



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 4, 2022

Issue: 138
September 2022

WASHRAG
Titles Taken 3-4

Fiction Reviews 5-9

Graphic Novel Reviews 10

Nonfiction Reviews 10-11

WASHYARGers:

Welcome to WashYARG, the oldest and largest Young Adult Review Group of its kind! While we all come to WASHYARG because it is a great place to learn about new books, we also enjoy the opportunity to network with other teen-serving professionals.

We are now in hybrid mode! Please join us in person if you are comfortable and able. Doors open at 8:30am. Or, join via Zoom. The link will open by 8:45am with a meeting start time of 9:00am.

<https://kcls.zoom.us/j/81386969228?pwd=ZFhSV3V2REdSSkkvbXdNZnk4NmF5UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 8696 9228

Passcode: 828216

Any questions? Contact Brenna Shanks – bshanks@kcls.org or 425-369-3331

DUES

Members/reviewers may pay dues at any time during the year, but we appreciate prompt payment in September for the forthcoming year. Dues are \$25 and a dues sheet is included in the newsletter.

Dues can be paid online at:

<https://givebutter.com/StQMvU>

Or mailed to:

Anne Dame
 Einstein Middle School
 19343 3rd Ave NW
 Shoreline WA 98177

REMINDERS

IN PERSON MEETING LOCATION:
 King County Library System Service Center
 960 Newport Way NW
 Issaquah, 98027

2022 MEETINGS

- *September 16*
- *December 9*

2023 MEETINGS

- *March 3* *May 5*
- *September 15* *December 8*

REVIEWS

Please submit your delivered reviews and current “books taken” after the meeting. You may submit them at:

<https://evergreenbookaward.org/washyarg/>

- Please be as accurate as possible.
- When submitting series non-fiction, please enter each book separately.

WHAT IS WASHYARG?

The Washington State Young Adult Review Group is a regional reviewing organization of school and public librarians and other individuals interested in books, magazines, and other media appropriate for teenagers.

WHY BELONG TO WASHYARG?

We are the largest Teen Services library specialist group in the Northwest, and have a national reputation as a credible review source.

Besides hearing firsthand reviews from frontline people, the meetings are an opportunity for networking, problem-solving, passionate debate, laughter and cookies.

Even if you cannot attend the meetings, WashYARG is an excellent source for local professional reviews.

WHAT DOES WASHYARG DO?

WashYARG receives materials from diverse publishers. Selected items are presented orally at the quarterly meetings and written reviews of all materials are published in the WashRag newsletter and mailed to all members following the meetings. WashYARG also sponsors the annual Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, a statewide teen readers' choice prize.

WHAT WOULD I DO?

Agree to review at least two books a year.
Attend as many of the meetings as possible.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

All interested folk are invited to attend for free the first time. The normal dues are \$25.00 for a school year, and entitle one to review books and receive the WashRag, a quarterly compilation of written reviews.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Fill out the form below and bring it to the next meeting with your \$25.00 membership dues.

Please make checks payable to WashYARG.

2022 MEETINGS

- September 16
- December 9

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

** Please indicate home or work for contact info.*

Titles Taken for Review – Since May 2022

All titles and reviews are now being submitted online at:
<https://evergreenbookaward.org/washyarg/>
 Please be as accurate as possible when entering your information.
 When entering series non-fiction, please enter each book separately. Thanks!

Please remember ARCs may not be added to your collection.

◆Already reviewed

FICTION

<i>Alma Presses Play</i> Cane, Tina Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School	Make Me a World, 2021 9780593121146	\$17.99	336 p.
<i>Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms</i> (ARC) Perry, Jamar J. Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library	Bloomsbury, 2022 978-1-5476-0694-8	\$16.99	307 p.
<i>Nate Plus One</i> van Whye, Kevin Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Random House, 2022 978-0-593-37642-3	\$17.99	247 p.
<i>Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun</i> , Onyeka #1 Okogwu, Tola Amber Peterson, International Community School	McElderry Books, 2022 9781665912617	\$17.99	298 p.
<i>Places We've Never Been</i> West, Kasie Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Delacorte Press, 2022 978-0-593-17630-6	\$18.99	322 p.
<i>Merciless Ones, The</i> , The Gilded Ones #2 Forna, Namina JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Delacorte Press, 2022 9781984848727	\$17.99	456 p.
<i>Peach Rebellion, The</i> Van Draanen, Wendelin Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2022 9780593378564	\$18.99	406 p.
<i>Silence that Binds Us, The</i> Ho, Joanna Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Harper Teen, 2022 978-0-06-305934-4	\$17.99	437 p.
<i>Words We Keep, The</i> Stewart, Erin	Delacorte Press, 2022 978-1-9848-4886-4	\$18.99	387 p.

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Things We Couldn't Say Scholastic Press, 2021
Coles, Jay 9781338734188 \$18.99 320 p.
Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School

Violet Made of Thorns, Violet Made of Thorns #1 Delacorte Press, 2022
Chen, Gina 978-0-593-42753-8 \$18.99 357 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Yonder Harper, 2022
Standish, Ali 9780062985682 \$16.99 348 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Across a Field of Starlight Random House Graphic, 2022
Delliquanti, Blue 978-0-593-12414-7 \$23.99 345 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Crumbs Clarion Books, 2022 **GGN2023 nom**
Stirling, Danie 9780358467793 \$24.99 382 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Eternity Code, The, Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel #3 Disney Hyperion, 2022
Colfer, Eoin, Michael Moreci (Adapter) and Stephen Gilpin (Illustrations)
9781368065085 \$21.99 128 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Subtle Knife, The, His Dark Materials: The Graphic Novel #2 Alfred A. Knopf, 2022
Pullman, Philip, Stephane Melchior (Adapter), and Thomas Gilbert (Art)
9780593176931 \$21.99 272 p.
Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School

FICTION – RECOMMEND

Browne, Mahogany L. 978-0-593-17643-6 \$18.99 166 p.
Vinyl Moon Crown, 2022

There's nothing like the first time you move. Angel left her home in California abruptly after things hit a boiling point with her abusive ex. Now, she lives in Brooklyn, NYC, with her uncle. She just started going to a new school, where she's meeting an entirely new set of people. Being in a new environment gives Angel the opportunity to explore new sides of herself. Instead of taking care of her four younger siblings, she has time to read books, and make playlists, and make friends, for the first time in her life. Browne explores what it's like to work through trauma and come of age in this vivid, character-driven novel. She includes occasional poems alongside flashbacks and anecdotes about what Angel's life currently looks like in the City. Numerous real authors and books are name-dropped, and the descriptions of NYC food are enticing. Recommended for high schools and public libraries.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Couch, Robbie 978-1-5344-9746-7 \$19.99 326 p.
Blaine for the Win (ARC) Simon & Schuster, 2022

Blaine Bowers has no idea what's hitting him when he goes on his one year anniversary dinner with his Mr. Popular boyfriend Joey Oliver. What he's expecting? An invite to Cabo with Joey and his family for spring break. What he gets? Joey dumping him because Blaine isn't a "serious" enough guy for him. In an effort to demonstrate that he is a serious guy, Blaine enters the Senior class president elections to win Joey back. Legally blonde meets queer YA high school students in this cute, lighthearted, coming of age story. This is a feel good story with an amazing, diverse cast of characters that really bring the story to life. I thought this was a fantastic read, the story had just the right amount of pop culture references without being overwhelming but enough to make it fun and relatable. It dealt with many issues that I remember dealing with as a high school student, like heartbreak, friendships, and mental health. It's clean, no sex or drugs on the page. Recommended for high school students or MS students entering high school.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

Leigh, Kyra 978-0-593-37552-5 \$18.99 339 p.
It Will End Like This Delacorte Press, 2022

I recommend this book for middle school and up. Charlotte and Maddi are in high school and sisters and they have always been close. When the story opens, they are grieving the death of their mother and wondering at the speed with which their father gets engaged to their live in assistant Amber. Charlotte and Maddi's relationship is what gets them through the grieving. They think that befriending a new girl in town, Lana, whose mother had been best friends with their mother will reveal some clues about how exactly their mother died.

Lana claims to have letters that their mother wrote to her mom before they moved back to the town. Lana is very creepy because she wants something in return for showing them the letters, and then they ask their uncle and aunt to visit because they suspect their mother was murdered by their future stepmother. The writing drew me in right away and reminds me of that TV series about a girl obsessed with witchcraft starring Melissa Sue Anderson (how can Mary from Little House on the Prairie be a witch?). Sorry I don't remember the name of it. Anyway, the story is told in a way that raises more questions than provides answers. I don't know that much about the Lizzie Borden murders but the author used that true story as inspiration for this one, and like the real story no one really knows what happened. That might sound annoying but I liked it.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School Library

McGinnis, Mindy 9780062982452 \$17.99 384 p.

The Last Laugh, The Initial Insult #2 Katherine Tegen Books, 2022

Sequel to The Initial Insult. First book ends with a bone-chilling conclusion to Tress Montor's revenge fantasy. The Last Laugh drops the reader into the aftermath with Felicity Turnado missing, a panther on the loose, and Tress delirious from a potentially mortal wound. Story alternates between Tress and her cousin, Ribbit (a.k.a. Kermit Usher), who is navigating the impact of a viral video starring himself, very drunk and TMI, and short chapters in verse like the first novel, but instead of the panther's POV, it's Rue, the orangutan, who acts like a surrogate mother to Tress. Mindy McGinnis follows up an amazing thriller and homage to Edgar Allen Poe with more Poe references (I will not pretend to get all of them), more suspense, more cool characters and the most shocking reveals. My mouth was agape, and I was gushing in disbelief to anyone within earshot, at several points in the book. Mysteries, like what happened to Tress's parents, left unsolved in book one are woven into book 2 alongside new plot twists. I had only had one moment where the writing took me out, and that was during the resolution when a lot of Amontillado's and Tress's family history is explained by a convenient outsider. But with everything else so right about this thriller, that's easily forgiven. This duology makes me want to read more McGinnis now! Highly recommended. Best for high school for lots of teenage drinking, drugs, language, and some pretty gruesome scenes.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Torres, Vanessa L. 978-0-593-42613-5 \$18.99 425 p.

The Turning Pointe Knopf, 2022

This is a big week for Rosa. At the end of this week, she's supposed to audition to be an Apprentice at her ballet company. Ballet is a family legacy. Her dad is a Master, and her mom and sister were both stars before a tragic accident left her sister unable to dance. Rosa loves to dance, but she isn't sure ballet is what she wants to do for the rest of her life. It's 1983, and there's someone special rehearsing upstairs: Prince Rogers Nelson. Oh, and there's a new guy in town who wears eyeshadow and tap dances like it'll save his life. Torres brings Minneapolis of the early 1980s to life. The cast supporting Rosa is full of rich

characters, and specific businesses on Block E of Minneapolis' Hennepin Ave are vivid parts of the setting. Rosa's fraught relationships with each family member, steamy romance, and existential struggles are fully realized and heartfelt. Rosa and her family are Mexican-American, and several of the side characters are from other marginalized backgrounds. Recommended for high schools and public libraries.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Velez, Angela 978-0-06-307178-0 \$18.99 388 p.

Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity HarperCollins, 2022

Angela Velez weaves a beautiful coming of age story in this YA contemporary. The book alternates between two POVs, Luz and Milagro, sisters, who couldn't be more different. Critics compared this to *Never Have I Ever*, but I felt like it gave more Latinx Liv and Maddie vibes than NHIE. The book follows the sisters as they embark on a school cross country road trip together, and as they deal with the various stages of life they're in and try to pursue their dreams. This was a great read, the representation in it was amazing. It was a really beautiful feeling to be able to see myself in these pages, it's something I would've loved to have when I was in high school. It's a book that deals with familial expectations, self-love, and sisterhood. Definitely recommended for high school, more specifically the 16-18 age group. There's no explicit sex on the page, but sex is mentioned throughout the book quite a bit. No drug use, but some brief scenes that talk about alcohol.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

FICTION – SHRUG

Gibson, Naomi 9781338726589 \$18.99 320 p.

Every Line of You Chicken House, 2022

This book is equal parts teenage drama, romance, and AI takeover. Lydia is still grieving the loss of her little brother in a car accident a couple of years ago. Her dad left and her mom is absent. Her best friend, Emma, in the car at the time, has become her enemy. A computer-hacking genius at 17, Lydia has filled the void by creating an incredibly sophisticated artificial intelligence. This book feels a lot like *Heathers* and that movie, *Her*, where that guy basically falls in love with Siri, toward the beginning. Takes a turn into some kind *Girl Interrupted* meets *iRobot*, and just feels a little bit weird. Lydia names her AI the same name as her dead brother, inserts a chip inside her arm that allows him to "live" inside her, and falls in love with him...it. The author loosely addresses Lydia's grief and includes plot points and character interactions addressing the question of whether or not AI can develop a conscience and make its own choices. There's a bizarre review on goodreads that accuses this author of stealing the reviewer's story, but I'm not sure of its merits. Overall, I personally gave this one a shrug, but teens who want some light science fiction, romance and action will probably enjoy it. 8th grade and up for language and one pretty tame, short but on-the-page sex scene.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Other Comments: Originally published in July 2021 as *Seeing What You See, Feeling What You Feel*

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Johnston, E.K. 9781368075930 \$14.39 352 p.

Queen's Hope, Star Wars: The Padmé Trilogy #3 Disney Lucasfilms Press, 2022

I recommend this book with a shrug for 6th grade and up. The story is about Padme the Queen of Naboo and Anakin Skywalker and the clone war. The story opens with Padme and Anakin getting married and after the wedding it says that Anakin's definition of home has changed from a place to a person, his wife. I liked that part, It was very sweet. The rest of it with all the planet politics I don't understand. Basically the clone war is worse than anyone thought and it tests loyalties of allies throughout the galaxy. As a child of the 80's I enjoyed character moments but TBH I am not a real Star Wars fan and I have no idea why I even picked up this book. I have a niche of students who always ask for Star Wars books so that is why I got it. I had a student volunteer read the first part of it. When asked do they want to keep reading they said "sorta". They said teens who like Star Wars would probably like it because it seems to be an account of the clone wars from Padme's point of view. To sum up; not a must have but Star Wars groupies will probably like it. I like E.K. Johnston's writing but I suspect she did it for her kids' college tuition. LOL.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School Library

Swift, Dana 9780593124253 \$18.99 435 p.

Bound by Firelight, Wickery #2 Delacorte Press, 2022

This is the second book in a fantasy series. The first book was the point of view of two teens who had an arranged marriage starting when they were just kids (and who did not get along). Adraa is the rani (or heir) of the Belwar throne and Jatin is the raja (or heir) of the Naupure throne. Both live in the world of Wickery, where there are 9 types of magic (all related to a color). Being able to use the different types of magic leaves marks on your arms. Jatin has marks on both arms and is sent to the academy to train, but Adraa only has marks on one arm and stays at home. Because of being engaged at a young age and growing up separately, both the teens don't recognize each other when Jatin comes back home. Adraa has also gone undercover to fight the Vencrin, a gang who is selling an addictive drug. So when Adraa and Jatin first meet (for the second time), they don't realize who each other are and start working on taking down the Vencrin. In the second book, Adraa goes to prison and Jatin is trying to rescue her. This world is set in an East Indian setting and is written by a white author who is married to an East Indian person. She does note this at the end of the first book but not the second. It's an interesting enemies-to-lovers fantasy, but I wouldn't recommend it for Evergreen.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Varela, Alessandra Narváez 978-1-947627-48-2 \$18.95 205 p.
Thirty Talks Weird Love Cinco Puntos Press, 2021

Growing up in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico during the 90s was a scary place for girls and women. They were being snatched up and disappearing without a trace and Anamaria and her parents are living in fear, but still trying to live their lives. When a woman shows up and tells Anamaria that she is her, 13 years in the future and that she is there to help save someone and encourages Anamaria to love herself, Anamaria can't decide if the love she has will be able to save her from herself. This novel, written in verse, was hard for me to follow. With different poetic forms employed and some of the book written in Spanish, I found myself struggling to follow the plot at times. The main character is depressed and I believe that she tries to take her life at one point, but even after rereading, I couldn't determine if that is what gets her kicked out of her school. I could see this book appealing to a very introspective high school student, one that knew some basic Spanish would be a plus.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

LeGrand, Claire 978-0-06-269663-2 \$17.99 484 p.
Exstasia Katherine Tegen Books, 2022

I recommend this book with a shrug for high school and up. There is on page sex and cannibalism. The main character is Amity and she lives in what seems to be a post-apocalyptic village that reminds me of M Night Shamalan's *The Village*. The village is religious in a *Handmaid's Tale* way so very abusive to women. The main character's mother had been banished for adultery and the family bears the shame of that in many ways, including Amity's rise to sainthood which is more abusive than positive. The descriptions of Amity's discovery of a supernatural place and witches called Avazel create a character arc that I found compelling at first, kind of like the kinship that the women have in *Mists of Avalon*. I was drawn into Amity's discovery of truth and her transformation until Part III of the book which is page 249. Then the momentum for me was lost and I found myself thinking that the book had potential but was just way too long. The excitement picked up once or twice before the end but it was not easy to finish. This might sound picky but one of the things that bugged me at first and got worse was the occasional use of 'Tis and 'Twas. The author didn't use it enough for it to be effective and it just yanked me out of the story. I love the premise of this book and love this author so I was hoping for more. It's like maybe her editors argued with her about the 'Twas 'Tis and they compromised and that made it sucketh. And she could have wrapped it up on page 245 and left me wanting more. I am curious to know what an older mature high school reader thinks.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School Library

GRAPHIC NOVELS - RECOMMEND

Liu, Marjorie; illustrated by Teny Issakhanian
9780062741165 \$22.99 203 p.
Wingbearer, Wingbearer #1 HarperCollins, 2022
Author of the awarding winning graphic novel series Monstress, Marjorie Liu tries her hand at a juvenile graphic novel series with this one titled Wingbearer. This fantasy is set in a world where an orphan named Zuli is raised by bird spirits in a bird heaven-like place (in the shape of a tree). When she finds out bird spirits are not returning to the tree, Zuli ventures out to discover why and also discover where she comes from. An adventure with unique fantasy creatures and an interesting twist.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Lang, Karen and Selim Tezel 978-1-53621914-2 \$22.99 224 p.
Become an App Inventor: The Official Guide From MIT App Inventor MITeen Press, 2022
This is a great book about how to create apps using MIT App Inventor. It is written in a step-by-step format with great descriptions and images to help the reader to know what they need to do. There are troubleshooting tips and explanations on how to use the programming software and apps on different types of devices. Each chapter starts with a two page spread on how kids from elementary to high school have used the apps to create an impact in their home, school, or community. Then the chapter goes into how to use the software/app in a different way. I found this to be a great introduction on how to create apps and would be great for beginners.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Zimmer, Marc 978-1-72841-945-9 \$37.32 120 p.
Science and The Skeptic: Discerning Fact From Fiction
Twenty-First Century Books, 2022
This book takes a step inside science and how science information is given in a society full of misinformation. From starting with how science is conducted and put out to the public through peer-reviewed journals to how celebrities and politics can twist the facts about science to fit their own needs and desires. Interspersed throughout the book are 20 easy-to-follow rules for discovering fake science. The pictures and charts were engaging and the topics of COVID, climate change, and anti-vaxers made the book very pertinent to what we are dealing with today.
I found this book a very interesting read, after I got past the first twenty pages. Zimmer starts with the explanation of peer-reviewed journals, without much of an introduction and it had me uninterested from the beginning. However, once the author got into how science gets twisted into political agendas and used for companies profit, it became a very

interesting read! While I would recommend this book, at only 120 pages, I am not sure I would spend the publisher's price of over \$37!

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School