

Paper Towns

John Green

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Paper Towns tells the story of Quentin Jacobsen on his search for Margo Roth Spiegleman, who has seemingly vanished after getting her revenge on those who have caused her harm. Margo sneaks into Quentin's house one night, enlisting him to be her "getaway driver" and partner on a crazy adventure that causes the latter to fall deeper in love than he had ever been with her before. However, the next day after the outing, it becomes clear that Margo has run away from home, though it wouldn't be the first time. Her parents, tired with her antics, give up on attempting to find her, for the only thing she usually leaves behind are cryptic clues that are impossible to decipher. Yet, this time around, it seems as though she has left them for Quentin to uncover, leading him on a seemingly endless journey alongside his friends to rescue her.

This book held a constant pace throughout, making it a very good and comfortable read. I really admire John Green's writing style and the way he uses language to make every character unique, making them come to life as the story progresses. I felt as though the interactions between them were very genuine and realistic in terms of their ages. All of them were very likable and unique in their own way, thus it was exciting to anticipate their actions and exchanges in conversation. Despite its riveting themes, the book tended to be a bit slow, especially during the second half. Most of the novel surrounds Quentin's search for clues and the attempt to find connections between them and Margo, as well as a long road trip that the friends go on to track her down. It would've been nice to see a bit more development in the other characters, rather than monologues of inner thought that Quentin had towards Margo, whom he barely knows anything about. I think that though she was the reason for the search in the first place, Green should have centered the story on the budding relationships between an unlikely group of friends. The book is very anticlimactic in that sense, and gives the reader a hollow feeling after completing it, for there is no real "resolution" of any kind. Despite this, however, I still really enjoyed it.

I would recommend this book to the age group of 13+ because I remember first hearing about it when I was around that age, for it was very popular at the time. It is very relatable in the sense of teen angst, first love, and the strive for more beyond a quiet, suburban town. It contains occasional vulgar language, alcohol consumption, and mentions of explicit acts, but does not go beyond that. Thus, I think it would be suitable for readers in late middle school and early high school. I think borrowing this book from a local library or purchasing it at a used book store would be the most efficient way to gain access to it.

Recommended Titles:

An Abundance of Katherines, John Green

Since You've Been Gone, Morgan Matson

Finding Audrey, Sophie Kinsella