

# July Book Reviews are in!

Get your next book recommendation here!

These are the 5 and 4 star books rated by local readers!

**Beren and Luthien** by J.R.R. Tolkien



A great read for any fan of Tolkien and for new comers alike! It is a bitter sweet book when you reach the end. Sweet because of the fantastic writing style of Tolkien of which we receive long segments of beautiful poetry and prose alike. Likewise we get the evolution of a tale which Tolkien thought to be the jewel of the Elder Days of his work. The bitter part of this book comes from the fact that we have an incomplete story within the pages. It is complete within its narrative story telling (as far as Tolkien reached in his life). But it was nonetheless unfinished in his mind and we will never have the fully fleshed out version that he could have made had he more time. This brings in you a satisfaction as well as a longing for more which every great writer leaves to those whom read their work. I loved every minute of it and will be reading again and again in the years to come throughout my life. I can't recommend it enough as I haven't been able to for the rest of his work!

**Paper Cranes** by Jordan Ford



My heart . . . This book pulled on every inch of myself that cried reading Romeo and Juliet or every time the handsome prince scoops up his fair maiden in classic fairytales. To anyone who chooses English classes for fun and has picked apart a poem or wrote a poem this book is for you.

Tristan, our prince, is a sullen teenager who is split because of his parents divorce and moves in with his unhappy father who is content as a lump on the couch with a couple of beers. It beats the alternative of living with his overly fake mom and her fiancé even if they do have money.

When he climbs a spooky trellis to return a baseball he meets his princess. Helene has golden hair, fair skin and speaks as if she is in a Shakespearean play. And there he falls in love as do we.

There's so much I love about this book. I love the characters, I love the chivalry, I love the overall tone of the book. Capture your beautiful moments, hold onto them and cast away your worries. But most of all love. Even through tragedy and wicked dragons Love is worth holding onto.

This book is like pulling out Sleepless in Seattle or The Notebook to watch for the millionth time just to believe in love. One of those books where you know it's going to hurt, but anything worth it hurts a little.

**Everyone is Beautiful** by Katherine Center 

What I loved: The absolute hilarious way this author depicts motherhood, the daily mundaneness of poop, letting your kids color on the walls because for a blissful few minutes it's quiet dang it.

The descriptive writing she does. I love how I can actually see what she is writing. A lot of authors lack that ability and can get caught up with assuming you know. Sometimes I don't read to think. Sometimes I enjoy seeing beauty in a little girl in a pinafore dress with band-aids covering her legs.

What I didn't love:

I never really liked her husband. I didn't fall in love with him even as she was. Nor did I want her to be with the disheveled flip flop wearing teacher, but I would assume we'd have some kind of love for the man she adores and misses.

Do not tell me in a book "little did I know that would be the end of this." It's really annoying. It's like being bit by a mosquito while relaxing in a hammock. Quit it.

Overall I do suggest this book. Maybe because part of me identifies with the main character, or maybe just because I do think there's beauty in the non-commercial beauty.

**Dark Legend** by Christine Feehan 

**Dark Guardian** by Christine Feehan 

**Ecstasy in Darkness** by Gena Showalter 

**Midnight Rainbow** by Linda Howard 

**The Last Days of Night** by Graham Moore 

Great Read! Historical fiction based upon facts involving Westinghouse, Edison, and Tesla. The fight to build the electrical grid using AC vs. DC .

**Fool Me Once** by Harlan Coban 

**Harry Potter et Les Reliques de la Mort** by J.K Rowling 

**Shelter** by Jung Yun 

**The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo** by Amy Schumer 

**At the Water's Edge** by Sara Gruen 

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Very well written. The characters were believable. Highly recommend. Mystery, love story, deception and Loch Ness monster all make for a really good read. (Author of Water for Elephants)

**Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante** by Susan Elia MacNeal 

Fiction-mystery, gives a plot of what could have happened. Light reading but very good. Part of a series "A Maggie Hope Mystery".

**Britt-Marie Was Here** by Fredrik Backman 

Loved it! Another great story from Fredrik Backman. Love his writing so much that I am reading all his books!

**The Burial Hour** by Jeffery Deaver 

**Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult 

**Dexter is Delicious** by Jeff Lindsey 

**The Reluctant** by Leigh Greenwood 

**A Hunger Like No Other** by Kresley Cole 

**Unbreakable** by Stephanie Tyler 

**A Spot of Bother** by Mark Haddon 

Lots of family dynamics going on. Interesting book.

**My Mother's Secret** by J.L. Witterick 

Wonderful storytelling of WWII from multiple perspectives. Wish it was longer or went more in depth. The main character had a lot more history still left untold.

**The Death and Life of the Great Lakes** by Dean Egan 

Do not read the introduction, it gave away the whole book! It is a fascinating topic but the political view of the author is shown.

**Starting Now** by Debbie Macomber 

**Odd Numbers** by Anne Holt 

**The Lions Mouth** by Anne Holt 

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**Blossom Street Brides** by Debbie Macomber 

**Due or Die** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Arsenic & Old Books** by Miranda James 

**Confessions of a Murder Suspect** by James Patterson 

**Society Girls** by Sarah Mason 

**Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper** by Phaedra Patrick 

**Orphan Train** by Christine Baker Kline 

**Our World** by Mary Oliver 

**No Cats Allowed** by Miranda James 

**Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline 

Excellent read. Future Sci-fi video game fantasy book.

**The Gravity of Us** by Brittany Cherry 

**Seeing Stars** by J. Sterling 

**The Other Game** by J. Sterling 

**A Likely Story** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Party Girl** by Sarah Mason 

Laugh out loud funny! If you like Jill Mansell, you'll like Sarah Mason.

**Bad Monkey** by Carl Hiaasen 

Very adult content.

**Dead Days of Summer** by Carolyn Hart 

**Every Fifteen Minutes** by Lisa Scottoline 

**Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty 

This was a great read. Definitely a page turner. Had to know what happened next. The characters were relatable.

**Settle for More** by Megyn Kelly 

A timely autobiography on a newscaster.

**Arcadia** by Tom Stoppard 

Fascinating play that delves into mysteries of determinism (and how math relates to the natural world). The time shifting allows for lots of humorous dramatic irony. There is a lot of space left for mystery in between the dialogue and it has raised more questions than it answers— like good fiction should.

**Exodus** by Leon Uris 

Fascinating historical fiction that provides the context for anti-Semitism in Europe that led to harsh treatment of Jews in WWII and even afterwards. However, the novel was quite biased (is there any way to write about history without over simplifying who are the good and bad guys?) and left me wondering what really happened.

**Much Ado** by Michael Lenehan 

Any fan of APT's magical summer productions will enjoy this behind the scenes story of the passionate people who make each play happen!

**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** by J.K. Rowling 

**Camino Island** by John Grisham 

**No Middle Name** by Lee Child 

**16th Seduction** by James Patterson 

**Golden Pray** by John Sanford 

**The Laughing Policeman** by Maj Sjöwall; Per Wahlöö 

**The First Hostage** by Joel C Rosenberg 

**The Third Target** by Joel C Rosenberg 

**Without Warning** by Joel C Rosenberg 

**The Girl Before** by J.P. Delaney 

Took a while to understand each side of the story. Once it was cleared up, it was quite the page turner. Had you guessing who did it and why.

**Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty 

**Murder Games** by James Patterson 

**Cross the Line** by James Patterson 

**Among the Wicked** by Linda Castillo 