his magical Clock Island to determine who will win the rights to it—and a life-changing prize.

Shaffer's vivid descriptions of Clock Island bring the setting to life, perfectly capturing its magical elements. The characters are richly developed and relatable, each navigating their own personal struggles. While the story primarily focuses on Lucy, Jack, and Christopher, every character plays a vital role in advancing the plot and adding depth to the narrative. The bond that develops between Lucy and Christopher is particularly moving, showcasing the power of love and the courage it takes to rebuild a life.

Shaffer masterfully balances emotional depth with moments of humor and warmth, creating a story that is both moving and uplifting. The novel is perfect for a cozy winter day and will resonate with readers who appreciate tales of love, family, and the transformative magic of stories.

If you enjoyed Roald Dahl's *Matilda* or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Wishing Game* is a must-read. Its blend of whimsy, heartfelt emotion and hopeful themes makes it a truly unforgettable book.





IF I SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW BY ROBBIE COUCH

CALL #: YA FIC COUCH

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE: LGBTQIA+ ROMANCES; SCIENCE FICTION

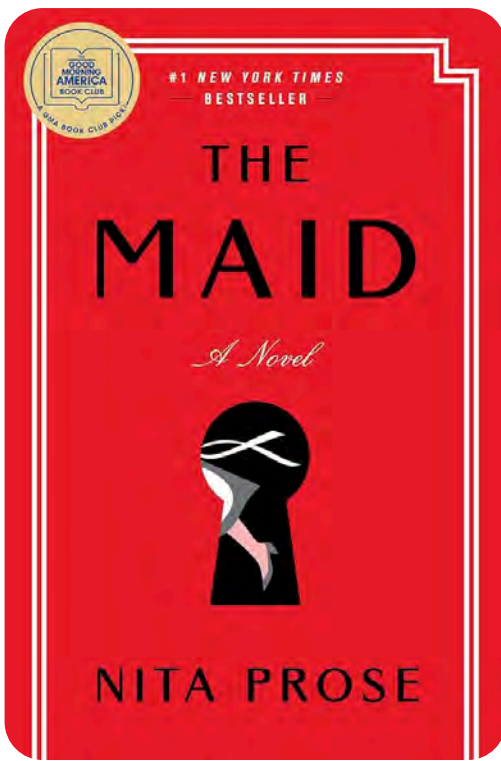
Book Review:

If I See You Again Tomorrow is a cozy, earnest book that will make you happy to read. But this doesn't mean it is lacking in plot – the novel follows an intriguing story of a time loop full of twists and déjà vu.

Clark is reliving Monday, September 19, for the 310th time...but suddenly, things are different. He is launched into the life of Beau, and fate clearly intends for the two to meet. Clark tries not to get attached, after all, this will all reset in the morning. However, things have changed. As September 19th comes and passes time after time, Clark desperately works to escape his time loop, heal his relationships, and live the best life possible.

This heartfelt story is a bit cheesy but in the sweetest way possible. Although the characters were not my favorite, I really appreciated the pace of this book. At first, I thought it was going to be relatively slow and predictable, but the author soon proved me wrong and I couldn't help binge-reading the whole thing in a day. I also loved how everything connected and fell into place at the end. It was a perfectly satisfying ending.

I recommend this book for a light escape from reality. It's a nice winter read but don't expect to care super deeply for the characters. Fans of Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End* will appreciate this intersection of science fiction and gay romance.



THE MAID BY NITA PROSE

CALL #:

FIC PROSE

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

MYSTERIES

Book Review:

Nita Prose's debut novel, *The Maid*, is a fascinating story that explores mystery and suspense from the perspective of Molly Gray, a dedicated employee at the Grand Regency Hotel. Molly's meticulousness and dedication to her job are evident, and her attention to small details makes her a memorable character. Her exceptional service and personal integrity are the results of her grandmother's teaching and training to Mr. Snow, which has profoundly impacted her.

The story escalates dramatically when Molly stumbles upon the dead body of Charles Black in his room. The police suspect her of the crime due to her strange actions, putting her in a difficult situation as she works to prove her innocence amid a complex web of lies and mystery. The book captivates readers with its thrilling surprises and uncertainties, raising the question of whether Molly can demonstrate her innocence and reveal the real perpetrator in time.

Nita Prose writes in an engaging style that vividly sets the atmosphere. I admired Molly's peculiar and distinctive personality despite her occasional naivety, which made her seem susceptible and easily influenced. Although this attribute contributed to her complexity, it also occasionally seemed disconcerting. The secondary characters are thoroughly developed, all playing a role in the complex storyline.

In general, *The Maid* is a pleasant and straightforward read, making it a good gateway into the mystery genre. Despite occasionally not meeting my expectations, the book successfully helped me overcome a reading slump and offered an enjoyable and captivating experience. I suggest it to readers who like mysteries that focus on characters with a mix of suspense and depth of emotions. If you enjoyed *The Maid* by Nita Prose, you might also like other mystery novels like *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, where quirky characters and intricate plots are masterfully woven together.