

# The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Written by Stephen Chbosky

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# The Perks of Being a Wallflower

By Stephen Chbosky

## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower

Now in a special edition to mark the twentieth anniversary of a beloved cult classic! Read the #1 New York Times bestselling coming-of-age story that takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory. Also a major motion picture starring Logan Lerman and Emma Watson, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a funny, touching, and haunting modern classic.

## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Book

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes. Caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it, Charlie must learn to navigate those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.

## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Quotes

A #1 New York Times best seller for more than a year, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults (2000) and Best Book for Reluctant Readers (2000), and with millions of copies in print, this novel for teen readers (or "wallflowers" of more-advanced age) will make you laugh, cry, and perhaps feel nostalgic for those moments when you, too, tiptoed onto the dance floor of life.

DISCLAIMER:

I did not like this book.

I am about to try to explain why that is so, here, in my own, personal review space. I am critiquing this book, based on my own opinions, personal taste, experiences and perspective, criteria and standards for literary work. It is entirely subjective, as I think all reviews, per definition, are.

I mean no disrespect to the people who like this book, and who have found in it something of value. You are as entitled to your own opinion, subjective reading experience

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I mean no disrespect to the people who like this book, and who have found in it something of value. You are as entitled to your own opinion, subjective reading experience, and standards, as I am, and yours is just as valid. And you have the same opportunity as me, to use your own review space, to clarify that. We don't all have to agree. One opinion isn't "wrong" and the other "right" they are both right, because it is personal.

If you are a big fan of this book, and have difficulty in understanding or respecting people, who disagree with you, especially on issues that are important to you, I advice you not to read any further. I will not be saying nice things about this book.

A note regarding my own viewpoint:

I have a background in psychology and work in this field. The knowledge that I have of some of the issues handled in this book, and the real people I've met working in this field, of course affects how I view the book, and is actually one of the reasons I think, that the way this book was written isn't a very good approach to or description of some of these very real issues. I want to underline that I look at Charlie as a written character, not a real person, and I value the book as a literary piece of work, not as a real life story. To me, there is a huge difference between the two.

That doesn't make my opinion any more 'right' it is only to explain where I am coming from.

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Some of the things that matter most to me in books are prose/writing style, storytelling and message. It's one of the things that can make or break a book for me.

In this case, the writing style just didn't work for me.

It was just too lacking.

Maybe it's the whole premise of the book, a story narrated by someone who is emotionally inhibited as Charlie, that didn't work for me? Maybe, but it didn't have to be. That issue and Charlie's character could have been explored and dealt with, literary, in other ways.

The book could have had Charlie's narration interact with someone else's (like an answer to the letters for example), or it could have been written in the 3rd person, maintaining Charlie's point of view, but also being able to draw in other views, and how they collide with Charlie's.

I find it a bit concerning, that Chbosky wrote a book with so many serious issues like suicide, death, rape, social exclusion/inclusion, relationship violence, abortion, drugs, homosexual adventures, childmolestation/incest, parties, fights, without really dealing with any one of them in depth. To have all of these issues crammed into one book, without giving it the time and place it deserves, I felt, was a huge fault. Each one of these issues needs to be taken seriously, not pointed out on one page, just to be forgotten on the next. If you are going to write about these things, write about it well, give it the space and the in-depth exploration it deserves. To make the reader care for these characters, for these issues, the author and the characters involved must care too. I had a hard time stomaching that both Chbosky and the characters seemed to care so little, for something that is so very very real and so very very difficult, for so many people. It was almost making a mockery of them, which was very off-putting to me. The staccato writing and Charlie's detached narrating, made me feel detached as well.

The story is written in a very plain, very dull, very simple language, with the same sentences reoccurring over and over (eg. "...I don't know why..", "He/she looked sad.")

The emotional description amounts to 'sad' or 'happy'.

The portrayals of Charlie and everyone else in the story was so lacking that they felt like cardboard cutouts and simply came off as what they were; made up characters in a fictional story (and not a very good one at that if you ask me).

The main character, Charlie, is 15, but comes off as much younger than that. He seems very immature, more like a 7 year old.

How a boy can live to be 15 in this time and age (yes, I know it was written in the 1990's but still, even then, masturbation was a wellknown phenomenon), without knowing of (not practicing) masturbation, is quite a wonder in itself.

Charlie also cries a lot, which wouldn't be a problem, if it was more nuancedly described. I don't want to see/read about just the surface tears. I want to be taken behind the tears, into the pool they stem from, the pain they are a symptom of and maybe a release from? I want the author to show me

what these tears mean, I want to understand them, to be touched by them, to be moved with the ebb and flow of them. In this case, that didn't happen.

The sentence "I/he/she started to cry" alone, just doesn't stir much emotion in me. Especially not when thrown about on every other page. Then it just gets bothersome and tiring.

It's not that I have an aversion to tears (my own or others'). Crying is normal, and can be very healthy and soothing.

But when it comes to a literary work, I expect the author to give more nuanced descriptions of feelings than just bucketful of tears. Okay, so they are sad. Very, very sad. Very often. Now, show me what that sadness does to someone, besides producing tears, tears, tears. I am not interested in the tears alone. The sadness is the root, the tears are a symptom. Many people are filled with sadness, but don't produce many tears. Sadness can overflow in many ways. So: the sadness is the key.

Which is why I was so disappointed that Chbosky never dug deeper than this very very thin surface. All I got was tears. And I wonder if all the crying came down to Chbosky simply not knowing how else to describe emotions, or how explore them.

Much thought and debate has been given to the question why Charlie is, the way he is.

There is the fact that he suffered from childhood trauma, and then there is the question of whether or not Charlie might be autistic. The latter is hinted at and up for interpretation, but never explicitly stated/diagnosed.

The autistic spectrum is a varied one, and it comes in many forms, very few fitting the standard, but classic "rainman" syndrome of a very intelligent but socially closed off person. It's admirable to want to write about autism, a difficult diagnosis to live with, sure. I just don't think Chbosky is doing autistic people any favors or justice with his depiction of Charlie as someone who might or might not be autistic.

Again I must say: if you are going to write about it, write about it with care. Don't make it into a guessing game, but own it. Don't glamorize or deride it, but show its many layers and nuances through the particulars and the concrete.

The same goes for the psychological trauma. It wasn't given the care and attention it deserved. It was left at the end as an easy way out, like 'hey, he suffered/suffers from this and so i'm excused for writing a terribly boring book'.

No.

Whatever made Charlie the way he is, it doesn't compensate for how the story was written and pulled off.

To me, it's really besides the point, since I don't base my rating/review on pity for a character.

SO whether Charlie has any form of autism or not, doesn't really matter, because I thought he and the story was very poorly written.

and let me be clear about this:

It's not the disorder I have a problem with, it's the writing of it.

Note (November, 2013): I recently saw the movie, and thought it was better than the book.

Maybe because it fixed some of the issues I had with the book, like it left some of the drama llama out

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The Perks of Being a Wallflower

and it wasn't as heavily centered on Charlie's narration and perspective, and emotions and reactions was expressed through expressions instead of just (bad) writing. Different type of media - different possibilities. For this story, i think movie worked better than writing.

...more



## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Summary

If, like me, you lurk on frequent tumblr, you will have realised that there is only so far you can scroll before you hit something like this:

Stephen Chbosky's epistolary novel has something of a cult following, and the quotes that litter the internet seem almost anthemic, given the passion with which they are re-blogged, quoted, slapped across artfully light-leaked photographs and "liked" .

A generation appears to have adopted The Perks of Being a Wallflower, and by extension its narrator Charlie. If, like me, you lurk on frequent tumblr, you will have realised that there is only so far you can scroll before you hit something like this:

Stephen Chbosky's epistolary novel has something of a cult following, and the quotes that litter the internet seem almost anthemic, given the passion with which they are re-blogged, quoted, slapped across artfully light-leaked photographs and "liked" .

A generation appears to have adopted The Perks of Being a Wallflower, and by extension its narrator Charlie, as a sort of symbol of the experience of adolescence. Frequently criticised and challenged, Perks seems to offer its devoted fans a sense of connection, of understanding, of honesty about things left unspoken, or whispered behind hands and closed doors. This book speaks to the sense of alienation that many teens experience, the questions of who they are and where they belong. Charlie has become a response to "and I mean no disrespect by this, as I was/am a voice in this" a collective, plaintive cry of "nobody understands me" .

It also seems to have become an unofficial badge of hipsterism, and therein lies the reason for my cautious (view spoiler)[okay, biased (hide spoiler)] approach to reading this book.

To be blunt, I expected to dislike Perks. I know my reading tastes quite well by now and I no longer feel the need to read books based on any kind of social or intellectual cachet apparently attached to them. If anything, that just makes me more inclined to balk at picking them up.

So I confess to a little chagrin at the realisation that I don't hate this book. I don't even dislike it. I'll push the boat right out and say I was rather moved by this story.

While some of the issues and content in Perks may seem less groundbreaking now, more than a decade after its initial publication, I think it's fair to say that they still resonate with readers. There's

been a lot of water under the bridge since 1999 in terms of *œedgy* or *œcontroversial* YA books, so it's possible that the impact of the explicit or implied events in Chbosky's novel are somewhat softened by comparison. Regardless, it's still a book that successfully captures the way these topics are internalised by the protagonist, and it's evidently a voice that continues to engage and move its more recent audience. Basically, it's not strictly the topics that appeal, so much as the manner in which they're approached and discussed.

That said, there is a lot going on in this book, and I have to wonder whether the sheer breadth of the issues touched upon lessens the strength of the story. And not in the sense that I think the events are unrealistic, necessarily, but more that (and I offer this opinion with some trepidation) at times *Perks* reads like it's a bit in love with its own moroseness. The novel's gaze is so relentlessly self-involved that I can't help but feel that there is something indulgent in its tone, which I was not enamoured with.

Whether *œwallflower* is a strictly accurate descriptor for Charlie is a topic I've seen expanded upon in other reviews, and I won't go into that much here. Charlie is evidently an introvert, allegedly *œgifted*, who has a rich and consuming inner world, but I think it's clear that there is more at play here than simple shyness, intellectually and socially speaking. While some of Charlie's emotional state is explained at the end of the novel, I feel that there's even more to Charlie than Chbosky ever reveals, hinted at by the apparent naivety of his fifteen / sixteen years.

What I did appreciate, and what ultimately caused me to like this book, was how accurately Charlie's experiences with anxiety and depression were presented. Prior to this, I hadn't read a book that so closely mirrored the physical and emotional manifestation of anxiety as I am familiar with it. The deeply unsettling sensation of nebulous tentacles of panic radiating out in search of something to fixate on, of instability and uncontrolled sadness, honestly made me feel nauseous. I can't help but wish I had this book in my hands when I was teenager, when it probably would have meant the world to me. Anxiety is an incredibly frightening and isolating condition, and I think this book communicates that very truthfully. The sensation of being a spectator of life, rather than a participant in it, is all too relevant and close-to-home for many who have experienced a mental illness in some form.

It's probably no surprise then, that I found Chbosky's characterisation one of the highlights of this book. From Charlie himself as the narrator, through the supporting cast, I felt that I knew who these people were, that they were real. (It actually makes me curious to see the film adaptation, and how the nuances and subtleties of the characters translate to the screen).

I can't say that I'll be joining the ranks of dedicated, vocal fans of *The Perks of a Wallflower*, leaving a trail of quotes in my wake across the internet. But I am quietly appreciative of this book, and the powerful, unique experience of reading it.

You can read Shirley Marr's extremely awesome take on this book here. Prepare for your daily cup of radness to runneth over.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

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At Shirley's request:

Ode to a Readalong (or I'm Sorry I Abandoned You Shirley) (or This Poem Is Too Cool To Rhyme)

I tried to be a hipster today  
But they said my haircut wasn't cool enough  
So I guess it's back to being a real nerd  
Instead of a pretend one

Then I thought I'd read The Perks of Being a Wallflower  
In my scarf with my fixie-riding friend Shirley  
Turn up my Smiths record really loud  
And contemplate my infiniteness

But my mockery proved empty, hollow like my heart  
I wept bitter tears as I turned each page  
Trapped in a glass cage of emotion  
As I realised I will never be hip

Ever.

Shirley & Reynje's Hipsterific Readalong - Coming in 2012

Miss Shirley, get your scarf on! I'm waiting for you..(in the meantime, I'll be listening to bands that are so cool they don't even exist yet.)

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Wallflower (noun)

a shy or retiring person who remains unnoticed at social events, especially a woman without a dance partner

I decided to read this book not because there was going to be a movie coming out soon.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

It one of the reasons but then again it wasn't the main one.  
I wanted to read it because the word "wallflower" caught my attention.

I was a wallflower.  
I was not one of those kids people notice immediately.  
I was one of those people who blends in very well that I was no longer noticeable.  
I was a Wallflower (noun)

a shy or retiring person who remains unnoticed at social events, especially a woman without a dance partner

I decided to read this book not because there was going to be a movie coming out soon.  
It one of the reasons but then again it wasn't the main one.  
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I was a wallflower.  
I was not one of those kids people notice immediately.  
I was one of those people who blends in very well that I was no longer noticeable.  
I was a "nobody".  
I was one of those uncool kids back in high school that almost no one spoke to because I always kept to myself.  
I was insecure.  
I was scared that if I try to talk no one would listen.  
Actually I think I still am even though I am already working.  
I am still a "nobody" here.  
I have a couple of friends but it seems like no one really knows who I really am because I never let them find out who I really was.  
They know my name and a couple of unimportant things but I think that's about it.  
They don't really care about the things I like, the things that make me cry, the things that make me smile.  
I was just another person they knew by name but never really knew at all.

Perks of Being a Wallflower has to be one of the books that I could relate to.  
It was very insightful and poignant that in most part of this book I felt like it was me writing those letters.

Charlie (the main character) and I don't have very much in common but still I found myself relating to his situation almost all throughout the book.  
I was not as introverted nor was I as smart as he was but there was something about how the author wrote him that I start to see the world through his eyes.  
You'll see how innocent and pure his outlook was in life.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Charlie wasn't normal and he knew it.

He was struggling after the death of his favorite Aunt.

He tried his best to participate but there is still this part of him that would be locked away from everyone else.

Charlie was a freshman and he still has a lot of things to learn.

Hanging out with Patrick and Sam (who were both seniors) exposed him to a lot of things he wasn't used to (like smoking, drinking, making out those sort of stuff).

His letters mirrors the experience or the things we went through during his first year in high school.

As I was saying earlier I loved this book a lot because I related much with not only the character but with the whole story.

We may not be like Charlie but the things he went through in high school were something almost everyone went through.

I didn't do drugs nor did I smoke a lot when I was in high school.

But some kids were motivated in doing so by peer pressure but in Charlie's case I think it was more of curiosity rather than peer pressure.

This book showed us how a special kid like Charlie would cope with being in high school and overcoming the problems he would encounter as he goes along.

Another thing I loved about this book was how it was written.

Though it was written back in the 90's when you read it, you'll get this impression that it was just written recently in a 90's setting.

This book was transcend time.

When you read it probably in the next 10 years you would still be able to relate to it.

There were a lot of good quotations in this book but one really stood out for me:

So, I guess we are who we are for a lot of reasons. And maybe we'll never know most of them. But even if we don't have the power to choose where we come from, we can still choose where we go from there. We can still do things. And we can try to feel okay about them.

We are all different.

We are also all the same.

Most of us may not be as smart as Charlie or as popular as Brad (who I think was an a\*\*hole) but all of us can still make a difference.

We may be experiencing troubles right now but that could change based on the decisions or choices that we would make.

I don't think this is much of a review but more of a rant.

Sorry my dear readers if this review disappointed you but I kind of like sharing my thoughts about a book that I really connected with.

This book was one of them.

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The Perks of Being a Wallflower

I give this book 5 wonderful glittery stars!  
...more

# The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Soundtrack

February 25, 2013

Dear Charlie,

I am writing to you because I feel like you're the only one that would listen to me right now. From all the friends that I have made you are the one that's the most understanding. I guess what I'm trying to do is thank you for being there for me these last couple of days. I didn't expect to learn from you as much as I have. My mom always says that you can never really understand a person until you walk in their shoes, but I guess getting to know you and reading your February 25, 2013

Dear Charlie,

I am writing to you because I feel like you're the only one that would listen to me right now. From all the friends that I have made you are the one that's the most understanding. I guess what I'm trying to do is thank you for being there for me these last couple of days. I didn't expect to learn from you as much as I have. My mom always says that you can never really understand a person until you walk in their shoes, but I guess getting to know you and reading your story did just that. I have to say you have stripped me from any prejudice I might have had. And I am truly sorry if I had any. You showed me that no matter what happens, what we experience, we always have a right to feel the way we feel, just because. You showed me the purity of feelings, beauty of thoughts, generosity of love and warmth of friendship. You made me appreciate books and poetry more, and see the impact they have on people's lives. For that you will always hold a special place in my heart. I'd like to think that you get better, I hope one day you can be honest with people you love, be who you really are and do what you want to do. Most importantly I hope that you will love the real Sam and not just the idea of her and be ready for her to love you back. I hope we can see each other some day, I'll make sure to come back and remind myself of everything that is you, tho I hope to never forget.

Love always

Karolina ...more

There may be a book in the world that can address, just within very few pages, suicide, molestation, domestic abuse, homosexuality, drug use, mental issues, first sexual experiences, rape, abortion, etc., and not sound like a Lifetime movie, but The Perks of Being a Wallflower is not an example of that.

For me, the straw that broke the camel's back was when I realized that, to add to all of the above mentioned melodrama, the narrator was either emotionally or mentally handicapped. It appeared, C There may be a book in the world that can address, just within very few pages, suicide, molestation, domestic abuse, homosexuality, drug use, mental issues, first sexual experiences, rape, abortion, etc.,

and not sound like a Lifetime movie, but *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is not an example of that.

For me, the straw that broke the camel's back was when I realized that, to add to all of the above mentioned melodrama, the narrator was either emotionally or mentally handicapped. It appeared, Charlie's inability to identify any emotion within himself besides sadness, his constant crying, his lack of knowledge (at the age of 15) what masturbation was, his failure to understand any social situation (like a rape while witnessing it in his teen years) was indicative of either some form of autism or just severe mental immaturity. This, I thought then, was too exploitative. At that point, only a victim of cancer (or AIDS) was missing from this already uber-dire, emotionally manipulative narrative.

But, as it turned out, I was very wrong. Charlie was, evidently, just a shy, socially awkward, AP-classes attending, extremely gifted and observant student with a dark secret. At least, that how he was described by other people. What?! What does it say about Stephen Chbosky's writing abilities if his supposedly intelligent teen narrator sounds like a 7-year old? If Charlie's writing was reflective of his speech and interactions, how in the world could he become friends with a crowd of cool older kids and even had girlfriends, all of whom thought him petty much the best thing since sliced bread?

I can attribute the popularity of this novel only to the story's great variety of tear-jerking opportunities, teachable moments and life lessons, gently delivered by the ever-so-wise and deep narrator. This isn't even controversial enough to deserve all those bannings.

2 stars for moments of interest of the train-wreck kind. ...more



## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Full Movie

Clueless. I am clueless. The popularity of this book baffles me even more than the popularity of The Fault in Our Stars. Maybe I really am just a coldhearted person with no feelings.

Amazingly, I actually managed to start The Perks of Being a Wallflower knowing absolutely nothing about it. I've avoided all the reviews and hype over the years, I've purposely put off seeing the movie because I wanted to check out the book first. I knew nothing except that so many people LOVE this book. I was a bit Clueless. I am clueless. The popularity of this book baffles me even more than the popularity of The Fault in Our Stars. Maybe I really am just a coldhearted person with no feelings.

Amazingly, I actually managed to start The Perks of Being a Wallflower knowing absolutely nothing about it. I've avoided all the reviews and hype over the years, I've purposely put off seeing the movie because I wanted to check out the book first. I knew nothing except that so many people LOVE this book. I was a bit sceptical from the very first page when 15-year-old Charlie's narrative opened with short, choppy, fragmented sentences:

I don't think that there is a favorite kid in our family. There are three of us and I am the youngest. My brother is the oldest. He is a very good football player and likes his car. My sister is very pretty and mean to boys and she is in the middle.

But I perked up at the idea of reading a book by a narrator with obvious learning difficulties and/or autism\*. One of my favourite parts of reading is getting to see the world through the eyes of someone whose perspective I might not have fully considered before. So I was willing to overlook the slightly annoying use of immature language and structure because I realised it was needed to get inside the narrator's head. Imagine my surprise and confusion when I discovered that not only does Charlie not have any learning difficulties, but he is actually considered "intelligent beyond his years", is apparently extremely talented and somehow manages to get straight-A grades. What????? And also how?????

It's like I'm missing something. I must be, right? Because to me this seems like nothing more than the usual melodramatic issue book, desperately trying to manipulate my emotions with the subtlety of a million flying bricks. There's suicide, sexual abuse, domestic abuse and homosexuality crammed into the first few chapters. Is that not enough angst for you? Well, wait a few more chapters and we get drugs, incest, fights, first sexual experiences and masturbation, told through the eyes of a guy who sounds about eight but is actually a teenager.

I didn't feel sad or moved or anything so, like I said, maybe this is a character flaw on my part. But I'm tired of reading books where I can feel the author's little voice screaming between the lines "Cry! Look people are dying and it is so sad, cry! Look incest and prejudice and rape, cry!"

I felt nothing. Except maybe manipulated; yeah, I definitely felt manipulated.

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The Perks of Being a Wallflower

\* A few people pointed out in the comments that those with autism can actually be very intelligent and I felt the need to mention it here. While reading, I wondered if Charlie might be autistic because dyslexia is common among those with autism, but I don't want to lead anyone to believe that autism denotes a lack of intelligence - in many cases, the opposite is true.

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THIS BOOK ALWAYS BRINGS ME SO MANY FEELS. 3rd time re-reading it and I still feel infinite.

## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Book Summary

As much as people say it, this really is one of my favorite books of all time. MTV promoted it, it got a lot of press, so many people shun it and say it is overrated. I disagree.

I didn't read this book until last year, when I turned 21. My boyfriend owned it, it seemed like a quick read, and I wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

Main character Charlie is loveable from the first sentence out of his mouth. There are endless quoteable quotes in this book that had me folding the page over so I could write them down later. As much as people say it, this really is one of my favorite books of all time. MTV promoted it, it got a lot of press, so many people shun it and say it is overrated. I disagree.

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Main character Charlie is loveable from the first sentence out of his mouth. There are endless quoteable quotes in this book that had me folding the page over so I could write them down later. Charlie has an honest innocence to him yet such an intense depth and intelligent mind that he is quite the multifaceted character.

While the story has its ups and downs, and really, there isn't a very intense plot, the reader is somehow sucked into Charlie's head sharing his first kiss, his feelings toward his new friends, his feelings towards literature and music. He is naive about so many things, and his bluntness made me laugh out loud on numerous occasions. He not only deals with issues like love, but also having a gay friend, dealing with death, and sexual assault, but also sharing his love of music and literature, which I think are two things that are being lost on youth today.

I would give this book to every teenage boy and girl I knew. While Charlie isn't exactly an excellent role model, he does show that being different is O.K. and that friends come in all kinds of packages...to stay true to yourself. These things matter. ...more

Charlie, we accept the love we think we deserve.

That is quite true. I have stumbled across many beautiful sentences, throughout my reading, and ones that make us think but, this one, is my absolute favorite of them all.

There is so much that can be said about this, yet I don't seem to find the right words, but I will try my best. It was such an emotional, deep and realistic story. The plot was simple, if we only look at it as a whole, but every detail contributed to make it an incredible story. Charlie, we accept the love we

think we deserve.â€™â€™

That is quite true. I have stumbled across many beautiful sentences, throughout my reading, and ones that make us think but, this one, is my absolute favorite of them all.

There is so much that can be said about this, yet I donâ€™t seem to find the right words, but I will try my best. It was such anâ€™! emotional, deep and realistic story. The plot was simple, if we only look at it as a whole, but every detail contributed to make it an incredible read. And every character to make this story an unforgettable one for us.

Charlie was the sweetest male character I had ever encountered in a read.

What I loved most about him though was how honest he was and how he wasnâ€™t afraid to tell the truth. Some exceptions apply, of course, but he felt so bad for lying that he made everything right and I couldnâ€™t stop saying/thinking â€™~â€™~Aww.â€™â€™ He was cute and loveable and it was impossible not to get invested in his story.

Not only was the main character a fantastic one, but the secondary ones were as well. Letâ€™s take Sam for example. She may have looked/behaved like a million other girls on the planet but, the way she understood Charlie and always seemed to have the right words for him, made her someone unique and a wonderful person to my eyes.

There were multiple â€™~love storiesâ€™ in this book but they didn't all end well. I wasnâ€™t as affected by them while reading, since I saw the movie first, but it was still very hard to read about Patrickâ€™s relationship with Brad. LGBT has always been a dear theme to me and reading about how sad, beautiful and poignant Patrickâ€™s love for Brad was really touched me and I only wished, throughout the story, that they would both have their happily-ever-after because, even though they may not have been perfect, they deserve it.

I saw multiple reviewers complain about the writing. Some said it was too simplistic for them to enjoy it or perhaps they werenâ€™t used to this kind of style. It very much reminded me of Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universeâ€™s--a book I highly highly recommend. It was indeed simplistic but, like Charlie himself said in the story, he writes the way he speaks. And knowing that, I found the writing perfectly matching the story and ended up loving it and feeling like I knew Charlie in much more depth than with any other writing style.

The story was filled with different themes or messages, but the one I loved the most was this one: itâ€™s not where we come from or in which family we grow up in that defines who we are. We make our own future and itâ€™s not because our parents treated us badly or were alcoholic that we will as well. Itâ€™s our life and, depending on ourselves and our choices, we will become who we are meant or wish to be.

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The Perks of Being a Wallflower

There is a reason why this book is so popular and appreciated by readers and, by reading it, you will certainly find out. It's the kind of book I would suggest everyone reads, at least once in their lives.

Last updated: April 28th, 2016 - made grammatical corrections.

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## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Trailer

I don't even think I can truly convey how much I loved this book other than to say it was entirely life changing and I'm so upset it took me this long to read it.

All I have to say to the author is...REALLY? Are you effing kidding me right now??

Charlie is a freshman, a loner and an odd duck, all wrapped up in one stunningly awkward package.

How awkward? Cripplingly so. I am very interested and fascinated how everyone loves each other, but no one really likes each other. He's always been a bit....out there...but his family knows how to handle his moods and step around his antics. So, this is my life. And I want you to know that I am both happy and sad a All I have to say to the author is...REALLY? Are you effing kidding me right now??

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How awkward? Cripplingly so. I am very interested and fascinated how everyone loves each other, but no one really likes each other. He's always been a bit....out there...but his family knows how to handle his moods and step around his antics. So, this is my life. And I want you to know that I am both happy and sad and I'm still trying to figure out how that could be. Only, he's now in high school, and the things he would get away with in middle school aren't exactly going to fly now that he's in the big leagues, and he's having difficulties adjusting.

Luckily, he met Sam and a few other friends...and with them, things are finally looking up.

So.

Sooooo.

Soooooooooooooooo.....here's my problems with this novel - it ticks too many boxes, The Charlie Cringe and I honestly thought the novel was going a completely different direction.

This book ticks too many boxes - aka is there anything NOT covered in here?

It feels like the author googled "Most traumatizing teen issues" and then, looking at the list of twenty-or-so of them, says, "F\*ck it. I'll throw them all in."

I mean, really.

Does anyone expect to adequately cover suicide, mental illness, alcohol, drugs, sexual orientation, first-time-sex, incest, abuse, rape, and more in a single 200ish page novel?

That's right, you can't.

But you can sure as hell definitely cram all of those buzzwords into one book and throw in a few fancy-sounding quotes, like this: We accept the love we think we deserve. and this: And in that moment, I swear we were infinite. And boom. Instant classic.

The audience is shuffled from one BIG issue to the next BIG thing without any development.

That's what frustrated me so much - we have these huge, hard-hitting issues...and nothing is dealt with.

The Charlie Cringe - aka holy sh\*t that's a lot of crinnnge.

And Charlie, while he is cute and adorable, his whole character just didn't feel authentic to me - the dialogue, the actions, the issues.

And I'm speaking from the perspective of a wallflower - I was a quiet kid but I was NO where near Charlie-level crinnnge.

Okay. You may be wondering, what level of cringe are we talking about?

He's blessed by the two coolest kids in the school taking him under their wing and made him their best friend.

Personally, I find that the odds that these two popular senior kids adopting the cripplingly awkward freshman to be astronomical...but hey, it's fiction.

Anyway, Charlie feels like he can say anything on his mind to these seniors. And what does he tell them?

Everything.

And by everything, I mean EVERYTHING.

For example, he confesses a sex dream about one of them to their face because he felt guilty. And they find it charming.

Just. What the what?

Is this really supposed to be high school?

I'm just like...I may have been a wallflower, but thank GOD I wasn't this bad of a wallflower.

I honestly thought the novel was going a completely different direction - aka am I the only one?

Charlie supposed to be this super smart kid, with reading comprehension off the charts (based on the English essays he writes).

...but his monologue sounds like an eight-year-old with a bucket of sugar and a microphone.

How can you write essay after essay on great and notable works of English that absolutely boggle the mind of your teacher...and when you pen a letter, you sound like this: I don't know if you've ever felt like that. That you wanted to sleep for a thousand years. Or just not exist. Or just not be aware that you do exist. Or something like that. I think wanting that is very morbid, but I want it when I get like this. That's why I'm trying not to think. I just want it all to stop spinning or like this: And I thought about how many people have loved those songs. And how many people got through a lot of bad times because of those songs. And how many people enjoyed good times with those songs. And how much those songs really mean. I think it would be great to have written one of those songs. I bet if I wrote one of them, I would be very proud. Honestly, for the first 2/3 I thought he was slow or autistic and this is one of those books where everyone knows but the kid (and he finds out in some hugely traumatizing way).

I mean, the signs were all there.

He has emotional episodes, monologues like he's half his age and just seems so spaced out all the time.

At one point, he watches a drunk girl get raped (forced to give a blow job to a much more sober guy).

And by watches - he's in the same room, silently staring from a corner - doesn't intervene or do anything other than watch. AND he only realizes she got raped weeks later.

How is this kid classified only as a wallflower?

I really, truly thought we were going to find out that the popular kids were only nice to him because he was "special" - honestly, am I the only one who had these thoughts? Am I just going completely left-field on this book?

Jeez.

Ah well, I don't know, maybe it's just me but I'm really (really) grateful there isn't a sequel.

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## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Netflix

\*UPDATE:\* I went and saw the movie today and it was a very good movie. Stephen Chbosky directed the movie and it was very true to the book, I would say almost exact. So if you liked the book I would definitely recommend going to see the movie, you will enjoy it!

I have been struggling with how to rate this book since I finished it. I loved this book but then at the same time it was just okay. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that I am finally secure with who I am, but in high school that wasn't true. \*UPDATE:\* I went and saw the movie today and it was a very good movie. Stephen Chbosky directed the movie and it was very true to the book, I would say almost exact. So if you liked the book I would definitely recommend going to see the movie, you will enjoy it!

I have been struggling with how to rate this book since I finished it. I loved this book but then at the same time it was just okay. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that I am finally secure with who I am, but in high school that wasn't true. If I would have read this book in high school I think I would be absolutely in love with it because of the fact, that probably, like most of us at one point in our teens, I felt like an outsider like Charlie. Without my closest friends around me I was a definite "wallflower," the insecure, quite, nerd who would rather blend in than be seen.

As I'm thinking about it now I think that is what was hard about this book for me at points it reminded me of who I was in middle school and the beginning of high school and that is a person I would much rather leave in the past. Sam and Patrick were the friends that pulled Charlie off the wall just as my friends did. I could relate to a lot of what Charlie felt, which I think a lot of us can. I didn't do drugs or drink in high school but I'm sure we all had friends who did or even just know the feelings that led him to.

"We accept the love we think we deserve,"

When I first started the book and after the suicide of Michael and the death of his aunt being carefully tiptoed around I initially thought the book was going to be mainly about suicide. In a way I guess it was but not as much as I thought. These are the parts that really spoke to me and I connected to having seen the effects of depression and suicide. After reading about the mixed tape Charlie makes I went and downloaded all the songs and I love the song "Asleep" by the Smiths. I wish I had heard this song when I was dealing with everything in high school. I am glad that Stephen Chbosky introduced me to this song and the poem Charlie reads to his friends:

"That's why on the back of a brown paper bag  
he tried another poem  
And he called it "Absolutely Nothing"

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Because that's what it was really all about  
And he gave himself an A  
and a slash on each damned wrist  
And he hung it on the bathroom door  
because this time he didn't think  
he could reach the kitchenâ€•

The Pros of this book: The letter writing was a unique format that felt very open and sincere. (Even though I still want to know who he was writing to and what that person thought as they received the letters.) The events in the book seemed real as if they happened in my own high school. The characters were fantastic even if I felt Charlie was being whinny at points, but hey itâ€™s a letter thatâ€™s probably how it would sound.

The Cons: Okay the main thing that really bothered me in this book was the essays he was writing for extra work. His teacher claims that he is becoming a better writer each time. The problem I have with that is wouldnâ€™t his letter writing get better as well? I know it isnâ€™t in a formal setting but I expected his writing overall to get better which it didnâ€™t. I donâ€™t know if it is just me but the writing in the book seemed below a freshman level but that could have to do with the fact that I think that Charlie suffered from some sort of autism.

Overall Iâ€™m going to give this book a solid 4 stars. The book was quite relatable but I didnâ€™t expect the twist at the end even though it did make the rest of the book make more sense. I know have a playlist on my iPod labeled as â€œCharlieâ€™s Playlistâ€• and Iâ€™m in love with the song Asleep.

â€œAnd in that moment, I swear we were infinite.â€•

This was a powerful line that really spoke to me. I never thought as moments as â€œinfiniteâ€• but it really is true. Those moments when you are truly happy or even on the flip side when the world is crashing down they seem infinite. I love this line. Some may hate it and think it cheesy but sometimes life needs to be cheesy and it needs to be infinite.

...more

June 30, 2012

Dear Charlie,

First of all, thank you for sending me your poignant letters. I'm honored you think of me as a person that didn't try to sleep with that person at that party even though I could have. I'm ecstatic you decided to allow me to read your thoughts. I'm glad you proved to be such a great letter-writer/story-teller. I am really quite happy about this.

It was nice receiving letters from you, even though they're dated long ago. I know that I got them for

only a couple of months ( June 30, 2012

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It was nice receiving letters from you, even though they're dated long ago. I know that I got them for only a couple of months (in a span of one year), but it felt like you've been talking to me since you were very young. (Remember that memory you called the first one you ever remembered?) I sometimes felt like the things you were pouring out in your letters were a little too personal, but you let me into your head, into your heart, into your soul.

With only your words, I saw you "participate", I saw you have friends, I saw you fall in love, I saw you grow. I may not have ever seen you or the persons you know personally, but I could almost taste your fries from that fastfood chain, I could almost hear Mary Elizabeth's chatter, I could almost see Patrick's smile, I could almost feel the winter cold of your world there. Your friends and family were as real to me as if I saw them every single day of my life.

Now... While I was glad you were very honest in your letters, I have to admit that your highs and lows were brutal and enlightening to me, as they were to you. Your first kiss (remember her tears?), your first "girlfriend" (e.e. cummings will always remind me of her), your first experiments with different substances (I was a little appalled, a little sad, a little curiously happy for you), your first drive (oh, the silly sophomores), your first mix tape (thank you very much for introducing me to a number of memorable songs!), your first time watching the last episode of M\*A\*S\*H (I promise to keep that incident secret, too). You had your issues, but you seemed more interested in those of others. I felt more than a little sad when you were being too nice to some people... But boy was I rather depressed when you had to be all alone! I wish I could've always been there, instead of reading of your exploits on a date after you've had them.

I'll sincerely cherish your words, your thoughts, your ideas. Thank you very much for the pop culture references - you surely made me add more books and more songs and more "films" to my to-check-out list!

I'm a little sad that I haven't gotten any more letters from you after that last one, but I understand. I'm sure you're doing well, and rest assured: I'll always be here to hear you out when you need it.

Thank you for being so wonderfully Charlie-esque. Thank you for letting me feel infinite.

Love always,

---

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Your friend ...more

## The Perks Of Being A Wallflower Analysis

The book be like - CRY, BITCH.

After 50 pages I would have written that The Perks of Being a Wallflower was poorly written, boring and tasteless.

After 100 pages I would have clapped because really, wow, Stephen Chbosky really did want to tick all the strong issues boxes, haha. /sarcasm.

After 150 pages I would have needed a drink to handle all that fucking CRYING and talking and the total LACK of any attempt to actually DEAL with the issues piling up. No, three pages of so-called teenage philosophy The book be like - CRY, BITCH.

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After 150 pages I would have needed a drink to handle all that fucking CRYING and talking and the total LACK of any attempt to actually DEAL with the issues piling up. No, three pages of so-called teenage philosophy isn't enough.

In the end I'm just pissed off by the plain MANIPULATION that is this book and by the way the last issue is taken care of - FUCK YOU, BOOK. No, really. Fuck you. I am very sorry for all the people on Earth who loved this book, and know that this review isn't about you. I started The Perks of Being a Wallflower expecting to love it.

As it is, I cannot.

Probably because it contains what I hate the most in Literature, this being :

- The blatant use of manufactured drama trying to force me to feel things. It doesn't work like that. You do NOT involve a reader by creating an unrealistic overkill of serious issues, as if they were trying to outbid each other. There's a moment when I just don't care anymore. This is manipulative and disrespectful.

It reads like a catalogue of the worst situations possible.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

- The fact that the sub-mentioned issues aren't given the time of a day and are just there. Nope. And because I know that people will tell me that it's realistic because Charlie is only 15, and that he can't analyze these issues in depth : yes, he cannot. THAT IS THE POINT. Why include so many issues - teen pregnancy, drinking, drugs, sexual identity, abuse, and so on - if they're only there to fill the book? WHY? I am the first to admit that we mustn't take teenagers for fools and that YA novels should picture these issues. But COME. ON. What is even the point if they're only brushed off? Is telling them that it happens to other people is going to make them feel better? Is telling them that we can ignore problems because everything is going to get better anyway (because fairies, I guess) A GOOD THING? I don't think so. And yes, when something like abuse is dealt in TWO pages, I do get the feeling that the book is telling me to move the fuck on.

Also, that "beautiful" sentence, "we accept the love we think we deserve"? When applied to the situation? (view spoiler)[Charlie's sister being hit by her boyfriend (hide spoiler)] Please don't.\*

\* I am not thick, of course I understand what this sentence is trying to say... But again, empty words. I would have probably loved it as a 14 years old. Now I'm just like, AND THEN WHAT?

- Repetitive and choppy sentences all the way through, with a main character who can't decide if he's 10 or 40 or, I don't know, 5. I HATED the writing, I really did.

- Characters who don't feel like teenagers at all - mainly Sam and Patrick, the super hipsters philosophers \*snorts\*

The book be like - NOW SMILE, BITCH.

â-° I wish I would have read another Gary D. Schmidt novel instead. Overrated.

For more of my reviews, please visit:

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This book is beautiful. It is a classic teenager read. I have probably read this book a million times and it never gets old. I love how honest and deep Charlie is. He will get you thinking about the good things and what really matters in life. I am inspired whenever I read this book and I hope you can get as much out of it as I do each and every time.

This is was my book report for school. Hope it helps!

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower

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"We are who we are for a lot of reasons. And maybe we'll never know most of them. But even if we don't have the power to choose where we come from, we can still choose wherever we go from there. We can still do things. And we can try to feel okay about them." (pg.211) Every word spoken by Charlie has touched my heart. I love how honest and deep Charlie is. He will get you thinking about the good things and what really matters in life. I am inspired whenever I read this book.

Written by Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being a Wallflower would have to be one of the most insightful young adult novels I have read. It's a collection of letters written by a boy who calls himself Charlie. He writes "to know that someone out there listens and understands and doesn't try to sleep with people even if they could have. (He) need(s) to know that these people exist." (pg.2)

This books talks about drugs, sex, sexuality, literature, films, music, and daily adolescent life. The main character, Charlie, a freshman in the early 1990's, is just beginning high school like all of us.

Following his meeting with Sam and Patrick, two seniors who become his best friends, Charlie begins to experience more of life. He was always more of the shy understanding type who would "use thought to not participate in life." (pg.24)

"The world of first dates and mix tapes, family dramas and new friends, the world of sex, drugs and the rocky horror picture show, when all you need is that perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite!" (Back cover) When I read certain books, or certain lines I can get the chills. Not just "oh that I was so good I got the chills" but the true hair raising shiver with a small sweep of coldness, chills. That line does it for me. "And in that moment, I swear we were infinite." (pg.39) If these lines have no affect on you, I do not recommend reading this book. It's for the thinkers as well as the participators. It's for the ones who enjoy simplicity and want to widen and better their point of view. Don't take me wrong though, everyone should read it, but at their own time.

This book has inspired me to try and do so much more. Charlie did and achieved so much in just his freshman year alone. I want to live a life like him. One that I can look back and be proud of, one that I can tell my kids about, of walking home from school and spending the best times with my friends. To you, right now in this classroom it may seem little and petty, but to Charlie and I, this is real. After reading The Perks of Being a Wallflower, I assure you that Charlie will be with you forever. ...more