

An Abundance of Katherines

John Green

Reviewed by: Ananya Ganesh, 16

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

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Colin, who is a high school math prodigy, has a unique type when it comes to dating. He only dates girls named Katherine. Katherine cannot be Catherine or Katrine or Cathryn or Kathryn. It must be spelled K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E. Just after graduation, Colin was hanging out with his current Katherine, the nineteenth Katherine he had dated. Katherine the nineteenth broke his heart shortly after leaving Colin a sulking mess for weeks. Hassan Harbish decides that to cheer Colin up, the two should go on a road trip. They end up in Gutshot, Tennessee, where Colin meets his first Lindsey on the search for his eureka moment.

I love the uniqueness of a plot. Green here took an idea that seemed so odd and shallow to us readers and turned it into something deep. I've read several love stories where people fell in love with another person's eyes, face, laugh, etc.--but I've never seen someone fall in love with a name so it was really cool to explore this idea. In addition, I like the humor to the plot. I feel like the story is very light hearted for the main character being someone going through a heartbreak, and that light hearted feel to the whole story makes it a much easier read. In addition, I enjoy the presence of Hassan Harbish in the novel. He's a sort of quirky friend but he was definitely a great character to read about with a good sense of humor. I also liked the presence of Lindsey. We never really met any of the Katherines but the way the story was set up, readers could feel the contrast between Colin's other love interests and Lindsey. One last thing that I loved was the recurring theme of how one cannot use science to predict human relationships. This is a concept that can be debated a bit in today's society, as so many people turn to dating apps and websites to find a match. Of course, there are cases where people meet their 'perfect match' online, but there are times when people are going in circles trying to find someone as algorithms cannot accurately predict human behavior yet. Colin's use of math to predict the outcomes of his relationships proved successful at times and wrong at other times, but the point was that he could not be in a satisfying relationship without deviating from the model, and I thought that was beautiful.

The ideal audience for this book would be people aged 12-16, but it could be a great read for anyone looking for their next read. I would recommend this for people in eighth grade and up, or anyone who is a teenager. This book could also make the perfect gift for contemporary or romance novel lovers.

Recommended Titles

Paper Towns – John Green

Looking for Alaska – John Green

Mosquitoland – David Arnold

Eleanor and Park – Rainbow Rowell