

# June Book Reviews are in!

Get your next book recommendation here!

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

**Dog Songs** by Mary Oliver 

I really enjoyed the poems and the layout of the book (nothing on back sides of pages) Made for a very relaxing reading experience. Perfect for any dog lover!

**The One You Really Want** by Jill Mansell 

Fun, witty, twists and turns. Jill Mansell always writes a great read.

**Playing James** by Sarah Mason 

Loved it. Couldn't put it down!

**The Everlasting Man** by G.K. Chesterton 

**Felicity** by Mary Oliver 

I really enjoyed this collection of poems!

**Skin Game** by Jim Butcher 

**Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult 

Very interesting and shocking (at points)!

**Janesville** by Amy Goldenstein 

Excellent read! Recommended to find out the complexities and behind-the-scenes stories of how the GM closing had impacted this city.

**Reason to Breathe** by Rebecca Donovan 

Great young adult novel about a teenage girl living in an abusive home with her Uncle and Aunt. Intense and thrilling

**Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty 

This book really has a little bit of everything. It was funny, sad, and just all around captivating. The book tells stories of the lives, and from the perspectives, of three very different women. At times I laughed and wanted to cry in the same paragraph.

This story touches on some tough situations. The author does an amazing job of putting just the right amount of detail into each woman's story. She pulls you in, but doesn't overwhelm you. As I read some of the struggles with domestic violence, family struggles, bullying, etc; I felt waves of emotion. The author does an amazing job of putting this very real issues into a perspective that challenges your everyday thoughts and feelings.

Once I got to the last 100 pages, I absolutely couldn't put it down. There were moments I audibly gasped from surprise. Cannot recommend this book enough. GREAT summer read!

**Flawless Dreams** by Haden James 

Considering I devoured this series when I discovered them, this book was eagerly anticipated.

First of all, do not read the sample. The first chapter is terrible. It was co-written and I don't think the editor bothered with the chapter as there's typos and repetition. Thankfully, it's one chapter and you go back to Ace.

This book gives you two serial killers to ponder and because it's Ace one is after her. This book holds the usual suspense and pace and introduces some new characters. After a wait it was nice to see the SCTU back again.

**The Roses of May** by Dot Hutchinson 

I was a huge fan of the author's previous book in this series, *The Butterfly Garden*. While *The Roses of May* continues after the previous novel, the plot line of the previous book is not necessary for this novel. It will ruin the ending of *The Butterfly Garden*, but this book is strong enough to stand alone.

*The Roses of May* is a riveting psychological thriller. Priya comes to us as a wounded, but very strong young lady and learning about her past and the man who has savagely murdered numerous girls throughout her life is uncomfortable at best. Now Priya works diligently with the FBI in trying to uncover who is the man that murdered her sister and has the flowers that were assigned to each victim delivered on Priya's doorstep.

Hutchinson has a gift of storytelling. At no point does her novel feel like it is dragging or missing any point. She maintains clear focus and just enough character building to make it feel as if we are truly getting to know the characters and tie together pieces. And while one doesn't expect to find this genre funny, she has some pointed phrases that outline just how in the midst of our own storms it is important to keep humor at bay for your own sanity.

If you aren't afraid of a bit of the horrors that can live in one's mind, pick up a copy of this book and find yourself just as riveted as I was.

**Man Overboard** by J.A. Jance 

**Saints for All Occasions** by J.C. Sullivan 

**Eat Pray Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert 

**Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 

**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio 

**Truly Madly Guilty** by Liane Moriarty 

Very similar to Big Little Lies with more focus on friendships than motherhood.

**Playing Nice** by Rebekah Crane 

Sometimes while reading you can disappear into the lives of the characters and truly feel you are living their days or reliving similar times. This book hauled out the beauty and ugliness of high school. This isn't a book about an epic quest to a land of unicorns, in fact there's nothing surreal in this book. It is high school. It is being a teenager. Friendship, love, nice girls, mean girls, parties, kissing, missing someone so much it hurts. And learning who you are. When I was young I would have read this multiple times. As an adult I still loved it. Rebekah Crane has created characters anyone can identify with. Whether you are a Sandy or a Rizzo you will love this book.

**Miss Pegrine's Home For Peculiar Children** by Ransom Riggs 

**Between the Shades of Gray** by Ruta Sepetys 

Fictional but author did a ton of research tying together life in Siberia during World War II. Great epilog about the Baltics.

**We Were the Lucky Ones** by Georgia Hunter 

A wonderful story told from multiple views/generations on how they were impacted by the war/holocaust.

**Book of Unknown Americans** by Christina Henrequez 

This book shares the lives of an apartment complex of "unknown Americans" - Latino immigrants from Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and other countries I can't recall off the top of my head. It is also a story of teenagers who are trying to overcome life and its challenges. The book focuses on these two families, but snippets from the POV of the other residents are interspersed through the book, which gives a window into their lives and how they got to where they're at. Although it isn't a specifically YA book, I think it would be a good teen read.

**A Turn in the Road** by Debbie Macomber 

This was a page turner. Just wanted to know the end of the love story. Does she pick the guy from the past or present? Easy, enjoyable read.

**The House on Seaview Road** by Alison Walsh 

I like a book that has an unexpected ending.

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams 

Better than I recall from high school! Many more levels and more symbolism.

**This is How it Always Is** by Laurie Frankel 

Fantastic novel!

**Barely Breathing** by Rebecca Donovan 

Emma is able to get out of the abusive home situation she was in, but now enters new problems while living with her alcoholic mother.

**La's Orchestra Saves the World** by Alexander McCall Smith 

Haven't read a McCall-Smith book yet that I didn't like. This was a fast read and an unexpected ending.

**The Black Swan** by Mercedes Lackey 

**Burial at Thebes** by Seamus Heaney 

**Into the Beautiful North** by Louise Alberto Urrea 

I loved this quirky story. A group of friends from a Mexican village near Mazatlan try to save their village from bandidos by venturing to the US to recruit seven strong Mexican men to return to Mexico with them. All the men in their village who aren't elderly or infirm have all left to go north. So they have to cross illegally into Mexico, find some Mexicans, and then sneak once again across the border. There are some fantastic characters in this book and the story is wild in its adventures. The group encounters all kinds of horrible situations and dangers but manages to (completely, unrealistically) escape from all of them. The author calls attention to the poverty and plight of Mexico, people trying to cross the border, migrant-worker camps, US immigration and trade policies, etc., all through the eyes of these young people who have never left their village. Somehow this story is lighthearted and heavy and depressing at the same time. I like novels that challenge a reader to know more about realities that are in written in their fictions, which is something Urrea definitely achieved for me.

**Bird by Bird** by Anne Lamott 

Definitely recommended for anyone interested in writing!

**The Cat Who Ate Danish** by Lillian Jackson Braun 

**Out of Circulation** by Miranda James 

**The Silence of the Library** by Miranda James 

**Turbo Twenty-Three** by Janet Evanovich 

**Sleeping Beauty** by Mary Higgins Clark 

**Sprinkle With Murder** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Buttercream Bump Off** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Death by the Dozen** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Red Velvet Revenge** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Sugar & Iced** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Dark Chocolate Demise** by Jenn McKinlay 

**Going, Going Ganache** by Jenn Mckinlay 

**Vanilla Beaned** by Jenn Mckinlay 

**God Made Easy** by Patrice Karst 

Book fits in the palm of your hand. Easy to read and broken down in a way that anyone who is not familiar with God can get an understanding of what he's about. The language/verbage and context used made me laugh because it's witty, sarcastic and just out of someone with a sense of humor.

**Wild** by Cheryl Strayed 

**Mission Impawsible** by Krista Davis 

**Breaking Creed** by Alex Cava 

**Reckless Creed** by Alex Cava 

**Silent Creed** by Alex Cava 

**Two From the Heart** by James Patterson 

I really liked the first story in this book. The second story was OK but not as good as the first.

**The Master and Margarita** by Mikhail Bulgakov 

I liked that there was lots of action. I picked up this book because my favorite musician, Regina Spektor, said it's her favorite boopk. I didn't pick up on all of the metaphors— need to brush up on Soviet Union History! Recommended Read!

**American Ulysses** by Ronald C White 

Good biography of Grant; lots of history on battle during the Civil War.

**The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore 

Learned lots I did not know of worker rights and radium. Very creepy.

**Ghost Soldiers** by Hampton Sides 

**Books Can be Deceiving** by Jenn Mchinlay 

**Idaho** by Emily Ruskovich 