



TEEN BOOK REVIEWS

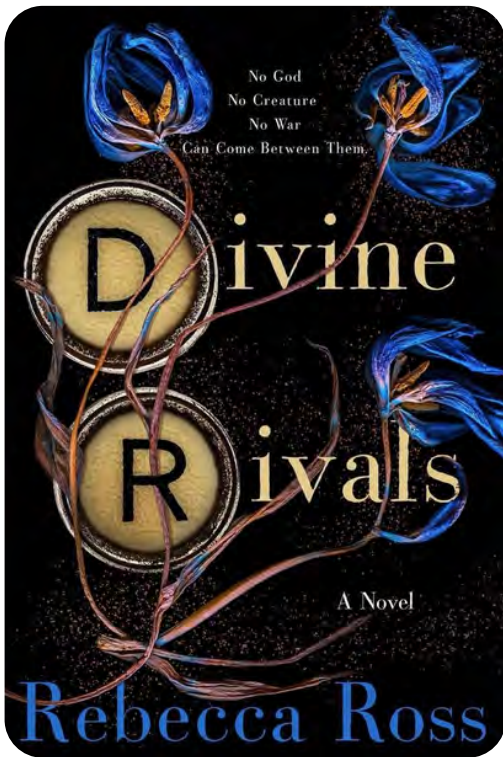
FEBRUARY 2024

GUIDE

BOOKS IN THE
YOUNG ADULT
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE
ADULT
COLLECTION

BOOKS IN THE
CHILDREN
COLLECTION



DIVINE RIVALS

BY

REBECCA ROSS

CALL #

YA FIC ROSS

COLLECTION:

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

STEAMPUNK; FANTASY

Book Review:

Divine Rivals is about a girl named Iris Winnow who works at the Oath Gazette, where she meets her academic rival, Roman Kitt. Her brother went off to fight in a war between two gods with the promise to send her letters when he could. Time passes, and she doesn't hear from him, but that doesn't stop her from writing to him her mix of emotions and slipping the letters under the wardrobe door, where they are delivered to her rival, Kitt. And after months, he answers her, and they write to each other until they fall in love, even though she doesn't know who she's writing to. She later goes to the front as a correspondent in the hopes of finding her brother. This book is the first of a duology, followed by Ruthless Vows.

I loved this book so much. It had the right amount of romance, tension, and fantasy that made it so good and fun. It made me cry, laugh, fall in love with the characters, and even get mad! I loved how the book not only shows a romantic relationship but also friendships and family love. It's hard to choose a favorite character because I love them all a lot, but I will probably choose Attie! She is the friend that everyone needs in their lives.

I would definitely recommend this book to mostly everyone. The fantasy in it is very simple and light, so even if you're not a fantasy reader, you may enjoy this. It is set in the past, and the plot revolves mostly around the war, so if you don't like that, this book is probably not for you. It has dual POVs and is written from the 3rd point of view. I have not yet found a book similar to this since this is a unique and new type of story for me.

THE CASHLESS REVOLUTION: CHINA'S REINVENTION OF MONEY AND THE END OF AMERICA'S DOMINATION OF FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BY
MARTIN CHORZEMPA

CALL # 332.0951 CHORZEMPA

COLLECTION: NON-FICTION

RATING:



GENRE: BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Book Review:

The Cashless Revolution: China's Reinvention of Money and the End of America's Domination of Finance and Technology by Martin Chorzempa offers an insightful exploration into China's transition towards a cashless society and its effects on global finance and technology. The book dives into the rise of digital payment platforms such as Alipay and WeChat Pay, the role of government regulation in shaping the digital finance landscape, and the challenges and opportunities presented by China's cashless revolution.

In this book, Chorzempa provides a detailed analysis of China's digital payment ecosystem, shedding light on the factors driving its success and the potential consequences for the global financial system. One aspect I appreciated was the author's clear and knowledgeable writing style, which made complex financial concepts understandable to a wide audience. Chorzempa's exploration of the regulatory environment in China and its impact on the development of digital finance was very interesting.

However, one drawback of the book was its narrow focus on China. It left me wanting more discussion on the broader effects of the cashless revolution for other countries and regions. Additionally, while the book provides a large examination of the technological and economic aspects of China's digital payment ecosystem, it lacks the human connection to everyday people, making it less engaging than it could have been.

Overall, The Cashless Revolution is a thought-provoking read that offers valuable insights into the future of finance and technology. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding the changes in China's digital economy and its implications for global financial markets. Readers with an interest in fintech, economics, and international relations will find this book to be very good. While it may not be the most captivating read for those looking for a character-driven narrative, it serves as an essential resource for understanding one of the most significant transformations in the modern financial industry.





ACT COOL BY TOBLY McSMITH

CALL #

YA FIC McSMITH

COLLECTION:

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

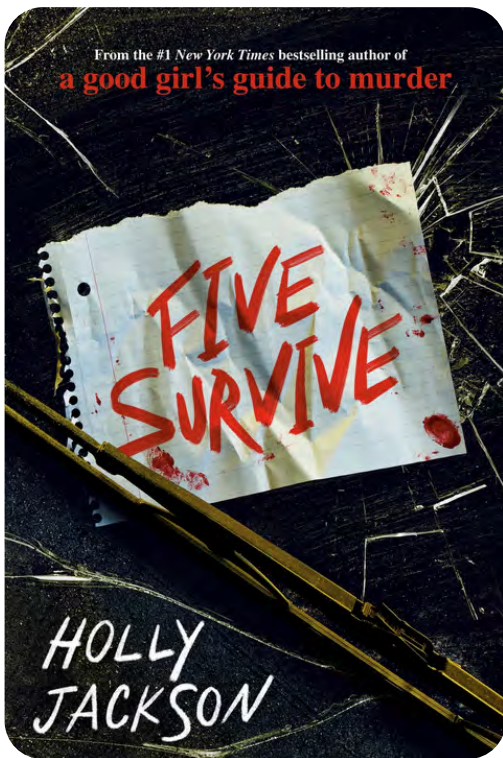
REALISTIC FICTION

Book Review:

Act Cool is about a young trans boy named August Greene who left Pennsylvania to go to New York, where he could attend SPA, a prestigious acting school in New York. He ran away from his home because his parents didn't accept him for being trans and thought about sending him to conversion therapy. After he found out what his parents were thinking of doing, he had bad thoughts that he told his aunt about. To help August escape that environment, she looked into every high school but found nothing. Then she looked into SPA, and August got an audition. After he got in, he made a few friends, Anna, Meena, Jack, and Juliet, who, like August, are also trans. He participates in plays and attends classes; by the end of the book, he confronts his parents, gets a part in a big play, and lives happily.

I adored this book; I enjoyed the character development and the way the book is in first person, so we really get to see August's perspective, and the way the author tied everything up made me cry. I liked how the characters interacted and how I could hear their personalities. The only thing that I didn't like was that there wasn't more to read.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is LGBTQ or an ally. The representation in this book is truly amazing, and it displays what it's like to be in a non-accepting household as someone who is part of the LGBTQ community. I haven't read any book like this one, so I am excited to read more like this.



FIVE SURVIVE BY HOLLY JACKSON

CALL # YA FIC JACKSON

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING: 

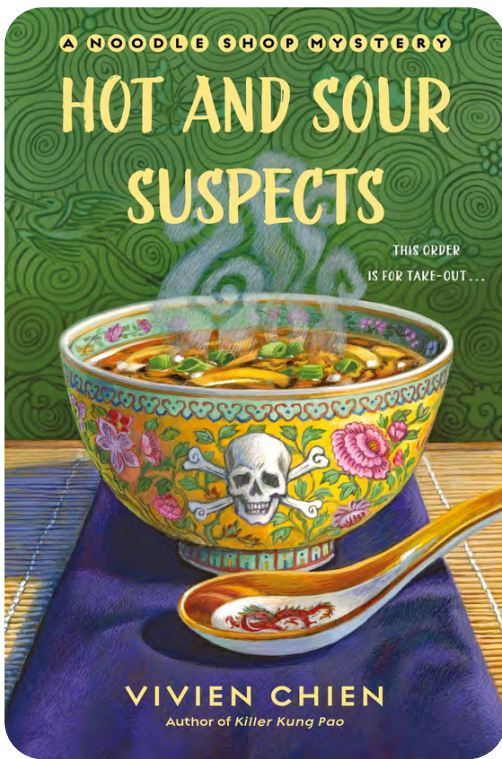
GENRE: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE

Book Review:

Five Survive by Holly Jackson takes place when the RV that Red Kenney and five of her friends are traveling in breaks down in the middle of the woods at night, with nobody around. Red and her friends quickly discover that this was a set-up and that there is a sniper in the woods willing to kill for a secret that one of the six friends has. As the panic and tension increase, buried secrets are revealed, and so-called friends turn on each other. And, as the title reveals, only five of them survive.

I liked this book because the ever-present aspect of danger, along with the fast pace of the book, kept me enthralled. It was interesting reading about each character's problem-solving skills during the entirety of the intense book, along with seeing the "true nature" of each character and their toxic friendships being revealed through each high-stress situation that the author put them through.

I would recommend this hard-to-put-down book to mystery lovers and anyone looking for an interesting, engaging read. It was fun to pick up the clues and hints along the way in order to try and figure out who held the secret and who wanted it so badly that they would kill. The final reveal had me flipping back through the pages to find the clues that I had missed. While this book was pretty similar to other popular murder mysteries, like One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus, I think that the aspect that the book is taking place in a claustrophobic RV that none of the characters can leave enhances the book overall.



HOT AND SOUR SUSPECTS BY VIVIEN CHIEN

CALL #

FIC CHIEN

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

COZY MYSTERIES

Book Review:

The book, Hot And Sour Suspects by Vivien Chien, is about a girl, Lana Lee, who likes to solve mysteries. She was caught up in an adventure at her family's noodle shop's speed dating event. When a person ends up dead, Lana's best friend Rina is accused, and Lana, along with her other friend Megan, goes and investigates. Lana's boyfriend, named Adam, is also a cop; Adam is worried about Lana interfering with what he does. As they dig deeper into their investigation, they uncover secrets and dangerous connections, putting Lana in a very risky and scary situation. Rina doesn't want any help, but Lana and Megan are determined to clear Rina's and solve the mystery.

My favorite character in the book would be the detective because he has to investigate the restaurant and find clues. My favorite thing about this book is how mysterious it is. The book is very interesting, and the more you read it, the more interesting it gets. I would recommend this book to people who like to read something interesting and mysterious. This book is very interesting because it has so many mysteries and surprises. Lastly, this book is exciting because you will never know what will happen next because it is so mysterious.



THE CHANDLER LEGACIES

BY

ABDI NAZEMAN

CALL # YA FIC NAZEMIAN

COLLECTION: YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

HISTORICAL FICTION

Book Review:

At a prominent boarding school, students are chosen to join The Circle, a mysterious and private writing group whose members are claimed to be as close as family. This year, five students are picked, each with secrets they don't want to be revealed. They develop together, hoping to one day transform the way things function at their school.

This book has given me a lot of mixed thoughts. I liked it and disliked it, and I'm not sure which sentiment was stronger. What I liked about this book was how their teacher, Douglas, had them write their first assignment and then return it to them with one word they used more than others circled. That word is what they need to go further into to figure out who they are. I enjoy reading about teachers encouraging students to thrive instead of making them feel tiny. The characters were initially effectively fleshed out and felt quite real, but as the plot progressed, I couldn't understand why they were doing certain things, and it all became very confusing. I believe the author should have introduced the key story point much earlier; 75% of the book felt like vibes, followed by the actual plot, which is only around 25% fleshed out.

This book combines several of my favorite elements, including the found family trope. The way these characters began with such separate lives and eventually developed to become connected was very well done. I was completely convinced of their connection, but the romance was not as compelling. Honestly, all I wanted was more — more details on the ending, how things were handled, and more information on the characters and their relationships. Everything else was so nicely done that I believe there was potential to develop the plot beyond what it was. In particular, since writing was such an important aspect of this novel, I would have liked to see more of the characters' passions for writing.

*****Story's Trigger/Content Warnings: an explicit account of hazing (of a sexual nature), bullying, racism, sexism, casual misogyny, a recount of sexual assault*****



THE SEVEN YEAR SLIP

BY

ASHLEY POSTON

CALL #

FIC POSTON

COLLECTION:

FICTION

RATING:



GENRE:

ROMANCE

Book Review:

The Seven Year Slip, by Ashley Poston, is a magical realism romance that follows a woman named Clementine, an overworked book publicist, who has hit a major crossroads in her life. Though her life and career are seemingly going well, as she has just been offered the biggest promotion she could imagine, she simultaneously struggles to cope with the tragic death of her beloved aunt. She inherits her aunt's apartment, and though she's been told about its magical elements, Clementine never truly believed her stories. That is until she goes home to the apartment to find Iwan, a strange but attractive man, settling in there. She goes on to find out that the man is from 7 years ago, and she lives 7 years in his future.

This story is a magical one, filled with sweet messages, friendship, and love. Iwan's love for life and care for those around him was so refreshing to read about. I resonate so deeply with Clementine—from her tendencies at work to her struggle to figure out what exactly she wants in life. Additionally, the love and support her friends and family had for her was so heartwarming. And, of course, the romance was exceptionally sweet.

Poston's descriptions of the New York City setting made the story even more magical. On top of it all, Iwan is an incredible chef, sharing his stories about cooking and how it connects him to his grandfather. In the present timeline, Clementine is searching for a new partnership with her firm and also has tasteful dining experiences. In short, the magical elements of this lovely story, in conjunction with the incredibly sweet character dynamics, make this book such an incredible read.

I would recommend this book to anyone in search of a cute and unique story. Although it is about a 30-year-old woman, I think anybody, particularly one going through a change, will resonate with her thoughts and experiences. Although it serves as an excellent escapism, this book also has excellent messages about mental health and how to support those around you.