

The Cardturner

Louis Sachar

Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 14

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

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The Cardturner is about Alton Richards and his discovery of the card game, contract bridge. Alton was forced by his parents to drive his very rich, blind and dying great-uncle Lester to his bridge club and be his cardturner. His job is to read Lester Trapp's cards and play it for him. To his surprise, Alton becomes intrigued by the game and begins to unravel the mystery that is his sardonic great-uncle. Alton Richards has his life unexpectedly enriched by connections he never expected to make, especially with Trapp's former cardturner, the pretty and shy Toni Castaneda.

I am a contract bridge player myself, so I may be slightly biased, but I love the book. It is very difficult to write a book about contract bridge with the perfect balance between technical explanations of the gameplay and entertaining action. I think this book balanced it very well. The author also gave us summaries of the explanations that we can skip to as well. The book is also very thoughtful. It has some very insightful comments about death, truth, reality, perception and relationships. It is important to keep in mind that the book is rather subtle. It doesn't have flashy heists or passionate romance. It is interesting in a quieter way.

I would recommend any bridge players who are hoping to convert others to buy this book as a gift. I think it would make an exquisite gift for anyone. This book walks you through the basics of contract bridge in a very easy and entertaining way. I would just also recommend this book just to read for fun. It is thought-provoking and I enjoyed reading it before bed.

Recommendations

- Me Before You by Jojo Moyes
- Holes by Louis Sachar
- From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg