

Cookie: Book Review

Summary of plot

Beauty Cookson is not beautiful, at school everyone makes fun of her because of her name. She comes home every day to watch her favourite show "Sam and Lily", Lily being a small white rabbit. For her birthday all she wants is a rabbit just like that but her abusive father refuses to get her one. She tells this to her one friend, and she gets Beauty a rabbit. This leads to Beauty and her mum walking out and meeting some people who will change their lives for ever...

Positives

The book has a good message and is an easy read I would recommend people aged 9-13 this book because of the topic it touches on. It is well written and shines a light on things that are a little unheard of.

Negatives

The first part can be a little boring because nothing really interesting happens. Sometimes it goes a little off plot and some parts do feel unimportant. It doesn't describe the characters very well and some things are a bit out of character.

Opinion

Altogether the book is pretty good. The story line and characters are very well written and even though there are some negatives I would still one hundred percent recommend this book.

Star rating (/5)



Book review: Alien: Invasion by Tim Lebbon

Reviewed by Zahid



Alien Invasion is a sci-fi novel and is the second book of the rage war franchise, which starts from the book: predator incursion, and races towards a dramatic conclusion in Alien vs. predator: Armageddon. The book Alien invasion is by Tim Lebbon who wrote the book Pay the ghost which became a film in 2015. There have been many Alien films such as Aliens, Alien 3 and Alien.

The book is written in third person and most of the chapters are written from the perspectives of Johnny Mains, Isa Pallant and many more. The storyline is set in the 26th century in the future where Johnny mains is left to fend for himself against a huge swarm of Xenomorphs (Aliens) but is liberated by a rescue team. This is the start of the rage war where the rage (Humans that were driven out of the human sphere) have come back for revenge with weaponised Xenomorphs. The plot further develops when Earth faces an unlikely collaboration with the Yautja (predators). Will the combined might of these two races be able to defeat the Rage? With a fast moving story-line, Alien invasion is sure to keep you on the balls of your feet!

My favourite part of the book is when the Queen Xenomorph (The mother of the Xenomorphs) eats three humans which gave me a chill down my spine. My least favourite part of the book is when the Colonel Marines (soldiers) are running from a river of acid in the sewage of a rage ship. I would recommend this book to anyone of 12 or above because of its content and frightening plot which scares you to the bone!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GOLDINGTON?

Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

Reviewed by Alex



Noughts & Crosses is a dystopian novel set in a world full of racism and prejudice where Crosses, the dark-skinned ruling class, and Noughts, the 'colourless' underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. It is written from the perspective of Sephy, a Cross who has lived her life in the privileges given to her by society, and Callum, a Nought who can only dream of those privileges. Despite the divide, a friendship builds between the two children, which turn into a romance as they grow older. This novel explores the dangers and punishments the couple and their families endure because of their relationship and demonstrates how segregation and discrimination can tear people apart. A thought-provoking tear-jerker guaranteed to break your heart.

One thing that stands out to me about this novel is originality. From the synopsis, you would assume it's simply a dystopian romance, but it's so much more than that. It contains the dark desolation of a tragedy, the tension of a crime, the adrenaline of an action, the suspense of a thriller. The storyline is perfectly paced: quick enough to provoke apprehension in the reader, but with the right amount of slow, tender and emotional moments. As it is written in first person, we are able to see the reactions of each character and how they truly feel about the ruinous situations they must face, helping us to engage and connect with them. Heart-wrenching, beautiful and devastating, this versatile novel would be a perfect read of fans of any genre above the age of 14.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Reviewed by Alex



'What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent?' is a phrase taken from the tragic, moving novel 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas, and summarises the novel entirely. Dealing with prejudice and discriminatory issues that we face in society today, it is written from the perspective of a teenage girl, Starr, whose life changes after she witnesses the police shooting of her friend, Khalil, who was utterly innocent. It begins with the tear-jerking scene of the shooting itself, and follows the struggles and discrimination Starr and her neighbourhood face whilst fighting for justice for Khalil. Starr lives in Garden Heights, a deprived neighbourhood full of gangs and shootings, however attends an affluent private school (where she is one of the only girls of her race) to keep her safe and out of danger. We then start to see the tragic events of Garden Heights develop as her two worlds combine and she realises the importance and power of her voice.

This novel isn't coloured with elaborate vocabulary, which is exactly how it should be. Thomas' writing style doesn't hide behind any words: it is brutally honest and incredible to read. The exploration of Starr's character perfectly demonstrates how the teenagers of today are emotionally affected by the issues dealt with in the novel – we see Starr's emotions unfold and how she reacts to the prejudice her and her community experience. It opens our eyes to the damaging impact these issues have on our society, and encourages us to speak out and help make a difference. If you are a fan of novels that deal with social issues and discrimination, and are above the age of 13, I strongly urge you to give this book a read.

One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

Reviewed by Alex



'One of Us is Lying' is a thriller novel written from the perspective of four high school students. It begins with the scene of a death, where five students are in a detention and one mysteriously dies during an allergic reaction. The four remaining students' lives are turned upside down as they are under scrutiny as the main suspects of the death. However, the boy who died, Simon, was the creator of a notorious gossip app about the scandals of their school, and just before he died, drafted a post on each of the four suspects' own scandals. If the post was sent, each student had a reason to end his life.

The synopsis of the novel sounded somewhat generic to me at first, following a whodunnit storyline similar to most teen murder-mysteries. About halfway into the book, this changed dramatically. McManus begins to reveal shocking secrets about the characters that spin the novel on its head and, unlike most, we get a chance to learn in-depth about each of the characters' circumstances and how they differ from one another. A slow start, but it picks up and ends with one of the most breathtakingly written endings I have ever read. Trust me – you will not see it coming. I definitely would recommend this novel to teens aged roughly from 13 to 18.

How to Stop Time by Matt Haig

Reviewed by Alex



'How to Stop Time' has to be one of the best books I've ever read. Its innovative and intriguing storyline challenges the mind and makes you question everything about life. It's a fictional novel written from the perspective of Tom Hazard, a man who appears to be a 41 year-old but has been alive for centuries. He's done great things in his 400 years – like performing with Shakespeare, drinking with Fitzgerald and sailing with Captain Cook. There have been times when Tom has simply wanted to escape his seemingly never-ending life, but there is one thing that keeps him going: his daughter.

Haig provokes emotion with his writing as he tells us fascinating tales that simply would never happen in real life. It also speaks of love, myth and tragedy – the sheer mix of genres is what kept me hooked to the book. There is something for everyone. The language is beautiful and compelling with each chapter being set in a different time at a different place. I would certainly recommend the book to lovers of mature contemporary writing and historic novels above the age of 14.