

**The Secret Life of Bees**

**Sue Monk Kidd**

**Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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In 1964 South Carolina, 14-year-old Lily Owens lives with her abusive father “T-Ray” and her black “stand-in mother” Rosaleen in a less than ordinary household. When Rosaleen insults 3 of the deepest racists in their town, Lily and Rosaleen run away to a new town, which holds secrets and information about Lily’s dead mother, who was shot one afternoon when she was 4. The pair are taken in by 3 black beekeepers, and Lily becomes mesmerized by their bees, honey, Black Madonna, and their information about her mother. In a less than perfect world, Lily and Rosaleen try to find their happiness and closure in this hive.

I enjoyed this book, and while some parts were harder to go through than others, I would definitely recommend this to others. There is racism, language, and death involved in the story, however, and I would recommend this to teenagers and older due to those reasons.

**Recommended Titles:**

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

The Help by Kathryn Stockett